

## BILL—GAME ACT AMENDMENT.

*Second Reading, etc.*

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. J. Mitchell) in moving the second reading said: This is a small amendment made necessary by the desire of the Colonial Secretary to protect opossums. It remedies restrictions set up by the First Schedule. Under the Game Act a close season is provided which we find very difficult to enforce, because under the amending Act of 1907 the season is limited to the game mentioned in the schedule. We desire to protect opossums to the fullest possible extent, and we wish to take power to make it an offence for any person to have in his possession the body of any game so protected, or any part of the body, which of course will include the skin. It would be simple enough to add opossums to the schedule, but it was thought advisable to move the amendment in the form now presented to the House, because we shall not only be setting up this restriction, but also we shall give the Railway Commissioner authority to refuse to carry any game over the railways during the close season. I hope the amendment will be accepted. It is necessary. I move—

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

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment; and the report adopted.

Read a third time and passed.

*House adjourned at 2.7 a.m. (Friday).*

## Legislative Council,

Friday, 3rd February, 1911.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 10.30 a.m., and read prayers.

## PAPER PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: Annual report of the board of Governors of the High School for the year ended 30th June, 1910.

## BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

1. Criminal Code Act Amendment.

2. Roads.

Returned to the Legislative Assembly with amendments.

## BILL—LOAN, £2,100,000.

*Second Reading.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading, said: This Bill, as the title indicates, is for the purpose of authorising the raising of a sum of £2,100,000 by loan for the construction of certain public works, and for other purposes and the reappropriation of certain loan moneys. The works include a number of railways which have already been authorised during the present session. It also includes an amount of £200,000 for rolling stock. I specially mention this item because hon. members in speaking on the Estimates last night drew attention to the shortage of rolling stock, and naturally

as the railways increase so will more rolling stock be required. I think that most, if not the whole, of the rolling stock, is now under construction. The Bill also provides for works in connection with harbours and rivers such as the Fremantle dock, the Carnarvon harbour works, and improvements to harbours and rivers generally. These works, or some of them, have already been authorised by Parliament. There is a further amount provided for the development of goldfields and mineral resources. This amount is £49,900, while for the development of agriculture, such as the provision of abattoirs and cold storage, the sum of £329,100 is set down; for agricultural immigration £115,000 has been provided, while for the development of agriculture generally the amount is £122,000. Then there is a sum set down for the purchase of the station "Moola-boola" for aborigines in the Kimberley district, £20,000; for immigration generally £30,000, and public buildings £50,000. In passing a Loan Bill of this description. I do not think it is necessary to discuss it at any length. The policy of borrowning is not in question, and moreover the House has assented to a great extent already to the policy, inasmuch as it has approved of a number of works which are to be constructed out of loan, and now it follows that we must have the money with which to carry out these works. There is a sum of £160,000 provided for additions and improvements to opened railways, which will include relaying.

Hon. M. L. Moss: Was not that work previously done out of revenue?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: When a line is relaid, that means practically reconstructing it. All the agricultural railways have been provided for.

Hon. M. L. Moss: What does "Wongan Hills to Mullewa. £15,000" mean? That line will cost more like half a million.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That sum is all that will be required out of this loan. Before any further work is done there will have to be a further authorisation. Besides a good deal of unexpended loan money was passed in the Loan Estimates last evening. If

hon. members will compare the Loan Bill with the Loan Estimates they will probably see an amount on the Loan Estimates that has already been passed for these works. We are not discussing the authority to borrow. The money will have to be reappropriated in the Loan Estimates. The information given in the schedule contains the reasons for which the Government want authority to borrow the money. I do not think there is any further information that I can give to the House.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: I see there is an item "Public Buildings, £50,000."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That sum includes a number of additions to the Midland Junction workshops, as well as machinery. I have the full details, and if any further information is required I shall be only too pleased to give it to hon. members in Committee. I move—

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

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan): As I shall not have an opportunity of speaking on this Bill in Committee, I will take the present occasion of saying a few words. The Minister is right in saying that this is only an authorisation to borrow. It has however a certain moral effect on the Loan Estimates. The Minister has used that argument before to support his Loan Estimates by saying when an objection was raised on the Estimates that the item appeared in the Loan Bill. I have done that myself. The leader of the House is quite right in saying that most of the proposed works have received the assent of Parliament. There are some which have not, and I may be pardoned if I make short references to one or two. There is item 43 referring to abattoirs, cold storage, etc. The greater part of this money, I understand, is to be spent on cold storage, and some of it has already been spent in sale yards. I venture to say that the matters of the site of the abattoirs, and the advisability of establishing cold storage works, and the necessity for cattle yards, have never been definitely settled, or at any rate sufficiently discussed by Parliament. I hope the Colonial Secretary will use his influence with the Minister for Lands in

order to get that Minister to reconsider his attitude on this question. The Minister for Lands has been very lucky in the past. One never hears now the clamour that one heard against dairy cows and imported sheep at one time, but I maintain that the establishment of these freezing works for a lamb export trade yet to come is not warranted, and even if it did exist I say that the expenditure in this direction will at the present juncture be a wicked waste of public money. I would like the leader of the House to lay this aspect before his colleagues. I have done so myself, but the attitude which that gentleman takes up is not the right attitude for a member of a Government sitting in opposition to a party, who might, indeed, be expected to act as the Minister is acting. It is surprising to find such conduct on the part of the present Government. Quite recently I introduced to the Minister for Lands a private deputation, and the Minister in his reply admitted that there would be no lamb export for some years to justify the erection of these works, but he said that he was going on with the erection of them, and until that time arrives he intends that the works shall subsist by entering into competition with private people in the sale of ice. Now that is not a dignified thing for any Government to do; yet I can assure the leader of the House that it was the reply given by the Minister for Lands to a private deputation.

Hon. M. L. Moss: The Government are in combination with the other people.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: That makes their position worse; they are combining the socialistic practices of one party with the corrupt capitalistic practices of another party. I am glad the Minister disclaimed any influence which the passing of this schedule might have on the passing of the Loan Estimates, and I hope that he will inform his colleagues that one member of this Chamber at least entered an emphatic protest against the erection of these works.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (in reply): I desire to correct an error which I made in replying to an interjection by Mr. Kirwan. The item for public buildings is not quite what I stated; there is

to be £10,000 expended on the Perth Technical School; the completion of the Perth Secondary School will cost £9,000, and the extension of this building £12,000. In regard to the completion of this Parliament House, it is the intention of the Government to allocate a sum of money for the next three or four years so that at the end of that time we may have the building completed, and not left in its present unsightly condition.

Hon. Sir J. W. Hackett: What will it cost?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Between £50,000 and £60,000, I think.

Hon. Sir J. W. Hackett: Does that include the loan?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, but they have reduced the cost considerably.

Hon. Sir J. W. Hackett: I hardly believe that sum will complete the building.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etc.*

Hon. W. Kingsmill in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 6—agreed to.

First Schedule:

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: What was the meaning of the item "Southern Cross-Bullfinch railway £25,000"? He understood that the Government estimate was £45,000.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The sum of £25,000 was all that was necessary from this loan, the balance having been provided from the former loan.

Hon. E. M. CLARKE: The schedule included an amount of £122,000 for development of agriculture. How was that to be applied?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The amount was required for the development of agriculture generally. If the hon. member would turn to the Loan Estimates he would find that the sum included provision for the erection of grain sheds, loans for the purchase of wire netting, loans for vermin boards, and other expenditure necessary in the development of agriculture, such as the making of dams and roads.

Hon. E. M. Clarke: I am not objecting to the item, but I want definite in-

formation as to how the money is to be spent.

**The COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The money would be spent in hundreds of different ways.

**Hon. J. W. KIRWAN:** What did the item "Agricultural Immigration, £115,000," mean? He understood that the item was meant to infer that agricultural labourers were a desirable class of immigrants. This was a large item, and the Committee should have some explanation, as there was a further sum of £30,000 for "immigration generally."

**Hon. M. L. MOSS:** Both of these items for immigration were too small. He would not complain of the amount of the items, because he thought that the best investment the State could make was to spend half a million of money to get people into the country, so long as we got people of the right sort and did not deluge the State with wasters from outside. The sparseness of our population was the country's greatest menace, and he hoped that all this money would be spent and that the next Loan Bill would contain a much larger item for the same purpose. The State could absorb ten times the number of immigrants who were now coming in. He was informed by a large manufacturer in Perth that a difficulty existed at the present time in getting artisan labour. One manufacturer, he had been informed, had an order for £900 worth of work to be completed within three months, and the order meant a profit of £200 or £300, but he was faced with the difficulty of getting skilled labour. It should be made known to the world that not only agricultural labour, but every class of labour was scarce in this State.

**The Colonial Secretary:** It has been made known.

**Hon. M. L. MOSS:** The Government were to be commended for their action. The scarcity of artisan labour was a great obstacle in the progress of the community, and it should be known beyond Australia that artisan population could be absorbed as well as agricultural immigrants. It would be a sound investment for the State if half a million of

money was provided for immigration on the next Loan Bill, because if we showed a desire to populate the country, millions of money would come into the State for investment. The wages paid to-day in Western Australia for labourers, artisans, and domestic servants were greater perhaps than in any other part of the Empire, and the dearth of domestic servants had become a serious problem in the home. Expenditure on immigration ought to go hand in hand with a forward public works policy, for, whilst large sums of money were being expended on public works, the Government were in a position to give the new arrivals work when they landed in the State.

**The COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The remarks of Mr. Moss were very pleasing and were such as he thoroughly endorsed. The Government were quite alive to the necessity of a vigorous immigration policy and had undoubtedly made a commencement in that direction. Up to about twelve months ago the State was only receiving some 1,800 to 2,000 immigrants a year, but at the beginning of last year he had urged on the Government the necessity for devoting their attention to bringing in labour other than exclusively agricultural labour. The Government had approved of his suggestion, and reduced the steamer fares considerably. The late Premier (Sir Newton Moore) on his visit to London had taken the matter in hand, with the result that the State was now receiving a largely increased number of immigrants. We were receiving immigrants to-day at the rate of about 12,000 a year. There was a suggestion from the Commonwealth Government, which he believed emanated from the Premier of New South Wales, that the States should combine so as to get cheaper fares. The proposal was to introduce something like 40,000 immigrants a year, and this State would have been allotted perhaps 2,000 or 3,000. It was not intended to have anything to do with this proposal, because it was hoped that we should be able to take 20,000 immigrants ourselves within a few years. We were to-day absorbing at the rate of 12,000 immigrants

per annum, and the amount on the Estimates covered that number per year. The reason why the item was termed "Grant to assist agricultural immigration" was that our efforts were mainly directed to granting passages to agriculturists and farm labourers, and domestic servants. It went without saying that the policy was the right one. There were assisted and nominated passages granted, and the difference in the terms was that assisted immigrants had to pay from £2 to £5 according to the accommodation they required, but that nominated immigrants were nominated by persons already here. Although up to the year ending June last we had been receiving immigrants both nominated and assisted to the number of 1,800 a year to-day immigrants were being nominated and were coming out to families who had been brought out previously at the rate of 2,500 to 3,000 a year. That spoke volumes for the success of the immigration policy that had been adopted. The fares which the Government paid were £12 for open berths running up to £14 for 3-berth cabins in the steerage. The Government paid £10, and the immigrants paid the balance. A domestic servant simply paid £2, and if she went into service immediately she got here the money was refunded. A farm labourer had to pay £2 up to £4, according to the accommodation, for a passage to the State. The Government were paying £12, while the ordinary rate for these passages was £18. An important alteration had been made in the regulation that farm labourers and domestic servants had to have a certain capital. A domestic servant had to have £5, and a farm labourer £10 before they were accepted. That was to ensure that these people should have something when they landed in the State. This was a serious block to obtaining good farm labourers, who were not always able to command £10, and they asked that the Government would waive that condition, and the amount was reduced in the case of domestic servants to £2, and in the case of farm labourers to £5. Month after month the report of the Labour Bureau showed that although 300

persons were wanted for the country only 150 were able to be supplied. To give an idea how the immigrants were being absorbed, he might mention that at Christmas time when all work was stopped the "Armada" arrived with 560 passengers, and the day after Boxing Day the Orient steamer "Osterley" arrived with 200 passengers—close on 800 passengers arriving in a couple of days. Between that time and the new year the German boat arrived with 150 passengers, and later on the steamer "Rimutaka" arrived at Albany with 607, making a total of 1,600 passengers in 12 days. When members remembered that up to June last we were only receiving immigrants at the rate of 1,800 a year, and in the midst of the Christmas holidays when work was slack all these immigrants were absorbed as soon as they arrived, it was a good sign. Our only difficulty to-day was getting passages for immigrants. We were doing better than the Eastern States, and getting a better class of immigrant. When it was remembered that these immigrants were coming to a small State at the rate of 1,500 in a few weeks, and if we did not hear of anyone being disappointed, it spoke well for the department that was looking after them, and for the class of immigrant that was coming here. In order to get over the difficulty, the Government had retained a certain number of berths in vessels. The Orient Company had guaranteed 450 maximum every month, and there was an arrangement with the Nord-Deutscher Lloyd Company. A special charter had been made with the Australind Company; they agreed to carry passengers at the same rate as the Orient Company, that was £12 per head, and had agreed to keep certain cool storage accommodation for our fruit if we gave them 300 immigrants every two months. Every two months for the next three years immigrants would arrive by these boats at the rate of about 300 per boat. These boats could carry 600 passengers. Already 5,000 passengers were booked by the Orient Company as a minimum. He had not booked the maximum of 7,000 by the Australind, but there was a maximum of 3,600, that was the 300

per month, but these boats could carry 7,000 within the period mentioned. While we had only encouraged agricultural immigration in the past, and labour for the country, there was undoubtedly, as Mr. Moss had stated, a great dearth of other labour here to-day. These facts had been made known to the shipping agents in London by cable sent by the Premier, so that people might know exactly the state of affairs here. If people wished to come out here and look for work, well and good, but we were not specially providing passages for mechanics because there was not that demand for them, but, if the work was here, which undoubtedly it was, we could make known the fact. The Government were not putting any obstacles in the way of these people coming out—he referred to carpenters and mechanics. If they paid their own passages and became good citizens, then such persons could nominate their families. If a mechanic was in work, and a good citizen, then he would receive assisted passages. In working on that system there could be no failures. The Government intended next year, he hoped, to pass perhaps double the amount that was provided for this year. With all respect to what Mr. Moss had stated, he did not think that we could absorb 10 times the number of immigrants which we were at present receiving. We must be careful and see that people were properly absorbed, and that they were contented. There was no doubt that if work had been plentiful in the past, it would be more so in the future. Parliament had passed 600 miles of railways this session, all of which had to be built quickly. We were selling land by hundreds of thousands of acres a year, and each 1,000 acres meant two or three extra men being employed. These facts had been made known in England, and we had any number of applications made, and a good choice of men who wished to emigrate. When the shipping arrangements had been completed, it was to be hoped we should be able to add materially to the rate of bringing these people out.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: The few minutes devoted to the discussion of the subject had given a great deal of information to

the country at large. He was obliged to the Minister for the full statement he had made in this connection, and he hoped the policy which the Minister had outlined and which simply indicated that we were on the threshold of the introduction of a large number of people into Western Australia, would be continued. The only statement he (Mr. Moss) made, which perhaps was a stretch of the imagination, was that he thought we could absorb ten times the number of people who were coming here; but his anxiety was to spur the Government on to better efforts. While in England last year he had ample opportunity of knowing what good had been done by Sir Newton Moore in this direction, and Sir Newton Moore was entitled to every credit for the good work which he undertook, and which had been set forth in the elaborate report which was laid on the Table of the House. When Sir Newton Moore went back as Agent General it was to be hoped he would pursue the same course of conduct, and if the Government gave him ample means to carry out the policy which the Colonial Secretary had outlined, it would be good for the future prosperity of the country.

Hon. E. M. CLARKE: When members generally approved of the policy of the Government it should be absolutely known. Therefore he (Mr. Clarke) took this opportunity of saying that he heartily approved of the policy of the Government in this direction. He had not asked the questions in any cavilling spirit, but he rejoiced to find that they gave the Minister an opportunity of making a speech with regard to the policy of the Government at the present time. Hon. members should let it be understood that they thoroughly approved of the policy of the Government in this regard.

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN: It was not in any hostile spirit that he had asked a question concerning these items; on the contrary, he had always been strongly in favour of the encouragement of immigration, and even if this vote were very much larger than it was, it would have his heartiest approval. The most important question in Western Australia to-day was how to fill the vacant spaces. He was

glad to see this vote included, and he hoped the success that would attend the expenditure of this money would justify the Ministry in increasing the amount in future.

**Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM:** From time to time we had seen statements in the Press that the Government intended to erect freezing works at Wyndham. Was any provision made in the Estimates for that purpose?

**The COLONIAL SECRETARY:** There was an amount set down for abattoirs, but he did not think any substantial amount was included for the Wyndham freezing works. Probably there was a small amount for the purpose of investigations, but no substantial amount was set down, because the project was only in its initial stages.

**Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM:** The question had been put because if the Government were not going on with the work it might be that there were others prepared to do so.

**The COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The Government had no desire to enter into this work if anybody else would do it.

**Hon. D. G. GAWLER:** There was an amount of £151,500 shown as being for discount and flotation expenses: Was this amount for this purpose alone? It seemed large.

**The COLONIAL SECRETARY:** While not quite certain about it, he was of opinion that it included other amounts also. He would probably be able to get the information later on. In regard to immigration, he was very pleased to hear the remarks made concerning the Government policy, more particularly as he had taken a deep interest in this himself. While every care was taken in the selection of immigrants, the public were sometimes prone to point to an occasional failure. If any hon. member went to England and selected 12,000 persons, would it be likely that hon. member could guarantee that there would not be one per cent. of failures among them? Every care was taken of the immigrants; when they arrived they were met at the boat, and free board and residence was supplied for three days, and for another

week at a nominal price. A record was kept of where they all went to, and in regard to domestic servants a special matron attended to them and kept in touch with them after they had gone to their respective situations. If hon. members would do their best to assist the Government in settling these people in the country, if all would do a little in that direction, as was the practice in Canada, the success achieved would be even greater.

Schedule put and passed.

Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time and returned to the Legislative Assembly.

## BILL—CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT.

### *Recommittal.*

On motion by **Hon. J. F. CULLEN**, Bill recommitted for the purpose of re-considering Clause 2.

### *In Committee.*

Clause 2—Amendment of 63 Vict., No. 19, s. 15:

**Hon. J. F. CULLEN** moved an amendment—

*That the word "fifteen" in line 2 of Paragraph (b) be struck out and "seventeen pounds ten shillings" inserted in lieu.*

The second reading had been passed by a statutory majority, but several members had expressed themselves to the effect that as the clause had not been amended in Committee in the direction they required they would not vote for the third reading. It was very important that the Bill should pass, and pass in a reasonable form; he thought hon. members would agree that a reasonable form was this compromise of £17 10s., which would bring our position into line with that of the South Australian Chamber.

**Hon. J. W. Langsford:** Will this ensure the passing of the Bill?

**Hon. J. F. CULLEN:** It was understood that it would.

**The CHAIRMAN:** When placed in the original section the amendment would

not make sense, because the word "pounds" would still stand, and, taken in conjunction with the words of the existing section, the amendment would read "seventeen pounds ten shillings pounds."

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: In that case he would alter his amendment to read, "seventeen" instead of "seventeen pounds ten shillings."

By leave the amendment altered accordingly.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The amendment would be acceptable for the reason that although the Bill had been passed by a statutory majority on the second reading, that majority had only been obtained by the votes of certain hon. members who had stated distinctly they would support an amendment in Committee, and that if the amendment were not carried they would vote against the third reading. Therefore it was clear that without a compromise the third reading would not be passed. He had refrained from putting the third reading immediately following on the Committee stage for the reason that in the circumstances it would have been suicidal. He felt disappointed at hon. members refusing to accept the £15, but if they would accept the £17 he was prepared to withdraw opposition to it rather than lose the Bill. It was a substantial reduction, and the Government would be satisfied with it.

Hon. C. A. PIESSE: With others he had voted for the second reading on the distinct understanding that he would not support the third reading unless the amendment was carried. The amendment was not carried, but it was a pity to lose the Bill; and as a spirit of compromise was abroad, members might well accept Mr. Cullen's amendment, especially as it was on all fours with the provision in South Australia.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: The compromise was discussed when the House was not sitting, and the amendment would be carried, but he was no party to the compromise. He had made pledges for years to keep the qualification at £25, and would not go back on those public pledges. At the same time he would not divide the committee on the point.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: It was a mistake to reduce the franchise. He would adopt the same course as Mr. Moss, and not do anything likely to call for a division. He knew how to accept defeat, and having been defeated members should make an effort to meet the desires of the majority.

Hon. C. SOMMERS: There was no need to reduce the franchise. He had pledged himself to support the present qualification, but he also would not divide the Committee on the point. Members would live to regret giving way at all. Fixing it at £20 he thought was quite sufficient compromise.

Hon. S. STUBBS: Having pledged himself to have the franchise reduced to £15, he did not intend to go back on his word. At the same time he would not divide the Committee. No member of the House would suffer by reducing the franchise. A spirit of compromise should meet the case; and if another Chamber would accept the amendment, it would be in the interests of the State.

Hon. R. LAURIE: It was shown that there was a majority in the Chamber in favour of reduction, and that being the case he would not divide the Committee on the question.

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD: One could admire the spirit in which members were treating this question in this give and take way.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: All give and no take.

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD: For many years to come this vexed question would now be definitely settled.

Hon. M. L. MOSS did not desire to be misrepresented on the point. He would divide the Committee if he thought he could defeat the amendment, but the spirit of compromise prevalent prevented him from securing a majority.

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN: It would have been much preferable had the Government stuck to the Bill as originally introduced. The fact that the Bill was passed by the Assembly almost unanimously, was a clear indication, especially on the eve of a general election, as to the feeling of the country, and the Government should not have agreed to the compromise no matter



whether the Bill would be lost. They could have adopted a course that would ensure the Bill being carried.

Hon. J. F. Cullen: How?

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN: The Legislative Council of this State was a party House. There was no Legislative Chamber which could be more regarded as a party House.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was not speaking to the amendment.

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN: The Government could have induced the Chamber to accept their proposal, as there were only two members in the Council returned as direct nominees of the Opposition and the great bulk of members represented the other party.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is digressing.

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN: The principle involved in the amendment was the whole principle of the Bill, and one could claim a little latitude in discussing this, even though it might be expressing views contrary to the views of the Chamber. Had the Government let it been generally known it was the desire of the party to which they belonged to adhere to the Bill in its original form, without a doubt the Government could have got the Bill through, in view of the fact that there were only two pledged members of the Opposition party in the Council. On a recent occasion party lines were clear and distinct in the Council.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is making a speech which would almost have been out of order on the second reading.

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN: In objecting to the acceptance of the compromise, one could urge that the Government could have got the Bill through in its original form if they desired, with such a huge majority for their party in the Chamber.

Hon. A. G. JENKINS: One could congratulate the Government on the course adopted. No doubt several members and many of the general public would be glad to see the Bill defeated. The spirit of compromise was the best to adopt. The Government could not have got the Council to pass the Bill with the retention of the words "fifteen pounds," and no one

knew it better than Mr. Kirwan. We now proposed to give practically all that was asked by another place, and the Government were to be congratulated on having accepted the amendment rather than lose the Bill. There was no doubt that the reduction of the franchise would satisfy everyone who had the best interests of the House at heart, and the people who had been clamouring for the reduction would be satisfied. The best thing of all was that it would remove from party politics, at any rate if we could believe the manifestos issued, the continued cry there was against the Legislative Council because it would not reduce its franchise. The Government were to be congratulated on the fact that rather than risk the loss of the Bill they had agreed to a compromise of £17.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: The illogical attempt on the part of Mr. Kirwan to show that the Legislative Council was a party House was strongly resented by him.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was out of order in pursuing that line of argument. The question before the Committee was that the word "fifteen" be struck out.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: How could the House allow such a statement as that made by Mr. Kirwan to pass.

The CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member objected to the statement he should have raised his objection at the time.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: Then it would have been called disorder.

The CHAIRMAN: Not in the least; the hon. member could have risen to a point of order.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: At any rate the Chairman might allow him to complete the sentence he had begun. Mr. Kirwan stated that because two of the members representing themselves as belonging to one party were in the House, therefore all the other members were, perforce, an opposing party.

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN: On a point of order. Was the hon. member in order in stating what he (Mr. Kirwan) had not said.

The CHAIRMAN: Certainly not.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: Mr. Kirwan was trying to slip out of a position which he was now ashamed of.

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN: Was the hon. member in order in accusing him of endeavouring to slip out of a position?

The CHAIRMAN: Certainly not. He had already ruled that the discussion was out of order, and he would ask Mr. Cullen to confine himself to the question before the Committee, the striking out of the word "fifteen."

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: Then he would reserve his further remarks for the third reading.

Hon. B. C. O'BRIEN: As one who had been interested and had always advocated the reduction of the franchise of the Legislative Council, he appreciated very much the action of hon. members in accepting the compromise. He had fought strongly for the reduction to £15, but in order that the Bill might not be jeopardised he would cheerfully accept the reduction to £17. This amount would bring us more into line with the franchise of the Legislative Councils in the Eastern States. There had been a great fight for a number of years for the reduction of the franchise, and after all, politics was always a game of compromise. The question of a reduction had been before that Chamber for many years, and it must be pleasing to the two or three hon. members who were present in the Chamber, and who had for eight or ten years advocated the reduction, to find that at last that reduction had been brought about. He felt sure that the House had not lost any prestige through the reduction but rather that it would go up in the estimation of people more than 100 per cent.

Hon. T. H. WILDING: The province he represented returned him as being opposed to a reduction of the franchise, and he would not be a party to the reduction on this occasion. He was sorry to think that the Government had taken a plank from the platform of another party and endeavoured to put it on the statute-book. In this matter the Government had had the assistance of the Opposition, and they had been pressed to bring about a reduction. His opinion was that there was no necessity for it, and that in a State like

Western Australia, where wages were high and where the possibilities were great, any man could acquire property of the value of £100, or be in the position to pay a rental of 10s. or 12s. weekly. The result showed how hard the question had died.

Hon. E. McLARTY: Having on the previous day expressed his opinion that £20 would be a fair amount and that he would be agreeable to a reduction to that sum, he desired now to say that as it was the wish of the majority that a compromise should be made he would accept it. It was a very good compromise, and he congratulated the Government on having accepted it. If the Government had not done so there would not have been any chance of the Bill being carried.

Hon. W. MARWICK: The Government were to be congratulated on their attitude with regard to the reduction of the franchise. He was returned on a pledge that he would support the liberalisation of the franchise, and the action of the Government showed to the country that they were in earnest with regard to the matter. In the country districts and in the goldfields especially the people had declared that the Government had no wish to bring about a reduction.

The CHAIRMAN: The intention of the Government had nothing to do with the striking out of the word "fifteen."

Hon. W. MARWICK: The striking out of "fifteen" and the substitution of "seventeen" would receive his support, and he was sure it would meet with the approval of the majority of the people in the State.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: The Bill as it was printed would have suited very well. After all, the amount of £15 was a very fair one. The question had been before the country for a considerable time. There should not have been any reason for altering the Bill.

Amendment (as altered to £17) put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	22
Noes	..	..	..	2
				—

Majority for .. .. 20

## AYES.

Hon. E. M. Clarke	Hon. R. D. McKenzie
Hon. J. D. Connolly	Hon. E. McLarty
Hon. J. F. Cullen	Hon. M. L. Moss
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. B. C. O'Brien
Hon. J. T. Glowrey	Hon. C. A. Piesse
Sir J. W. Hackett	Hon. C. Sommers
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. S. Stubbs
Hon. A. G. Jenkins	Hon. T. H. Wilding
Hon. J. W. Langsford	Sir E. H. Wittenoom
Hon. R. Laurie	Hon. D. G. Gawler
Hon. W. Marwick	(Teller).
Hon. C. McKenzie	

## NOES.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan	Hon. T. F. O. Brimage
	(Teller).

Amendment thus passed.

Bill again reported with a further amendment.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

*That the report be adopted.*

Hon. M. L. MOSS: This was the last time, he hoped, when he would detain the House on this question, and he would not have risen but for the assertion that a party vote had been recorded. It was almost an insult for any member of this House to be accused of sitting here bound or fettered in any way by party pledges. In fact the Government's policy this session, and for years past, had been subjected to every scrutiny. He had voted on this question throughout in accordance with public pledges, and in the last division he had been obliged to vote in the way he had, simply because if it was the will of the Committee that the qualification was to be reduced, he would sooner see it made £17 than £15. In behalf of members generally he protested strongly against the accusation of party influence. When this Government were succeeded by another Government, members would be prepared to give their policy a fair trial and the same amount of scrutiny and criticism as had been given to the proposals of the present Government. It was absurd to say that the divisions in this House were conducted as they were in another place. Every division in another place was on party lines, but here every member voted absolutely independently.

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN: The remarks made by Mr. Moss had reference to a

statement which he (Mr. Kirwan) had made during the Committee stage that this House was a party House. He did not wish that that remark should in any way be taken as an insult to members of the Chamber, and he did not think it should be taken as such. The members of a House occupying a very much higher standing in the British empire than this Chamber, the House of Lords, did not get offended or regard themselves as insulted if they were accused of being a party House. In that Chamber, as was well known, there were 700 or 800 Peers, of whom probably 150 belonged to the Liberal party, whilst the others were recognised as belonging to the Unionist or Conservative party. They had an Opposition leader as well as a leader of the House.

The Colonial Secretary: What has all that got to do with this question?

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN: The point was that the House of Lords, occupying a similar position to this House, was recognised as a party House. This House was intended by virtue of the property qualification to represent property holders. The House of Lords was also intended to represent those who had property and privileges and while that House acknowledged itself to be a party House, he utterly failed to see how any member of this Chamber could regard it as an insult to say that the Council also was a party House. The reason why he made that statement was that while there were only two direct nominees of a particular party in the Chamber, the House had come to be regarded as a non-party House simply because the members nearly all belonged to the one party.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: On a point of order I desire to state that I belong to no party in the House at all.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to point out that I looked upon the speeches of Mr. Moss and Mr. Kirwan as personal explanations; but I think they are going beyond the bounds of Parliamentary practice in making those personal explanations at such length.

**Hon. J. W. KIRWAN:** Of course members would accept Sir Edward Wittenoom's assurance that he was not a party man, and no doubt he and other members were non-party representatives. Personally he had been returned as an independent, and he supposed he could be regarded in that light as a non-party man. He had been speaking of the House generally, and did not intend that any member should take his remarks to himself. Certainly he did not think that his remarks should be taken as an insult, when the House of Lords was recognised, by the fact of having a leader of the Opposition, as being a party House.

**Hon. R. LAURIE:** To the remarks of Mr. Kirwan that the Government could if they desired force anything through the Chamber, he took the very strongest exception. Members should resent any statement that they could be coerced into any line of action which the Government chose to take.

Question put and passed; the report adopted.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

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

**Hon. W. KINGSMILL:** The statement which he had made on the second reading that it was his intention to support a reduction of the franchise to £20 had been made in all seriousness, but he found that other members who had also said that had only spoken jocularly and did not mean what they said. He on the other hand had been in earnest when he had said that if the franchise was reduced below £20 he would not vote for the third reading. That was the attitude he intended to take up now.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	19
Noes	..	..	..	6
				—
Majority for	..	..	..	13
				—

## AYES.

Hon. T. F. O. Brimage	Hon. J. W. Langsford
Hon. E. M. Clarke	Hon. W. Marwick
Hon. J. D. Connolly	Hon. R. D. McKenzie
Hon. J. F. Cullen	Hon. E. McLarty
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. B. C. O'Brien
Hon. D. G. Gawler	Hon. C. A. Piesse
Hon. J. T. Glowrey	Hon. S. Stubbs
Sir J. W. Hackett	Sir E. H. Wittenoom
Hon. A. G. Jenkins	Hon. C. McKenzie
Hon. J. W. Kirwan	(Teller).

## NOES.

Hon. W. Kingsmill	Hon. T. H. Wilding
Hon. R. Laurie	Hon. V. Hamersley
Hon. M. L. Moss	(Teller).
Hon. C. Sommers	

Question thus passed.

The PRESIDENT: I certify that this Bill has been carried, in accordance with Section 73 of the Constitution Act, 1889, by the statutory majority required.

Bill read a third time and returned to the Legislative Assembly with an amendment.

# BILLS (6)—RETURNED FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

1. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act Amendment (without amendment).
2. Cemeteries Amendment (without amendment).
3. Game Act Amendment (without amendment).
4. Fisheries Act Amendment (without amendment).
5. Fremantle Harbour Trust Act Amendment (without amendment).
6. Jury Act Amendment (with amendments).

## BILL—LICENSING.

### Assembly's Message.

The Legislative Assembly having declined to make several amendments requested by the Council, also having made certain amendments with modifications, the same were now considered.

### In Committee.

Hon. W. Kingsmill in the Chair.

No. 3. Clause 6, line 21 of page.—Strike out "one-tenth" and insert "one-fifth":

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

*That the request be not pressed.*

The Council had sent down 150 amendments and most of them had been made. This amendment provided for the penalty being increased from one-tenth to one-fifth. It was not an important matter.

Question passed, the amendment not pressed.

No. 4. Clause 8, Subclause 2.—Strike out all the words after "persons" in line two of subclause and insert "to be appointed from time to time by the Governor":

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This request dealt with a much bigger question, it related to the constitution of the licensing courts, around which a good deal of discussion centred when the Bill was before members. There were a good many amendments following relating to the one matter. It was a question whether the court should be nominative or elective. As the Bill came before members two members of the court were to be elected while the chairman was to be the resident magistrate. The Council had carried an amendment that the three members of the court should be nominated by the Governor. Because, after all, it could scarcely be considered a judicial body. It was, rather, a body appointed to carry out the wishes of the people as expressed at the local option polls. He did not think any great harm could be done by giving this system a trial. He moved—

*That the amendment be not pressed.*

Hon. M. L. MOSS: While prepared to concede a good deal in order to get the Bill through, he was not prepared to give way on so large a principle as this. He did not propose to repeat the arguments previously given by him, but he hoped hon. members would see the wisdom of maintaining and enforcing their opinion.

Hon. C. SOMMERS: It was to be hoped the Committee would adhere to their previous decision. In New Zealand the elective system had given rise to many scandals. The principle was a vicious one, if we initiated it here we would next have it in vogue in connection with our judicial benches.

Hon. A. G. JENKINS: For his part he agreed with the views of Mr. Moss. In the event of our disagreeing on this point could the Assembly then ask for a conference, or would it be for us to ask for a conference if we desired it?

The CHAIRMAN: Whichever Chamber was in possession of the Bill at the time the disagreement arose would ask for a conference.

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

Ayes .. .. .	8
Noes .. .. .	11

Majority against .. 3

#### AYES.

Hon. J. D. Connolly	Hon. R. D. McKenzie
Hon. J. F. Cullen	Hon. B. C. O'Brien
Hon. J. M. Drew	Sir E. H. Wittenoom
Hon. J. W. Langsford	(Teller).
Hon. W. Marwick	

#### NOES.

Hon. E. M. Clarke	Hon. M. L. Moss
Hon. D. G. Gawler	Hon. C. A. Plesse
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. C. Sommers
Hon. A. G. Jenkins	Hon. S. Stubbs
Hon. R. Laurie	Hon. T. H. Wilding
Hon. E. McLarty	(Teller).

Question thus negatived. The amendment pressed.

No. 5.—Clause 8: Strike out Subclauses 3, 4, and 5:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: These were merely consequential. He moved—

*That the amendment be pressed.*

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: If the Chairman would allow him he would express regret that he had not been present a few minutes ago, when the Committee were discussing the question of nominated as against elective benches. Although in the first place he had proposed the amendment for the nominative bench instead of the elective bench, he had found after careful consideration there were good reasons for changing his opinions on the subject. It was under these circumstances he had on this occasion voted against the proposal. He did not give way one atom in regard to the application of the system to any bench of a judicial character. He was totally against that; but these boards would be of quite a different character, and he had found there was a general

feeling that an elective bench would probably be an advantage to the cause of temperance. He did not believe that himself; he thought in all probability it would operate the other way. At all events a large section of the people anticipated it would offer this advantage and under these circumstances he had voted as he did.

Question passed; the amendment pressed.

No. 6.—Strike out Clauses 9 to 16 inclusive:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

*That the amendment be pressed.*

Question passed; the amendment pressed.

No. 62.—Clause 95: Strike out this clause:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The clause provided that a licensee should have the custody of his license. He moved—

*That the amendment be not pressed.*

Hon. M. L. MOSS: On this occasion he would support the Minister, although he had previously given his reasons why he thought the clause should come out.

Question put and passed: the amendment not pressed.

No. 67.—Clause 98, Subclause 2, line 14: Strike out "two pounds" and insert "for a first offence ten pounds, for any subsequent offence thirty pounds."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This did not involve any principle; it was only as to details of the fines. He moved—

*That the requested amendment be not pressed.*

Question passed; the amendment not pressed.

No. 79 (consequential) not pressed.

No. 113.—Clause 159, Subclause 1, line 1, strike out "supplied or":

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If the words "supplied or" were omitted it would be impossible to prove the sale of liquor in these unregistered clubs. Another place had insisted on the retention of the words. It would be for the better working of the Act. He moved—

*That the amendment be not pressed.*

Hon. M. L. MOSS: This would mean penalising a person for keeping a bottle of whisky in his locker and treating his friends. If we did not strike out the words it would press very hard on small cricket and bowling clubs. We should press the request.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	8
Noes	..	..	..	9

Majority against .. 1

#### AYES.

Hon. J. D. Connolly	Hon. R. D. McKenzie
Hon. J. F. Cullen	Hon. B. C. O'Brien
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. A. G. Jenkins
Hon. J. W. Langford	(Teller).
Hon. C. McKenzie	

#### NOES.

Hon. E. M. Clarke	Hon. C. Sommers
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. T. H. Wilding
Hon. R. Laurie	Sir E. H. Wittenoom
Hon. E. McLarty	Hon. S. Stubbs
Hon. M. L. Moss	(Teller).

Question thus negatived. The amendment pressed.

No. 114.—Clause 159, Subclause 1, line 2, strike out "supplying or":

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Although this was on the lines of No. 113 it was an amendment another place would, undoubtedly, not agree to. It opened the door too widely to the illicit selling of liquor. It must be remembered that laws were administered in a reasonable way, and there would be no prosecution in a case such as that instanced by Mr. Moss. He moved—

*That the amendment be not pressed.*

Hon. M. L. MOSS: In plain English, if one was liable to a penalty for supplying liquor it would prevent a person from keeping whisky in his locker on an occasion, say, of a cricket match, and treating his friends. The Bill could be lost a hundred times before he would agree to allow the words to be retained.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: One could not understand the opposition of another place. The deletion of the words would not lead to sly-grog selling.

The Colonial Secretary: I am certain it will.

Hon. C. SOMMERS: The inclusion of the words would debar country race clubs

from entertaining visitors with refreshments. However, there was no desire to lose the Bill over a trivial amendment.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: If we accepted what another place desired it would not help the temperance cause, it would merely force people to purchase liquor. The retention of the words would inflict a hardship in country race clubs.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Members did not seem to realise the position on the previous amendment, but this amendment ought not to be looked upon as consequential. Even with the omission of the same words in the previous amendment the clause would not be so much affected, and, if necessary, there could be a recommittal.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: If there is a misunderstanding take another vote.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Several radical requests were made which found acceptance from the Assembly, and we might deal with this in the same spirit of compromise. No matter how small clubs were they could obtain a club license. There were no prosecutions in the past, though the law was the same for cases like those mentioned by hon. members, and there was no reason why they should occur in the future.

*Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.15 p.m.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Committee, it was to be hoped, would not insist on this amendment, because if they did so it would be fatal to the Bill. Hon. members would see how difficult it was to prove a sale, but it was not so difficult to prove the supply.

Hon. J. M. DREW: Hon. members might be referred to Clause 137, which applied to the premises of unregistered clubs. We wanted to find out what was an unregistered club, and we got the definition that it meant a club which required under the Act to be registered but which was not registered. A club to be registered must comply with the conditions, and they were conditions which no sporting club or boating club would be asked to comply with.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: All persons had to do, then, was to sell liquor and say,

"Yes, we sold liquor and you cannot convict us because we are an unregistered club and we do not answer all the requirements which entitle us to registration."

Hon. J. M. DREW: An unregistered club was a club which should be registered but was not; that was how he took it.

Hon. A. G. JENKINS: Unless the words were retained this part of the Bill would be useless; it would open the door to indiscriminate sly-grog selling. All a person would have to do would be to put a notice outside a door that it was somebody's club, and any person would be able to go in and get a drink.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: Take the case of the West Australian Turf Club; they kept liquor but did not sell it. When they held committee meetings they would, perhaps, have a drink after the meeting was over, and under this clause they would be liable to prosecution. He thought that the matter could be put on a proper basis by taking out the words "supply or."

The Colonial Secretary: You cannot make an amendment now.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: We could throw the onus upon the defendant of proving that he gave liquor and did not sell it. Why should not any club keep a few bottles of liquor on their premises?

Hon. J. F. Cullen: They do so.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: And we were passing a law to make that criminal. We should make it penal to sell and throw the onus upon the defendant to prove that it was not sold.

Hon. J. M. DREW: An unregistered club under this Bill was a club that ought to be registered but was not registered, and it must exist for all purposes set forth in the clause.

Question put and passed: the amendment not pressed.

On motion by Colonial Secretary Nos. 115 and 116 not pressed.

On motion by Colonial Secretary Nos. 119 and 120 (consequential) pressed.

No. 125—(Abolition and registration of barmaids):

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This amendment dealt with all the new clauses relating to the abolition and registration of barmaids. He moved—

*That the amendment be not pressed.*

Question passed; the amendment not pressed.

On motion by the Colonial Secretary No. 127 (consequential) pressed.

The CHAIRMAN: Certain requests for amendments were agreed to by the Legislative Assembly with modifications. The first of these was an amendment to strike out Clause 196, and the Legislative Assembly agreed to the requested amendment with certain modifications.

No. 117.—Assembly's modification—The amendment is modified by deleting the words "strike out" and inserting "amend" in lieu thereof, and by adding to the amendment the words "by adding the following proviso":—Provided that no license shall be surrendered unless the consent of every person entitled to any freehold or leasehold interest in the premises in possession, remainder, or reversion, or in any mortgage, charge, or security affecting such premises shall be first had and obtained.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

*That the modification be agreed to.*

Hon. M. L. MOSS: The modification was much better than the clause in the Bill when it first came before this Committee. The only danger to be apprehended was in lax administration, because every magistrate would have to be thoroughly satisfied that there was no charge, mortgage, or security on the premises. However, he had done his duty by calling attention to the matter, and he would allow the matter to rest at that.

Question put and passed; the modification agreed to.

No. 123—Assembly's modification—The amendment is modified by inserting "subject to the provisions of this Act" after "enabling," in line 13 of the proposed new clause.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

*That the modification be agreed to.*

When the clause was passed it was made

a condition that whilst a bona fide traveller could be served with a drink on Sunday, the bar was to be kept closed. This was a proviso to allow the employees to go in and out of the bar.

Question put and passed; the modification agreed to.

No. 124—Assembly's modification: The amendment is modified by deleting the proposed new Clause 102.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

*That the modification be agreed to.*

Question passed; the modification agreed to.

Hon. A. G. JENKINS: Was there not an amendment to the bona fide clause to reduce the distance from 10 miles to five miles? According to the newspaper an amendment of this character was carried in the Assembly.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee had dealt with a Message from the Assembly, which contained no such amendment as the hon. member referred to.

Hon. A. G. JENKINS: But an amendment was carried reducing the distance to five miles. It would be a pity if the Message sent down from the Assembly was inaccurate.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: Was there no way—if there was a doubt as to the accuracy of the official Message—of dealing with it?

The CHAIRMAN: The Message would be reported to the House, and the subsequent proceeding of sending a Message to the Assembly could be delayed. If it was found that a mistake had been made the Message could be recommitted for the purpose of dealing with it.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: That seemed a sensible way of dealing with the matter. We could not shut our eyes to what we had seen in the newspapers.

Resolutions reported.

On motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY Message recommitted for the purpose of further considering Amendment 113.

No. 113—Clause 159, Subclause (1), line 1.—Strike out "supply or:"

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This amendment was consequential on the



others that the Committee had agreed to, and he now moved—

*That the amendment be not pressed.*

Question passed; the amendment not pressed.

Resolution reported; and the report adopted.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was reported to the House that evidently there was a mistake in the Message, and now he was informed by the Clerk Assistant that such was the case. The best course would be to move the Chairman into the Chair and reconsider the Message.

The PRESIDENT: But the report has been adopted.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Perhaps the better way would be to allow the Assembly to send up a supplementary Message. The return Message to the Assembly could be delayed until a later period.

## BILL — PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCE.

### *Second Reading.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading said: This is a measure relating to the payment of members of both Houses of the Legislature. As members are aware, the payment of members to-day is fixed for both Houses at £200 per annum, and it is sought in the Bill to increase that payment in so far as the Assembly is concerned from £200 to £300. The payment given to members of this House will remain at £200. The Bill also increases the payment made to the President and Speaker from £600 to £700, and to the Chairman of Committees in both Houses from £400 to £500, so that all the gentlemen referred to get an average increase of £100 per annum. There is a new departure in the Bill in regard to payment of members, inasmuch as it provides that there shall be a payment of £500 to the leader of the Opposition. This is a new departure, but one, I think, at which members will not cavil, because the member who occupies the position of leader of the Opposition has a great deal of work to perform. He has

to make himself *au fait* with all the Bills that come on for discussion, and it is a very arduous task during the session.

Hon. C. A. Piesse: Does he get the £300 as well?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No; £500 altogether. I think it is worth the extra money and, moreover, after all, whether we agree with the policy of payment of members or not a good leader of the Opposition is good for the country.

Hon. M. L. Moss: There are others besides the leader of the Opposition who have to watch every Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The fact that he has to study every Bill is a pretty big task. Of course, the leader of the Opposition has the assistance of his party, still, the bulk of the work naturally falls on the leader. This measure makes provision that the payment of a member shall not cease because the member becomes a Minister. This power exists in the Federal Parliament. The Minister can draw his salary as a private member as well as that of a member of the Executive. I do not think it is necessary for me to say much on the Bill. I am not going into the question of the principle of payment of members. I candidly admit I am not altogether enamoured with the principle of payment, but we have got beyond that stage, and it is not now whether we personally approve of the principle or not. Probably we could obtain quite sufficient men to represent the people in Parliament if there was no payment of members; at the same time, I quite agree with a great deal that may be said on the other side, that without payment we may keep out of Parliament men who are worthy of a place there. If we admit the principle of payment—and it is admitted all over Australia, for there has been payment of members for 10 or 11 years—it then becomes a question if you pay a member should we not pay him sufficient. Undoubtedly I think we are all of one opinion about that. Members should be paid a sufficient amount. The amount which members are paid, if we look at it as a salary, is not a princely sum, for when we consider the cost of

living in Western Australia, £200 is a small amount so far as members are concerned, because the cost of living is higher than in the Eastern States. Take a State like Victoria. The travelling to Parliament is a very small matter, but the bulk of the members here have to travel hundreds of miles, are away from home a good deal, they neglect their businesses, and in every respect the argument is in favour of members being paid more in Western Australia. The payment of members in this State is lower than in any other State, with the exception of South Australia and Tasmania. In the Federal Parliament the salaries are fixed at £600, and that amount has been endorsed by the country.

Hon. J. W. Langsford: It is the same to members of both Houses there.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: We can only come to this conclusion, that the people of Australia have endorsed the payment of members and, moreover, they say if members are to be paid they should receive a fair rate. One reason why the payment is justified in the Federal Parliament at the rate fixed, and the same argument applies here, is that the seat of Government is far removed from the majority of members, and that is a justification for paying them a larger salary. There is the expense of travelling, the loss, and being away from home and business. I do not think it is necessary to argue the question of payment, it is only a question whether we consider members are adequately paid here. The Government believe they are not, and the wish of the country is that their payment should be increased.

Hon. Sir J. W. Hackett: Both Houses?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This Bill only provides for an increase to members of another place. Perhaps members in this House can better afford to work for their country at a lesser rate. We are supposed to represent property, and if members had not some property they could not be here. It does not take so much time here as it takes in another place to transact the business, but probably that is a good deal the fault of another place; nevertheless, it does take more time in another place to transact the

business. They have to go more into money matters than we do. Then, again, they are in charge of their districts, and it takes a good deal of time to attend to district matters. I do not think it is necessary to say anything further. I formally move—

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

Hon. J. T. GLOWREY (South): I am entirely opposed to the Bill. In the first place I notice it is to be made retrospective.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: May I make a personal explanation? When the Bill was first introduced it was made to be dated from the beginning of the next Parliament, but in another place an amendment was inserted to make it from the first of this year.

Hon. J. T. GLOWREY: There may have been some reason at one time why members of Parliament should be in receipt of higher pay, but I say many of the reasons have now disappeared. In the first place we had numerous disadvantages in travelling to and from the seat of Government. The goldfields are now well provided with railway connection, and members of Parliament enjoy the privilege of a free railway pass. Then in the Northern part of the State communication was exceedingly difficult; there is now a regular line of boats running to and fro, and it is quite easy to reach even the remotest parts of the North.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom: There are no free passes on the boats.

Hon. J. T. GLOWREY: Another reason why members' salaries should not be increased at the present time was that the amount of money members were allowed to spend on elections was regulated by statute.

Hon. M. L. Moss: There is no limit to the cost of organisation.

Hon. J. T. GLOWREY: I notice that in Tasmania members are paid only £100; here we propose to increase the amount to £300. The population of Australia is somewhere about four millions, and we

are paying £230,000 to members and Ministers. Again, this question has never been before the electors. If the Bill had deferred the increase until the beginning of the incoming Parliament I should have raised no objection whatever. I will submit a few figures to show the amounts paid to members of Parliament in the different States. In Victoria it is £18,000; in New South Wales, where it is highest, they are paid £24,000;—if we pass this Bill we will be paying over £25,000; in Queensland the amount paid is £21,000; in South Australia a little over £10,000, and in Tasmania £5,300. I would like to impress the significance of these figures on hon. members. We shall be paying the highest amount in the Commonwealth if we pass the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary: When you are taking the totals of New South Wales and Queensland you must remember the Legislative Councils there are nominated.

Hon. Sir J. W. Hackett: So, too, in Victoria.

Hon. J. T. GLOWREY: The fact remains we will be paying £25,000 as against the £24,000 paid in New South Wales.

The Colonial Secretary: New South Wales pays £24,000 for one House.

Hon. J. T. GLOWREY: The amounts paid to Ministers of the Crown are as follow:—New South Wales, £8,400; Queensland, £10,490; South Australia, £4,000; Western Australia, £6,200; Tasmania, £2,500. The cost of running Parliament, comprising both Houses, is set down at about £52,000, and we propose to still further increase that amount. As Mr. Cullen remarked last night, while we are asked to increase our salaries we are sweating our public servants. We have a gentleman in Perth in one of our most important departments, namely, that of taxation, and I believe he is drawing the magnificent sum of £350.

The Colonial Secretary: It is £550.

Hon. J. T. GLOWREY: I will not contradict the hon. member, but I am inclined to think he is wrong. In any case there are many other similar instances. I entirely disagree with the Bill; it has not been before the electors, and I

do not think it should come into operation at the present time. I hope hon. members will seriously consider the position before voting for the second reading. I cannot vote myself, because I have paired with Mr. McLarty, but in order to save time, I move as an amendment—

*That the word "now" be struck out and "this day six months" be added to the motion.*

Hon. M. L. MOSS: On a point of order, and without indicating which way I shall vote, is it competent for an hon. member to move an amendment, and say he will not vote for it?

Hon. J. T. Glowrey: I cannot.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: I know that, but I ask is it competent for an hon. member to move such an amendment while stating he will not vote for it?

The PRESIDENT: I only take notice of the hon. member's motion; his subsequent conduct will appear.

Amendment put and negatived.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	16
Noes	..	..	..	6

Majority for .. .. 10

#### AYES.

Hon. E. M. Clarke	Hon. W. Marwick
Hon. J. D. Connolly	Hon. R. D. McKenzie
Hon. J. F. Cullen	Hon. E. McLarty
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. B. C. O'Brien
Hon. D. G. Gawler	Hon. C. A. Piesse
Sir J. W. Hackett	Sir E. H. Wittenoom
Hon. A. G. Jenkins	Hon. C. McKenzie
Hon. W. Kingsmill	(Teller).
Hon. J. W. Langsford	

#### NOES.

Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. S. Stubbs
Hon. R. Laurie	Hon. T. H. Wilding
Hon. M. L. Moss	(Teller).
Hon. C. Sommers	

Question thus passed.  
Bill read a second time.

#### In Committee.

Clauses 1, 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Allowance to members of Council and Assembly:

Hon. J. M. DREW moved an amendment—

*That in paragraph (a) the words "two hundred" be struck out and "three hundred" inserted in lieu.*

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: Having served many years when there was no payment of members, he had formed the conclusion that payment of members was a mistake; but as the principle had been adopted throughout the Commonwealth, it would be idle and superfluous to attempt any alteration in the matter, and it was reasonable to adopt the custom recognised. However, members should be adequately paid; and as £200 a year was not sufficient for a man devoting his whole time to Parliamentary work, he agreed with the amendment; while as the Parliament of Western Australia was composed of two Houses on the same basis, there was no reason why they should be separated in any way in regard to the allowance to members. Certainly the Legislative Council did not work so hard as the Assembly, but the Council did not take so much time over certain measures, and members were always prepared to do whatever work was submitted from another place. Members of the Council being part and parcel of the Constitution, they were entitled to the same treatment as members of another House. It was said members of the Legislative Council could better afford to take a lesser remuneration inasmuch as they represented property; but, on the other hand, many members of the Legislative Council were concerned in very large and important businesses, and probably lost a good deal more through their absence from their businesses than men who were not paid a similar amount in other ways. It was said that these people could stay out of the House, but then the country would be deprived of the benefit of their long business and commercial experience.

Amendment put and passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 4, 5, and 6—agreed to.

Clause 7—Commencement of application of Act.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The clause was amended in another place to make the payment commence from the beginning of this year; but as the clause was not at all clear and was rather cumbersome, he intended to move the insertion of a new clause to the effect that this Act shall have effect as from the 1st day of January, 1911, and the first allowances at the rates prescribed by this Act shall be reckoned as from that date. This clause would take the place of the clause before the Committee.

Clause put and negatived.

Clause 8—agreed to.

New clause:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

*That the following be added to stand as Clause 7:—"This Act shall have effect as from the first day of January, 1911, and the first allowance at the rates prescribed by this Act shall be reckoned as from that date."*

Hon. C. SOMMERS: The Committee had no right to make the Bill retrospective, and he took strong exception to it. Payment should commence from the assembling of the new Parliament, thus the electors would have an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the matter. When the Federal Parliament increased the salaries of their members there was great indignation on the part of the people, and if we were now to do the same as we accused the Federal Parliament of doing we also would have to look for condemnation from the people who sent the members to Parliament. It was never intended that payment of members should become a living wage, but that it should be simply a remuneration for services rendered for a portion of the year, and to make this retrospective would be wrong.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	16
Noes	..	..	..	4
Majority for				12

## AYES.

Hon. J. D. Connolly	Hon. C. McKenzie
Hon. J. F. Cullen	Hon. R. D. McKenzie
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. E. McLarty
Hon. D. G. Gawler	Hon. M. L. Moss
Sir J. W. Hackett	Hon. B. C. O'Brien
Hon. V. Hamersley	Sir E. H. Wittenoom
Hon. A. G. Jenkins	Hon. C. A. Plesse
Hon. J. W. Laughsford	(Teller).
Hon. W. Marwick	

## NOES.

Hon. R. Laurie	Hon. S. Stubbs
Hon. C. Sommers	(Teller).
Hon. T. H. Wilding	

New clause thus passed.

Bill reported with an amendment.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

*That the report be adopted.*

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: With the indulgence of members he would like to say a few words in connection with this Bill which he had omitted at an earlier stage. In Clause 3 he noticed that an extra amount was to be paid to the leader of the Opposition. If there was one innovation that he would be prepared to welcome more than another it was that there should be some recognition of the position of the leader of the Opposition. He did not care to what party the leader of the Opposition belonged, that position carried with it onerous and difficult duties, and the only other position that he could compare it to was that of leader of the Legislative Council, for the reason that in the Legislative Assembly the Government had five or six members to share the responsibility of introducing Bills, while in the Legislative Council the representative of the Government had to do all that work himself. That gentleman had to make himself acquainted not only with every Bill that came before the Legislative Council, but with every detail of them, so that he should be in the position to discuss them at length. This involved a great deal of labour. He (Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom) had had bitter experience of being leader of the Legislative Council, but unlike the Colonial Secretary of to-day he did not have the assistance of an able coadjutor; he had had to do all the work himself and make him-

self acquainted with every Bill and every clause in all, because it was necessary to be prepared for the vagaries of some members, who at times asked absurd questions about some of the clauses. That might account for his impaired digestion at the present time. He sympathised with the hon. member who led the Legislative Council, because of the amount of labour which was involved in making himself so thoroughly acquainted with the contents of most of the Bills. On the same grounds he felt the greatest sympathy for the leader of the Opposition, no matter to which party he belonged, whether it be the Liberal or the Labour party, and he was pleased to see the innovation which would have the effect of recognising the services that gentleman rendered to the country.

Question put and passed; the report adopted.

## BILL—LICENSING.

*Assembly's Message.*

A previous Message from the Assembly having omitted a modification of one of the Council's amendments, a supplementary Message conveying same now considered.

*In Committee.*

No. 124 (a)—Assembly's modification—Proposed new Clause 99, line 4, strike out "ten" and insert "five" in lieu.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This clause dealt with the definition of bona fide traveller. The distance by law at present was three miles, and the new clause increased the distance to ten miles. An amendment had been made by another place reducing the distance to five miles. He moved—

*That the modification be agreed to.*

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: If the Committee refused to agree to this amendment we would delay matters most seriously.

Hon. B. C. O'BRIEN: It was his intention to vote against the Assembly's modification.

Hon. M. L. Moss: What, will you vote for 10 miles?

Hon. B. C. O'BRIEN: Yes. Under the old Act the distance had been three

miles. The desire of the Committee had been to as far as possible prevent Sunday drinking. Now the distance had been raised from three to five miles, and it was neither one thing nor the other. There was only one solution for the evil of Sunday trading, and that was to have regular trading hours on Sundays. As that had not been done it was the duty of the Committee to insist on the ten-mile limit.

Hon. E. McLARTY: When this question had been previously under consideration he had suggested that the limit should be five miles. He had agreed to the amendment moved by Mr. Moss to make it six miles, but that amendment had been defeated and ten miles had been inserted. He still thought five miles was a reasonable limit, and quite far enough for a person travelling in the summer. Surely if a man, who had travelled five miles, came to an inn or a wayside house and wanted a glass of beer he had a perfect right to get it.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	16
Noes	..	..	..	2
				—
Majority for	..	..	..	14

#### AYES.

Hon. J. D. Connolly	Hon. R. D. McKenzie
Hon. J. F. Cullen	Hon. E. McLarty
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. M. L. Moss
Hon. D. G. Gawler	Hon. C. Sommers
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. T. H. Wilding
Hon. J. W. Langsford	Sir E. H. Wittenoom
Hon. R. Laurie	Hon. A. G. Jenklus
Hon. W. Marwick	(Teller).
Hon. C. McKenzie	

#### NOES.

Hon. S. Stubbs	Hon. B. C. O'Brien
	(Teller).

Question thus passed: the Assembly's modification agreed to.

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a Message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

### BILL—HEALTH.

#### Assembly's Message.

The Legislative Assembly having declined to make certain amendments re-

quested by the Council, also having made two amendments with modifications, the same were now considered.

No. 20. Clause 138, Subclause (5).—Strike out "and lodged with the local authority."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

*That the amendment be not pressed.*

This was not a very important amendment. The clause provided for the lodging of all plans of a public building both with the Commissioner of Public Health and the local authority. The Committee had struck out "local authority," and to that amendment the Assembly had not agreed. He did not think the amendment of sufficient importance to be pressed.

Question passed; the amendment not pressed.

No. 52. Clause 229.—Strike out this clause:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

*That the amendment be not pressed.*

It was to be regretted that the Assembly had not agreed to this amendment, which was to strike out the clause allowing for a conscientious objection to vaccination. He still held that it was a mistake to insert this clause, but as this provision was only a very small portion of a big Bill, he would sooner allow it to pass than have the Bill defeated. Next session he hoped to introduce a Vaccination Bill, because the present Act was quite obsolete.

Hon. R. LAURIE: It was a mistake not to insist on this amendment. Only the other day when an epidemic of smallpox broke out in America the people were falling over themselves to be vaccinated.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: It would be better to lose the Bill than to agree to this clause. He was in Perth years ago when an outbreak of smallpox had occurred and there was a great chance of its spreading all over the colony. Had it not been for the vaccination of nearly everybody in the community there would have been a terrible epidemic. All science pointed out that vaccination alleviated smallpox, and where the good of the whole community was concerned the Committee should not give way. It was stated that

certain people objected to vaccination on conscientious grounds, but a good many people might object to paying their bills on conscientious grounds. As a result of experience, not of fads and ideas, we knew that vaccination had a great deal to do with preventing and minimising the spread of smallpox, and as Fremantle was situated in such a peculiarly dangerous position, being practically the first port of call after the steamers left Singapore and Colombo, where contagion came from, we should exercise the greatest care. His idea was that the people who had conscientious objections should go and live in other countries.

Question passed; the amendment not pressed.

No. 54. Clause 248.—Insert a new clause to stand as Subclause 3:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was provided that if a local authority refused to carry out certain matters in relation to infectious diseases the Commissioner of Public Health could enter into an agreement to do so. When the Bill was originally introduced in another place it contained that proviso. It was struck out in the other place and was re-inserted on his (the Colonial Secretary's) motion. It had been cut out again, and he regretted it very much. He would not now take any responsibility in the matter as another place had twice rejected the proviso. He would be extremely sorry to lose the Bill because it contained very important powers relating to a pure food supply; therefore, it was not his intention to insist on the amendment. He moved—

*That the amendment be not pressed.*

Question passed; the amendment not pressed.

No. 55.—Clause 250, Subclause 2:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This and the following amendments were consequential and related to the registration of midwives and nurses. There was considerable discussion in the Legislative Council on the matter and provision was made for the registration of midwives and general nurses. The Legislative Assembly had twice rejected the registration for general nurses. He believed the reason which actuated them in throwing it

out was that they thought it should be contained in a separate measure. With regard to the registration of midwives the Assembly's amendment provided for a minimum of six months' training; the Legislative Council made it 12 months; it was altered back to six months, and the Legislative Assembly insisted upon their amendment. Now he (the Colonial Secretary) rid himself of all responsibility. His object had been to assist the people to get a better class of midwives. Fortunately, however, the provision relating to this matter did not come into force until the 1st January, 1912, and that by that time Parliament would meet again and doubtless reconsider the matter. No harm would be done, therefore, by agreeing to the Assembly's amendment. When Parliament met again probably a separate Bill would be introduced dealing with the registration of nurses. He moved—

*That the amendment be not pressed.*

Question passed: the amendment not pressed.

On motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, Nos. 60, 75, and 78 not pressed.

On motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Assembly's modifications Nos. 4 and 29 agreed to.

Resolutions reported; and the report adopted.

*In Committee, etc.*

The Assembly's message thus having been dealt with consideration of Bill in Committee resumed from 26th January.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported, and the report adopted.

Read a third time and passed.

*Sitting suspended from 4.15 to 4.35 p.m.*

## BILL—JURY ACT AMENDMENT.

*Assembly's Amendments.*

Schedule of three amendments made by the Legislative Assembly now considered.

*In Committee.*

On motions by COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Assembly's amendments (New Clauses 6, 7, and 8) agreed to.

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

## BILL—ROMAN CATHOLIC PROPERTY.

### *All Stages.*

Received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

### *Second Reading.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading said: The object of this Bill is to vest in the Roman Catholic Bishop of the diocese of Perth and his successors in office all property belonging to or held on account of the said diocese and to make further provision for disposing of such property connected with it. Some doubt has arisen as to the title of land held by the church. Hon. members will probably be aware that there has been a change in the Catholic bishopric of Perth. All the lands for church purposes were vested in the name of the former Bishop, Bishop Gibney; now there is a doubt as to whether the transfer can pass automatically to his successors. If it were held by the Commissioner of Titles that the lands were not vested in the Bishop of Perth it would be necessary in each case to obtain a transfer from Bishop Gibney to his successor; that would necessitate the cost of the transfer and half per cent. stamp duty, which would run into a considerable sum of money. It would be unnecessary expense which was never contemplated because when the land was vested in the Bishop it was vested in him, not as "Matthew Gibney," but as "Matthew Gibney, Catholic Bishop of the diocese of Perth." There is no objection to the measure on the part of Bishop Gibney. Counsel has given an opinion that there is a doubt as to whether the lands would vest in the new Bishop and as to whether a transfer would have to be obtained in every case, signed by the Bishop, to his successor. Of course there would not be a hardship in obtaining the transfer.

Hon. M. L. Moss: Except that it would cost a lot of money.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It would run into a large sum of money. This Bill will obviate that expense. The Bill also provides for the appointment of advisors and it also makes provision for the Bishop being a corporation sole with power to purchase and sell, mortgage, lease or dispose of the property. I am advised also that it is the intention of the Catholic body to draw up a comprehensive measure to deal with their properties and to provide for the appointment of trustees and so place these properties on a better footing. I move—

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

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

### *In Committee, etc.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time and passed.

## BILL—ROADS.

### *Assembly's Message.*

Schedule of three amendments not agreed to by the Assembly now considered.

### *In Committee.*

No. 14.—Clause 175, Subclause 1, line 5, after "substantial" add "sheep proof":  
The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

*That the amendment be not insisted on.*

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: The word "substantial" was quite sufficient, and there was no need to insist on the words "sheep proof." No fences could be made proof against some sheep.

Question passed; amendment not insisted on.

No. 33.—Clause 330, Subclause 3, strike out "any such plan to the Board," and insert "any plan of land within a town-site or suburban area or which shows any allotments of less than one acre in area":

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

*That the amendment be not insisted on.*



The amendment after all was only a very small one, and, as the Act was only in force for eighteen months, could make very little difference.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: At every turn a demand was made on people to cut up their areas, and as in many instances there was no cost in clearing a road, he did not see why the owner should be penalised to the extent of £3 a chain, when other roads in the locality had not cost more than 10s. per chain for the last 20 years. He hoped that the amendment would be insisted upon.

Hon. W. MARWICK: The Government were trying to throw the responsibility for making roads on the owners, who were being taxed almost out of existence. There were plenty of cases where thousands of acres were served by roads which had never had a penny spent on them. Unless the amendment was insisted on the clause would penalise any person who subdivided his estate, by compelling him to deposit the exorbitant sum of £3 per chain.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: This was one of the most drastic provisions that could be made. Many persons were willing to cut up their areas but they were confronted with stumbling-blocks such as this proposed clause. He agreed that owners should not be allowed to subdivide lands and throw a great expenditure of rates on the local authority, but there were many areas throughout the State where nothing like £3 per chain was spent on the roads. It seemed ridiculous that a man should deposit £3 a chain for a road on which perhaps not more than 10s. per chain would be spent.

Question passed; the amendment not insisted on.

No. 34 (consequential) not insisted on.

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

#### BILL—UNIVERSITY.

##### *In Committee.*

Message received from the Assembly notifying that amendments requested by the Council had been made. Considera-

tion in Committee resumed from the previous day.

Hon. W. Kingsmill in the Chair; Hon. R. D. McKenzie (Honorary Minister) in charge of the Bill.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments, and the report adopted.

Read a third time and *passed*.

#### BILL—MINES AND MACHINERY INSPECTION.

##### *All Stages.*

Received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

##### *Second Reading.*

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE (Honorary Minister) in moving the second reading said: I should explain to the House that this Bill relates to the administration of the Mines and Machinery Acts. At the present time, in most of our mining districts, we have an inspector of mines and an inspector of machinery. In the large centres where there are a number of mines collected in one group it is necessary to have both inspectors, but there are isolated districts where it is not advisable for both an inspector of mines and an inspector of machinery to have to go once a year. I know of some places on the Eastern Goldfields where it takes three days for an inspector to reach a certain mine and it requires two or three hours to do his work and then it occupies him another three days to get back. Both inspectors of mines and inspectors of machinery have to do these trips annually. The Bill will enable one inspector to do the work which two inspectors are doing at the present time. Clause 2 explains this matter fully. I do not think it is necessary for me to say any more. I move—

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

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

##### *In Committee, etc.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time and *passed*.

### BILL—PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES.

Message received from the Assembly notifying that amendments requested by the Council had been made. Consideration in Committee resumed.

Title agreed to. Bill reported, and the report adopted.

Bill read a third time and *passed*.

### BILL—PERMANENT RESERVES REDEDICATION (No. 3).

Received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

#### *Second Reading.*

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE (Honorary Minister) in moving the second reading said: This is one of those Bills that comes before us annually and provides for the rededication of portions of certain reserves in the State. Clause 2 of the Bill refers to a proposal for the extension of the school site at Claremont. The Education Department desire to erect a manual training and cookery school which will necessitate an extension of the present school grounds to take in portion of Class "A" reserve 883 for recreation. The area required is 1 rood 15.2 perches and it will be necessary to exclude this area from reserve A883 before it can be set apart for a school site. The municipal council has agreed on condition that the pathway passing through this land is widened to 33 feet and that a small portion shall still remain as part of the park reserve. The necessary survey has been effected. Clause 3 of the Bill refers to reserve 7686 on the Busselton-Karridale road. It contains about 4,500 acres and is set aside for park lands. It is proposed to exclude a portion for the purpose of subdivision and throwing it open for selection, and also to provide a townsite, agricultural hall site, etc. There is practically no timber on this portion worth preserving, but as it has been classed "A" it is necessary that Parliamentary sanction should be obtained to its excision. It was originally set apart as a stopping place for travellers and stock, but when the larger reserve was set apart to preserve good timber, the smaller one was included as a natural beauty spot. Clause 4 of the Bill refers to portion of the recreation

ground at Bunbury, which has been included within Beigel's fence for a number of years. Mr. Beigel has improved the land by erecting on it a building, and it is stated by the Council that if he put his fence back it would really cause a disfigurement of the area rather than an improvement seeing that the fence on the recreation ground has been erected to exclude the land occupied by him. The council are wholly in accord with the granting of this land, together with a portion of Russell Esplanade which has been included in the Roads Closure Bill, and a small portion of park lands, Reserve A4991, which has already been excluded therefrom for this purpose. As the recreation ground has been granted to the council for that purpose, the sanction of Parliament is necessary for the sale of this portion to Mr. Beigel. The proceeds will be handed to the council and will be devoted to improving the recreation ground. I move—

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

Question put and passed; Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

Clauses 1 to 4—agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2—agreed to.

Title:

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE (Honorary Minister): Certain alterations had been made in the Bill since it was first printed and it would be necessary now to alter the Title by the omission of certain words. He moved—

*That the words "and to authorise a lease of portion of permanent reserves numbered A 1661 and A 6613" be struck out.*

Amendment passed, the Title as amended agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment; and the report adopted.

Read a third time and returned to the Legislative Assembly with an amendment.

### BILL—ROADS CLOSURE.

Received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

#### *Second Reading.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second

reading said: This is the usual Bill introduced nearly every session for the closure of certain streets. In this instance a number of municipalities are affected, as the schedule shows. The streets are Spring-street in the town of Albany, Dampier-street in the town of Broome, Russell Esplanade in Bunbury, a portion of Swanbourne-terrace in the municipality of Cottesloe, portions of Maud-street and Brunswick-street in the town of York, and Dyer and Marquis streets in the city of Perth. I have here plans showing all these closures. In regard to the first plan, the whole of Spring-street Albany, is closed at the request of the adjoining owners and the closure is assented to by the municipality and approved by the Minister. It is proposed to open a new street. I may say that these closures are almost invariably made at the request of the local authority. In Bunbury, Mr. Beigel has been in occupation of a portion of Russell Esplanade, and this he desires to acquire as well as a small portion of park lands A4991, which has already been excluded from the park lands for this purpose. The Bunbury municipality are in full accord with this proposal. The next street affected is one of 50 links in Broome, which is to be thrown into three lots abutting thereon. The municipal council do not object and the proposal was approved by the late Minister for Lands, Sir Newton Moore. Portion of Swanbourne-terrace which includes a strip of the beach, is being closed at the request of the municipality, this portion being required by the public for recreation purposes. As the street will still be two chains wide, it will not be impaired, and as a reserve the council will be able to better control the beach for the purposes for which it is used. The city street to be dealt with, Dyer-street, is situated close to Parliament House. The Railway Department have requested the closure of the Dyer-street crossing.

Hon. M. L. Moss: I suppose the local authority has approved of all this?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I understand that in nearly all cases the local authority approves. This is a crossing near the West Perth station,

and it is intended, in connection with the general improvements of the Perth station yards, to move the present site of the West Perth station westward and re-erect it on the site of the present crossing, it will therefore be necessary to close that portion of Dyer-street. The connections with the new goods sheds will render a level crossing at this spot impossible, but an overhead bridge will be provided for foot traffic and a subway now exists about two chains west of the crossing at Havelock-street. This crossing has been closed for a long time and was only opened because the City Council insisted upon it, and the railway authorities had no power to refuse. The next street dealt with is that in the municipality of York, where portions of Brunswick and Maud streets are being closed at the request of the municipal council. The streets are not suitable for traffic on account of the excavations, and a new road is to be opened in lieu of that closed. I beg to move—

*That the Bill be read a second time.*

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etcetera.*

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Schedule:

Hon. C. SOMMERS: Members should be sure that the municipal authorities had been consulted in regard to the closing of Dyer-street.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Whilst unable to say that the local authority had approved of this closure, he did not think it likely that there would be any objection by the local authority because level crossings were extremely dangerous. In any case, whether the station were to be there or not, the crossing was not necessary, because for a great portion of the day it was closed.

Schedule put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time and passed.

MOTION—WATER SUPPLY BILL.  
FINCH. PRICE.

Debate resumed from the 26th January on the amendment to the motion of

Hon. T. F. Brimage, moved by Hon. M. L. Moss, as follows:—"That the Government should, in the interest of the prospecting community, consider the advisability of making a reduction in the present charge for fresh water at Bullfinch."

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE (Honorary Minister): The amendment moved by Mr. Moss to the motion proposed by Mr. Brimage some days ago was to the effect that the Government should, in the interests of the prospecting community, consider the advisability of making a reduction in the price charged for fresh water at Bullfinch. There can be no objection to the amendment. Personally I am at all times willing to give every consideration to anything that is going to be in the interests of the prospector, at the same time I regret very much that a colleague of mine should have thought it necessary to bring in a motion such as the one he moved which was that the present charge for fresh water at Bullfinch was excessive and detrimental to mining development in that locality. As I have said, the Government are quite alive to the necessity for assisting the prospector in Western Australia. Every hon. member and every member of the Government realises that the prospector is the backbone of the mining industry, and realises also that every ounce of gold taken out of a mine makes that mine so much the poorer, and, to continue the prosperity of the industry, it is necessary that fresh mines should be discovered and to that end it has been the aim of the Government to assist the prospector. I think that the present Government have shown their willingness to assist the prospector and also the mining industry in the way that they have treated the newly discovered district of Bullfinch. A month or two after activity was shown in the district, three Ministers visited the place and spent several days touring there, visiting the mining leases and inspecting the developments which had taken place. At the time they visited the settlement of Bullfinch there was no town; they found that there was every danger of there

being a water famine, and there were 200 or 300 men congregated at the place and that the position was so acute that something would have to be done to prevent a water famine. It was decided by the Government that a temporary pipe line should be put down to the Bullfinch, a distance of 24 miles from Southern Cross, and it meant laying a pipe line over that distance to get the water to Bullfinch. It was realised that this supply would have to be temporary, and for purely domestic purposes, and to remove a great danger of men having to live on a field without an adequate water supply. Then the Government decided to build a railway to Bullfinch at a cost of something like £40,000. These two matters show that the Government were alive to the fact that Bullfinch was going to be an important mining centre. If the Government had not been alive to that fact neither of these works would have been undertaken. I want to emphasise the fact that the charges for the water were based on the assumption that the present pipe line would not be there for longer than twelve months, and that it would be superseded by a larger and a permanent pipe line. This line cost the Government something like £7,000 to put down. When it is taken up the value of it will have decreased by some £4,000.

Hon. J. W. Laingsford: Is that twelve months' wear?

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: I have figures which show the difference between the cost of putting down a pipe line and the value of the pipes when taken up again. I might mention that haulage from Southern Cross represented £680; laying and jointing, £1,310; lifting, £420; and depreciation after twelve months' use, £470; a total of £2,880. The interest on expenditure is put down at £284, and the operating expenses for twelve months £750. With all these charges the total would be £3,914, or just under £4,000. The total consumption of water at present at Bullfinch is 2,500 gallons daily; the approximate income from that for the twelve months would be £2,300. Even if the consumption were 5,000 gallons the income would only be £4,600 in the

year, and our loss at the end of the year would be something like £1,000. Selling the water at 5s. per hundred gallons would require an average daily sale of 4,720 gallons to enable the Government to get the money back which they expended in putting the pipe line down, that is, apart from the cost of the water at Southern Cross. Mr. Brimage contended that the price of water was detrimental to the best interests of the mining industry at Yilgarn. I would like to point out that when the Ministers were there there were several meetings held in the settlement of Bullfinch and the progress committee and responsible people in the district agreed that if the Government would provide a temporary water supply they would be prepared to pay any reasonable price that the Government might fix. The Government went carefully into the matter and came to the conclusion that 5s. per hundred gallons was a reasonable charge. The residents there agreed to that, and no complaint has been made; therefore, I fail to see what good reason Mr. Brimage has for saying that the action of the Government has been detrimental to the mining industry.

Hon. C. Sommers: Is Bullfinch in Mr. Brimage's province.

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: No. It has become fashionable on the goldfields to condemn the Government for neglecting to assist the mining industry. I would like to point out that the Government realise the necessity for doing something for the Yilgarn district, and I would draw attention to the prompt manner in which they responded to the needs of that locality. This Bullfinch discovery is only some three or four months old; it was at the end of October that a Ministerial party visited the place, and on the 12th November I find that instructions were issued by the Mines Department to its officers to the effect that the Assistant Government Geologist, Mr. Woodward, should leave for the field immediately (that was on the 14th November) and report on suitable locations for water supplies and where subterranean supplies were likely to be obtained. A

water supply and track clearing party were placed at the disposal of the geologist to carry out any work he deemed advisable. On the 31st January a memorandum was supplied to me showing what had been done by the water supply branch of the Mines Department on the Yilgarn goldfields. The several small water stations in North Yilgarn were taken over by the Mines Water Supply, and in the previous six months had been improved. The water stations north of Southern Cross are very small rock tanks and a few wells, quite enough for a few prospectors or light road traffic in an average season, but inadequate for a rush of men, horses, and camels after a long dry summer. The work of the Department during the last few months has been confined to cleaning out earth collected in the old wells and tanks and boring in granite belts as near as possible to auriferous belts and generally trying to keep the rush of prospectors going in tracks and water. Immediately after the discovery of the Corinthian and Bullfinch, boring for water in the vicinity of these leases was commenced, and fair yields of salt water were obtained. Conservation was decided on, catchment areas were surveyed, and money authorised for the construction of three tanks, but with the promising outlook of mining it was clear that a pipe line from the goldfields main would be quicker and more reliable than conservation. Then the report went on to refer to the various works which had been finished or were in progress. A sum of £2,600 has already been expended in prospecting for water in this district, in addition to many thousands already expended in the construction of dams. All these acts will show that the Government are fully alive to the necessity for assisting the prospector and the information I have given to members will prove that the condemnation against the Government by Mr. Brimage is not warranted. As I stated at the beginning there can be no objection to accepting the amendment moved by Mr. Moss.

Hon. C. A. PIESSE: Before the matter is disposed of I would like to say

a few words on the amendment. When I spoke before on the motion I treated the matter purely from the standpoint of the people wanting a supply of water, and I did not notice at the time that the motion had a sting in its tail. And I would tell the hon. member that in future if he indulges in motions of this kind he cannot expect to find me supporting him. I think this system of speaking to the gallery in this House is very objectionable. I am sorry indeed that Mr. Brimage is not here, because from what has fallen from the Honorary Minister there is no doubt that the Government have done all they possibly can in this matter. I was in England at the time when the Government decided that a railway should be constructed to this district, and there was great praise given to them in the English newspapers for their very prompt action. I regret that I was placed in the position of denouncing the Government because it appears now that they have done very well. I lost sight of the sting in the tail of the motion, otherwise I should not have spoken as I did.

Question, as amended, put and passed.

#### BILL—LICENSING.

##### *Assembly's Message.*

Message received from the Legislative Assembly notifying that the amendments requested by the Legislative Council had been made. Consideration in Committee resumed from 20th December, 1910.

##### *In Committee, etc.*

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments and the report adopted.

Read a third time and *passed*.

*Sitting suspended from 6.5 to 6.10 p.m.*

#### BILL—COTTESLOE BEACH RATES VALIDATION.

##### *All Stages.*

Received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

Hon. D. G. GAWLER (Metropolitan-Suburban): I move—

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

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

##### *In Committee, etc.*

Hon. W. Kingsmill in the Chair; Hon. D. G. Gawler in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1:

The CHAIRMAN: There were no marginal notes to the clauses, but if the hon. member in charge would give the marginal notes to the Clerk they could be inserted at a later stage.

Hon. J. W. Langsford: Would the hon. member in charge give the Committee some information in regard to the measure?

Hon. D. G. GAWLER: The Bill was intended to validate certain proceedings which had been irregularly taken. He understood that the Cottesloe board of health had omitted certain formalities required by the Roads Act, and this was a short measure to legalise their actions.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time and *passed*.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT—COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly): We have completed our labours for this session. It is my intention to move that the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on the 17th instant. It is not intended on this occasion to follow the usual procedure and ask His Excellency to prorogue Parliament. It is intended to prorogue by proclamation, and the adjournment is asked for to allow sufficient time for the Bills to be checked. This will certainly not take anything like a fortnight, but when this has been carried out—and it can only be done when the House is in session—a proclamation will be issued proroguing Parliament; therefore, we shall not meet again during the present session. I move—

*That the House at its rising do adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on the 17th instant.*

Hon. J. M. DREW: I would like to draw attention to the fact that there are two Bills on the Notice Paper which have not been touched.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I understand it is not the desire of the House to proceed further with these matters. We have finished all the business of the session.

Question passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Before I move that the House do now adjourn I would like to take the opportunity of conveying to you, Mr. President, on behalf of the House, and also more particularly on my own behalf and that of my colleague, the Honorary Minister, our thanks for the unfailing courtesy that you have extended towards members. This is my sixth or seventh session as leader of the House, and during the whole of that time you have occupied the position as President, and I have always received from you the greatest courtesy. I desire also to express my thanks to Mr. Kingsmill, the Chairman of Committees, for his courtesy and his assistance to members and myself. We usually adjourn at Christmas time and wish each other the compliments of the season, but having gone beyond that period we shall have to depart from that procedure. On behalf of the House and on behalf of myself I also desire to express thanks to the Clerk and the Clerk Assistant for their assistance in all matters. Undoubtedly this has been a strenuous session, and naturally the work has fallen pretty heavily on those officers. If one only looks at the great number of Bills which have been passed during the session it will be realised how strenuous the work has been for yourself, the Chairman of Committees, and the officers of the House. I have again to express my thanks to you, Mr. President, to Mr. Kingsmill, the Chairman of Committees, and the officers of the House.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Colonial Secretary, the leader of the House, for his kindly appreciation of the work of the officials of the Council, and of my own duties as President; and as pleasant relations between hon. members and its

officers do much to further the efficiency of our deliberations, I hope that such amenities may long continue to grace our public life.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: I also want to congratulate the President on the way in which he has carried out his duties. The President has been known to me for a great many years and I know he carries out his duties to the best of his ability. He has, I know, the welfare of this House always at heart. I think I had the privilege almost of introducing him to Parliament, since when he has developed a most wonderful capacity for grasping details in connection with Parliamentary procedure. Therefore I have much pleasure in seconding the remarks which have been made by the Colonial Secretary, and to say that I hope he will long be spared to occupy the position he fills with the very greatest ability.

The PRESIDENT: I have to thank Sir Edward Wittenoom for the graceful words he has spoken, and I hope that I may in the future be able to fill up the picture which he has so flatteringly drawn.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Chairman of Committees): I should like to thank the leader of the House very heartily for his extremely kind expression of opinion regarding myself and the duties I have been able to fulfil in this House. My principal object, I may say my only object in my capacity of Chairman of Committees, is to see that the work of this House is done as expeditiously and as efficiently as possible, and the assistance from hon. members which is always forthcoming is a great factor towards that efficiency and expedition. After an experience of some years in both Houses I feel that I am not in the least saying anything derogatory to another place when I mention that the work is done here as efficiently as it is possible for it to be done. I thank Mr. Connolly very heartily indeed for the kind expression of opinion he has voiced on behalf of the House towards myself as Chairman of Committees.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: I omitted in the few remarks I made just

now to say that our thanks are due to the Colonial Secretary who has taken so much trouble in introducing measures to this House, and I think he has succeeded most admirably. I am not going to say that he does not make mistakes, I think he made a couple of mistakes yesterday, but apart from those mistakes the Colonial Secretary deserves the commendation of hon. members for the capable manner in which he has discharged the duties of leader of the House, and for the trouble he has always taken in seeing that all the measures are put before members in a clear manner. I have much pleasure in saying that we all appreciate the way in which he has dealt with the Bills which have been placed before us. The Colonial Secretary has had the able assistance of the Honorary Minister. I am quite certain that Mr. McKenzie is aspiring in the course of time to fill the position now occupied by the Colonial Secretary, and if he attains to that position, I am sure, having seen the successful way in which he has introduced the few Bills of which he has been in charge this session, it will be with credit to himself and to this House. I have pleasure, therefore, in putting on record our appreciation of the services which the Colonial Secretary and the Honorary Minister have rendered to this House.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I appreciate very much the kind remarks made by Sir Edward Wittenoom, and I trust that in the future my relations with the House will be as pleasing as they have been in the past. Naturally, of course, there is a good deal of work thrown on one occupying the position of leader of the House, but, as Sir Edward Wittenoom said, it has been lightened very considerably this session by the assistance of my colleague, Mr. McKenzie. That assistance I very much appreciate, and anyone who has occupied this position will readily understand that to be relieved of a number of Bills during the stress of work at the end of the session is a very great help. I again thank Sir Edward Wittenoom for the kindly wishes he has expressed.

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE (the Honorary Minister): I, too, wish to express

my gratitude for the generous remarks of Sir Edward Wittenoom. I do not know that I am aspiring to the position occupied by the Colonial Secretary; indeed, I had no idea of the amount of work he had to do until I became an Honorary Minister. Now I am able to appreciate the very strenuous nature of the position he occupies, and the tremendous amount of energy and application he has to give to his work in order to put the numerous Bills before the Chamber in the way he has done. Sir Edward Wittenoom stated that the men who work hardest in Parliament are the leader of the Opposition and the leader of this House. I think we may say that the leader of this House is worked very much harder than the leader of the Opposition, and, therefore, he is the hardest worked man in the Parliament of Western Australia.

*House adjourned at 7.45 p.m.*

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 10.30 a.m., and read prayers.