young fellow comes here with a good suit of clothes and a glass in his eye he is found an appointment, perhaps to the detriment of the young man from York or Beverley who has also applied. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary says I only mentioned one case; but I did not wish to refer to individual cases. I know of a young fellow who was given an appointment in the Crown Lands Department at £300 a year after he had been here but a short time, and no one knew of the vacancy.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): What was his name?

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I will not state it; I will write it down.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): The position is vacant now, and there are no applications for it.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: No one knows it is vacant. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary says he makes it a rule to give the preference to the sons of old settlers, but how are we to know that? This motion will prove whether such is the case. The Hon. Mr. McLarty says the motion is impracticable and is no protection against favouritism. I believe it will be. Another argument was that the motion was premature, but I anticipated this some days ago by asking when we should get the report of the Civil Service Commission, and I received a vague reply, and we do not know whether this Commission will recommend publicity in these matters. I can assure the Hon. the Colonial Secretary that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction with regard to the Government appointments, and I believe this motion, if carried, will remedy it.

The House divided.

Ayes	...	...	7
Noes	...	...	5
Majority for		...	2

AYES.	NOES.
The Hon. F. T. Crowder	The Hon. D. K. Congdon
The Hon. C. E. Dempster	The Hon. S. J. Haynes
The Hon. Ernest Henty	The Hon. E. McLarty
The Hon. T. H. Marshall	The Hon. H. J. Saunders
The Hon. H. McKernan	The Hon. S. H. Parker
The Hon. E. Robinson	*(Teller).*
The Hon. J. C. G. Foulkes *(Teller).*	

HOSPITALS BILL.

This Bill was introduced and was read a first time.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time, and *passed.*

ADJOURNMENT.

The House, at 5·20 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, 26th September, at 4·30 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 20th September, 1894.

Carriage of Explosives by Northern Coasting Boats—Employment in the Public Service of Captain T. W. Smith, late Inspector of Pearl Shell Fisheries—Settlement Areas within Coolgardie Townsite, and Water Supply for Goldfields—Droving Bill: second reading—Brands Bill: second reading—Municipal Institutions Bill: recommitted—Loan Bill (£1,500,000): further considered in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4·30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

CARRIAGE OF EXPLOSIVES BY NORTHERN COASTING BOATS.

MR. CONNOR, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier whether it was the intention of the Government to forbid any explosives being carried on coastal boats to the North?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that the Government had not the power to forbid this being done, but that the regulations were so stringent that ships would probably not do so as a rule.

EMPLOYMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LATE INSPECTOR OF PEARL-SHELL FISHERIES.

MR. R. F. SHOLL (for MR. KEEP), in accordance with notice, asked the Premier whether Captain T. W. Smith, late

Inspector of Pearl-shell Fisheries, was still in the employ of the Government; and if so, in what capacity?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that the gentleman referred to was lately in the Service as Inspector of Pearl-shell Fisheries, and, his office having been abolished, he received the usual compensation payable in such cases under the Superannuation Act. He could not say that he (Captain Smith) was the holder of any appointment in the Service at present.

(1.) SETTLEMENT AREAS AT COOLGARDIE TOWNSITE. (2.) WATER SUPPLY, YILGARN GOLDFIELDS. (3.) MINING REGULATIONS.

MR. MORAN, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier,

1. If in view of the present agitation in Coolgardie about the question of settlement areas in the vicinity of the town, the Government were giving the matter their consideration?

2. Whether the Government were taking any extra steps to provide a supply of water for the coming summer months?

3. When the promise of the Premier, that the regulations introduced to the House by motion of the member for Yilgarn, would be considered or brought before the House, with a view to their consideration and the giving them the effect of law?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied as follows:—

1. The request made on behalf of some of the people of Coolgardie to have the half-mile reserve round the town cancelled was not complied with. No representation on the subject has been received from the municipal council.

2. The Government are doing a great deal in the direction indicated, but private enterprise seems to be doing very little at Coolgardie in sinking wells.

3. This subject should be dealt with by the select committee, who should report to-day, but I believe have not yet had a single meeting.

DROVING BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): I rise to move this Bill, which is intituled "An Act to regulate the Droving of Travelling Stock." It is introduced by the Government in response to demands that have been generally made, from the North-West districts chiefly, by those who are concerned largely in furnishing the markets down here with fat stock during certain times of the year. The Bill does not profess to do very much, but I think it will be found that it does quite as much as similar Acts in force in the other colonies. It provides, in the first place, that drovers in charge of any stock travelling to a place more than 40 miles from the run upon which they are usually depastured shall carry a way-bill or delivery note, giving the number and description of the stock, their brands or marks, the place from which they have come, and their destination. These delivery notes are to be produced, if demanded, to any justice of the peace, inspector of stock, and to the occupier of the land through which the stock are travelling. By this means it will be possible for all requisite information to be gained regarding the stock and their movements. If any of the stock that the man is driving do not tally with the description in the way-bill, it will be apparent at once that he has no business to have them in his charge, and, if necessary, he can be punished. Another useful provision, which has long been in force in the Eastern colonies, is that all travelling stock must be branded with the letter T, thus enabling any that may get cut off from the main mob to be more easily identified. Probably the most important feature in the Bill is contained in Clause 5. This clause is intended to prevent a practice familiar enough with all who have had to do with pastoral pursuits, and which is known by a variety of terms, but more generally in the Eastern colonies as "loafing," or "mouching." It frequently happens that a run owner, being short of feed for his flocks or herds, finds it to his interest to travel over other people's pastures, and it is easy to see, unless he is made to move more than a stated distance every day, how the so-called travelling may be nothing more than a very transparent device to consume the feed of his more fortunate neighbours. If this little game is tried on, after this Bill passes, the owner of the sheep or cattle so trespas-

sing upon other people's pastures will be liable to pay a fine of 2d. per hundred sheep per mile for the whole distance they have travelled, so that by the time they get back to where they started from the penalty will come to something very considerable, at 2d. per mile. I think that will tend to prevent any more "mouching." It is the same provision as in the Queensland Act. It will be observed that we do not propose to apply this provision to cattle. Cattle are a respectable class of stock, as a rule, and I do not think they are generally given to these bad practices. Therefore, they are not included in the Schedule. Of course, if members desire to have them included, the point can be discussed in committee. The minimum distance which large stock must travel under this clause is ten miles, and small stock six miles. It cannot be claimed that this is any harsh limit. That it is sufficient to prevent travelling for feed is doubtful, but if it were increased there would be the danger of it pressing too hardly on genuine travelling stock. These, however, are the rules enforced elsewhere. This section of the Act does not apply to sheep or cattle that are being *bonâ fide* moved to and from the coast for change of pasture, and which are travelling under a permit. Up to the present I do not know that there has been much of this "mouching" in this colony; we are all so respectable in the districts which I and other Northern members represent that we would not think of doing such a thing with our flocks. But, as the Government were dealing with this question of droving, we thought it would be as well to incorporate this clause in the Bill. I hope the Bill will be acceptable to members. The experience of some of them may suggest alterations in committee, but I think that on the whole the Bill will be found to serve the purposes for which it is intended.

MR. LEFROY: I think the Government may be congratulated upon having brought in this Bill, which I believe will be a very useful measure. I notice there are some few sections in it which deal with matters that have not been dealt with hitherto by Act of Parliament in this colony; but I think it will be of great assistance to stock-owners. I notice, for instance, that persons driving stock are to be compelled to travel a certain distance *per diem*, which, I think, will be a very useful provision, and it is one that has been required for years past, because under the existing law there is nothing to prevent people from delaying on the road as long as they like, unless you can get at them under the Trespass Act, and sometimes it is difficult to get at people under that Act. That is another useful provision which deals with what the Attorney General calls "mouchers," and we may expect it will have the effect of preventing unprincipled owners from allowing their stock to travel over the country just for the sake of getting other people's pasture. With regard to branding sheep with the letter "T," that also is a very useful provision, so far as it goes; and I trust it may be of some assistance in preventing the spread of scab. I should be glad to see some provision made—I do not know whether it could be done in this Bill—whereby all persons travelling sheep should be obliged to brand them in such a way that, in the event of their going astray, anyone picking them up might know whom they belonged to. I hope that those members who are interested in stock, or who represent districts that will be affected by this Bill, will give the measure their careful consideration before going into committee upon it, so that we may be able to make the Bill as useful as we possibly can, now that we have an opportunity of dealing with this subject. I have much pleasure in supporting the second reading of the Bill.

Motion put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BRANDS BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): I now move the second reading of a Bill to amend the law relating to the registration of brands on horses and cattle. This Bill, unlike the other one we have just read, does not include sheep. Under our present law the branding of sheep is discretionary, and not obligatory. No one is bound to brand his sheep. I do not think there are many brands registered in respect of sheep, and, although sheep as a rule have their owner's brand, it is not compulsory. It is rather an

involved subject this question of branding sheep, and the Government are unable, this session, to perfect a measure to deal with that question. No doubt there is room for much difference of opinion as to the best system of branding, especially for sheep. I know the same difficulty has been experienced in other places. In New Zealand they have a method of tatooing sheep on certain parts of their bodies, which I believe secures a perfect brand, so far as proof of ownership is concerned, and to that extent is useful in preventing thieving. But there are other objections to this method of branding which I need not trouble the House with now, as we are not dealing with sheep in this Bill, only with horses and cattle. I find that in the other colonies they have different systems of brands. In Queensland the brands are made up of combinations of two letters and one numeral, while in South Australia they have two numerals and one letter, and it has been suggested that we in this colony should adopt a combination of three letters. It may be said that three letters will make too big a brand to put on horses or cattle. No doubt it will make a large mark, but, on the other hand, unless you have three letters it is difficult to avoid multiplying the number of brands, by symbols or otherwise. Of course if you have three letters you have a very large choice; you can have an infinite variety of marks by varying the position of these letters. I believe you can get over 17,000 different combinations out of three letters. The first brand would be AAA, and the next AAB, and then AAC, and so on, until you have twenty-six combinations in that form. Then you commence afresh, with ABA, ABB, ABC, and so on again until you come to ABZ. Then you go back and begin another combination, BAA, then BAB, and BAC, and so on *ad infinitum*. That is the system we propose to adopt here. Whether it is a good plan or not, it is the plan that has been adopted in other colonies, and which I believe is about to be adopted (if not already adopted) in New South Wales. I do not recollect at the present moment what the system is in Victoria, but I have no doubt it is something of the same sort. At any rate this system will be an improvement upon the old style of branding, consisting mainly of hieroglyphics and other symbols—a teapot with a broken handle, or a coffeepot with a broken spout, or a horseshoe upside down or downside up, or a three-legged stool with a crooked leg, and all sorts of devices of that kind, which were very difficult to reproduce in print. In fact, so difficult did it become to reproduce all these old brands, that the printer had to discontinue publishing them, and the result of this non-publication of brands has caused considerable inconvenience in the country, as owners are unable to identify any strayed stock they may come across, having no brand register to refer to. But the whole thing became so unworkable that it had to be given up, and the system we now propose to introduce is that of three letters of the alphabet in combination. An owner will be able to select any combination he likes so long as another owner has not registered the same combination before him. For instance, a man may like to have the initials of his name as his brand, and if his initials are LMN he can have LMN as his brand, provided he is first in the field with his application. If he cannot get LMN, perhaps he can get NML, his initials backwards; or he can have the same letters in some other sequence. At any rate, he has over 17,000 combinations to select from, and he would be able to register the nearest combination on the list which had not already been allotted by the Registrar. The Bill provides, as in Queensland, that he shall have the first unallotted brand on the register, and there is no more difficulty about it. The register is made up of these 17,000 combinations, and when any combination is allotted it is marked off, and no one else can have the same combination. Of course some people may say they do not like to give up the brands they have been used to for many years, and that it would be very inconvenient for them to adopt a new brand, and prefer sticking to the old brand to which they have become attached, and which, perhaps, is known all over the colony. But I suppose all stock die out in a certain number of years, and if we only provide that stock in the future shall be branded as provided in this Bill I think we shall be doing no harm. It will not apply to stock already branded. But if you once establish a new system

of brands you must carry it out, and, as stock already branded die out, we insist that no fresh brand shall be registered except according to this combination. Besides the ordinary three-letter combination, the Bill allows an owner to have a distinctive numeral brand, for reference, in the case of stud stock, or other special stock such as the progeny of a certain sire in the case of horses, or of a certain bull in the case of cattle. This numeral brand will be imprinted under the ordinary three-letter combination brand. If these brands are not registered, the owner does not get the benefit of the Act. We do not make it compulsory that he shall register his brand,—I do not think it is done anywhere; but if he does not do so, it will be difficult or impossible for him to prove that the stock belong to him in the event of their being lost or stolen. These brands are to be imprinted upon stock on certain parts of their bodies; you cannot stick a brand anywhere you like about your horses and cattle under this Bill. The position and order of the brands are set out in the Seventh Schedule, and the position in the case of a horse is not the same as the position in the case of a cow or a bullock. This will enable a brand to be traced, at sight, without the slightest difficulty, and the owner of the stock ascertained at once. For instance: with horses you start on the near shoulder. The breeder or the first owner puts his brand on the near shoulder, and the next owner puts his brand underneath the other brand on the same shoulder, and so on with successive owners, until the near shoulder is filled up with brands. You then start with the off shoulder, and proceed in the same way. The last brand will represent the last owner, and, in this way you can trace the ownership at a glance, and every successive ownership. With cattle you commence branding on the off rump, hip, and thigh, and, when these portions are filled up with brands you start afresh on the near rump; and so on as the Bill provides. This is the system adopted in the other colonies, and I am informed that it answers the purpose admirably. The only objection I can see against it is that three letters make rather a large mark, but we cannot avoid it if we are going to prevent confusion. It might be said that in this colony, where we have not so many stock owners as they have in the other colonies,—it may be said that two letters would provide a sufficient number of combinations. Of course there is not the same objection to two letters as to three, but the number of combinations that can be obtained with two letters is very limited as compared with the number that can be obtained from three letters. The Bill also provides for the transfer of brands, and there are certain provisions with regard to stray stock which are taken from the present Brands Act, but much improved. These provisions in the existing Act were inserted by a committee of this House some years ago, rather haphazardly I think, and they are rather difficult to work; and we have improved upon them in this Bill. In another portion of the Bill it is made obligatory upon poundkeepers to keep a copy of the latest edition of the brand directory or register, so as to enable them to ascertain the owner of any impounded stock, and to communicate with him. We also provide that a distinguishing brand shall be used by each public pound, so that if any stock is sold from a pound it will have the distinctive brand of that pound upon it. This part of the Bill also deals with the penalties provided for branding stock that does not belong to you, or for blotching or defacing brands, and other offences. I do not know that there is any other material portion of the Bill I need allude to at present. It deals with a small matter, but an important one in a country like this. Those provisions of the Bill relating to the new system proposed to be instituted will be found in Parts III., IV., and VI.; the rest of the Bill is the existing law somewhat improved (if I may venture to say so). As the Bill has only just been placed in the hands of members, perhaps it would be convenient now, as I have explained the Bill—though I am afraid somewhat imperfectly—if the debate were adjourned. If any member moves it, I shall be happy to fall in with the suggestion.

MR. LEFROY moved that the debate be adjourned until the following Wednesday.

Agreed to.

Debate adjourned accordingly.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS BILL.

On the order of the day for the third reading of this Bill,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the Bill be recommitted.

Agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—Act to come into operation:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved an amendment providing that the Act should come into operation on the passing thereof.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 39—Electoral Lists, how made up:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said this (the 20th September) was the last day under the existing Act for making up the electoral lists for the year, and, unless some provision were made for enabling these lists to be used at the first elections under this new Bill, in November, there would be a delay of another year before any fresh electoral list could be prepared for the purposes of an election. He therefore moved to insert the following words at the end of this clause: "For the purpose of the first "elections under this Act, to be held in "the month of November, one thousand "eight hundred and ninety-four, the "Council shall cause to be inserted in the "electoral lists of the municipality, pre- "pared under the repealed Act, 40 Vic., "No. 13, the number of votes to which "each person is entitled to give at an "election of mayor, auditors, and coun- "cillors respectively."

Amendment put and passed.

Clause 75—Ascertainment of the poll:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said that when this clause was considered in committee, some verbal amendments were introduced by the hon. member for East Perth; but upon giving the matter fuller consideration he found that those words were not necessary, and he now proposed to strike them out, as the section was all right in its original form. The amendment related to the voting papers, in the case of voters who had the right to give more than one vote. Under the old Act the voter used to get only one voting paper, although he might have four votes, but now it was proposed that each ballot paper should count for one vote only, and that if a man had four votes he would have four voting papers, except in the case of proxies. He therefore moved that the following words be inserted after the words "voting papers," in the fourth line of sub-clause (1): "and shall compare "the number of votes given by each such "voting paper with the number to which "the person so voting is entitled on the "respective electoral list."

Amendment put and passed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) also moved that the words "or to give more votes than he is authorised to give" be inserted after the second word "for," in the ninth line.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause 91 — Mayors, auditors, and councillors to enter upon their office on the 1st day of December following their election:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said it was a very odd thing that during all the years they had been working under the existing Act no provision had been made to meet the case of newly-created municipalities, where members who had been elected had not taken office, so as to enable them to take office earlier than the 1st day of December. There was the case of the Coolgardie municipality, for instance, the members of which had been elected for some time past, but they would not be able to take office until the 1st December, unless some special provision was made to meet such cases. While on his feet, he might refer to what had been stated in the newspapers, that although he had received several messages on this subject from the Coolgardie municipal council he had not even had the courtesy to reply to those messages. As a matter of fact, the messages did not reach him when forwarded, through some misunderstanding on the part of his clerk; but the moment his attention was called to them he replied at once. The amendment he had to move was to insert, at the end of the clause, the following words: "And this proviso shall apply to any such officers already elected under the provisions of any of the Acts hereby repealed who have not, under such provisions, taken office at the time of the passing of this Act."

Amendment put and passed.

Clause 92—Mayor, auditors, and councillors, when to resign office:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said this clause provided that the mayor and auditors were to go out of office on the 30th day of November, subsequent to their entering upon such office (which would be on the 1st of December); in other words, they were supposed to remain in office for a year. In some cases it might happen that these officers would only be elected, perhaps, a few days or weeks before the 30th November, and it would be rather inconvenient that they should go out of office a few days after they were elected. He therefore moved to strike out the word "and," in the third line of the clause, and to insert the following words: "except in the case of a Mayor and auditors elected on or after the first day of July in any year, in which case they shall remain in office until the thirtieth day of November in the year following their election." He did not propose to apply this proviso to councillors, because they retired in rotation, and, where there were eight or nine councillors, it would not cause much inconvenience. It would also have necessitated a great many alterations in the Act to have extended this provision to councillors.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause 97—Oaths of office:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said that when this clause was considered in committee, it was suggested that a form of declaration should be introduced in the case of persons who had a conscientious objection to taking an oath. He now proposed to meet such cases. While doing so he thought it would be also as well to insert in the Act the form of the oath to be administered, as it might not always be convenient to get at the form. He therefore moved, in the first place, that the following words be inserted after the word "successors," in line 4, as follows:

"I, A.B., do sincerely promise and "swear that I will be faithful and bear "true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen "Victoria, as lawful Sovereign of the "United Kingdom of Great Britain "and Ireland, and of this colony of "Western Australia. So help me "God."

Amendment put and passed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said he had now to move that the following words be added to the end of the clause:—"Provided that if the "taking of an oath is according to the "religious belief of any person so elected "unlawful, such person may make and "subscribe the following affirmation, "which shall be made and subscribed in "like manner and in the same place and "at the same time as the oath is by this "section required to be taken and sub-"scribed:—

"I, A.B., do solemnly declare that "the taking of an oath is according to "my religious belief unlawful, and I "do solemnly promise and affirm that "I will be faithful and bear true "allegiance to Her Majesty Queen "Victoria, as lawful Sovereign of the "United Kingdom of Great Britain "and Ireland, and of this colony of "Western Australia."

"And whensoever the demise of Her "present Majesty (whom may God long "preserve) or of any of Her successors "shall be notified by the Governor to the "Council, the members of the Council "shall, before they shall be permitted to "sit and vote therein, take and subscribe "the like oath or affirmation of allegiance "to the successor for the time being to "the Crown."

Amendment put and passed.

Clause 99—By-laws:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the words "and licensing" be struck out of line one of sub-clause (31).

Amendment put and passed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the blank in sub-clause (32) be filled up with the figures 174.

Amendment put and passed.

MR. JAMES moved that the following new sub-clauses be added to the clause: "(32.) For regulating the use of balconies "and verandahs now or hereafter erected "over any part of a street." "(33.) For "prohibiting the use of iron spikes or "other projections, broken glass, or "barbed wire on any premises abutting "upon a street."

Amendment put and passed.

New Clause:

MR. JAMES moved that the following new clause be inserted in the Bill, to

stand as Clause 100:—"In addition to "the matters in the last section mentioned, "every Council may make, publish, alter, "modify, amend, or repeal by-laws for "regulating the hours and times at which "all or any shops (which term includes "any building or portion of a building or "place in which any goods or articles are "exposed or offered for sale by retail "other than premises licensed as a hotel "or publichouse) within the municipality "shall close."

"Any such by-law may be limited in "its application to shops used in any "particular trade or business, but shall "not be limited otherwise."

"No such by-law shall require any shop "to close earlier than six o'clock in the "afternoon on more than one day of the "week (other than Sunday, Good Friday, "or Christmas day), nor on any one day "of the week to close earlier than one "o'clock in the afternoon."

"Such by-laws may provide for penalties "to be paid by any person who in any "manner keeps, or permits to be kept "open, or carries on, or permits to be "carried on, any business in any shop to "which any such by-law applies after the "hour fixed for the closing thereof."

The hon. member said this matter had been before the committee on another occasion, and, being a very useful and desirable provision, it could not come before them too often, until it was affirmed. The clause now appeared in a somewhat modified form, in order to meet some of the objections raised to it on the former occasion, and so that the municipal authorities, if they thought necessary, might limit the application of their by-laws as to early closing to any particular trade or business. In advocating this principle of local option as regards early closing, he might be wrong or he might be right; but, as he was firmly convinced in his own opinion that he was right, it was his intention to bring it before the House on every opportunity he could. It was unnecessary for him to go over the same arguments as he had advanced on a former occasion. He would only remind the committee that, in giving the municipal council of a town the power to make these by-laws, they were giving it to a conservative and a representative body, and at the request of the principal storekeepers themselves, and their assistants. He had a petition in his pocket from those of them who were engaged in business in Perth, in favour of this movement, and he believed the same feeling existed in the town of Fremantle, where the principal storekeepers were as much in favour of early closing as their assistants were. The clause did not make early closing an absolute rule, or make it obligatory upon any council to pass a by-law dealing with the subject; it was left optional, and, if the action of the council in framing and enforcing such a by-law was contrary to public opinion, the ratepayers would be in a position to express their dissatisfaction with their representatives at the next ensuing election.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the committee would not be prepared to accept this clause, having already answered the same question before in the negative. Having once settled a question it was not usual to have the same question brought up again during the same session. He thought they should not too readily lend themselves to the practice—for it might be very much abused—of countenancing members who, having been once defeated upon a point, sought the opportunity of bringing up the same point again on the recommittal of a Bill. It was a most inconvenient practice, and should not be encouraged. A Bill was generally recommitted for some particular purpose, to remedy some defect discovered during its passage through committee, and he did not think the opportunity should be seized to take a vote upon a subject already debated and decided upon only a few days previously. He thought it would be wise for the committee to set their faces against the practice, otherwise they would have no finality in their proceedings. It was not his intention to again go into the merits of the question, which had already been threshed out. As for the petition which the hon. member said he had in his pocket, he placed no value whatever upon such petitions. He would undertake to get a petition up on any subject at a moment's notice. People would sign any petition, when it cost them nothing, and, for his part, he was not inclined to place the slightest value upon any such petitions.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said the hon. member had shown him what he called a petition, and it appeared to be simply an agreement between certain assistants and their employers, the latter agreeing to close if others would do so. He thought this was a question that should be left to the storekeepers themselves to settle, whether they closed early or not. It was a question, with many of them, whether they could afford to close at a certain hour. They knew where the shoe pinched better than the municipal council did. If they compelled shops to close, why not compel hotels to close? The hours of labour were much longer at hotels than in stores. If the principle was a good one in one case, it was equally so in the other. There were many stores that were looked after by the owners themselves, or their families; why should these people be compelled to close their shops if they had a chance of earning an honest penny?

MR. RANDELL said, while his sympathies were with the store assistants in this matter, and while in favour of the principle of early closing, he was not at all satisfied that this was the best way of attaining the desired object. He should like to see a strong public opinion formed on the subject. Once they had public opinion formed against the practice of late shopping, it would do more in this direction than any clause of this kind. He did not think, himself, that any municipal council would ever pass such a by-law, unless supported generally by public opinion. Some members of the council representing a certain portion of the town might be willing to pass the by-law, while others representing another part of the town would be opposed to it. He would prefer, himself, to have compulsory legislation on the subject, rather than leave it to the municipal councils to deal with it at their discretion, and interfere with the way in which people should conduct their own businesses. But before they could have compulsory legislation, they must have public opinion at their back.

MR. SOLOMON could not support the clause now any more than he did when a similar clause was before them a few days ago. Many of these stores—such as stationers', fancy goods stores, and places of that kind—were kept by women, who eked out a livelihood by them, and who were only too anxious to keep open so long as there was a chance of a customer dropping in. Unless they made it compulsory in every case, he thought they had better let things remain as they are, and not have people's businesses interfered with by the municipal councils.

MR. JAMES could not agree that it would be better to have compulsory legislation on this subject. He preferred the principle of local option, and a flexible law rather than a law that would be compulsory and universal in its application to every part of a town, and every part of the colony. This was only a small modicum of reform that he asked for, and if members were in favour of the principle, as they seemed to be, why not affirm it in this modified form, rather than resort to more drastic and compulsory legislation? He hoped it would be distinctly understood in that House that, although a young member, if he firmly believed in the fairness and justice of a principle, he would not be prevented from bringing it forward every chance he got, and every hour.

MR. WOOD supposed that every member had made up his mind how he was going to vote on this question. He had, and, of course, his vote would be on the same side as it was before. He might say that, since the question was under discussion before, a few weeks ago, he had made a personal canvass of almost all the principal places of business in Perth, and one and all were most anxious that this early closing system should become law. [MR. SOLOMON: What about the general body of ratepayers?] Let them shop at proper hours. There was plenty of time for everybody to do their shopping between eight in the morning and six at night. The very people who most loudly advocated the eight hours system for their own trades were the worst offenders against this early closing system in the stores. He sincerely hoped the clause would be carried.

MR. ILLINGWORTH agreed with the Attorney General that, as a rule, it was undesirable to re-open questions on the recommittal of a Bill upon which the House had already expressed its opinion, but he thought this question was of sufficient importance to be an exception

to the general rule. All that was asked for was that the House should trust the municipal councils to pass such a by-law if they thought fit. They were not at all likely to flout public opinion by making a by-law which was not supported by the general feeling of their constituents. If they made such a by-law, and public opinion was against it, they would very soon be brought to book. The House was not asked to decide whether shops should be closed early or not; they were simply asked to entrust the local authorities with power to pass a by-law dealing with the subject. These councils were not elected by the storekeepers or their assistants, but by the general body of ratepayers, including the public who dealt at these stores, and who of course were largely in a majority. The competition in trade was now getting to be so keen that storekeepers who desired to close early could really not afford to do so unless the practice was made a general one. It was all very well some years ago, when a storekeeper could afford to be independent, and to say he didn't care whether Jones, across the way, closed or not, he was not going to keep open. Competition now was too keen and profits too low, and the larger firms had to consider seriously whether they could afford to close while smaller shops or smaller traders kept open. Surely Parliament could trust these town councils to pass a by-law like this, seeing that it entrusted them with much more important powers. It had been said that the matter ought to be left to public opinion. [THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: There is no such thing, and never will be.] He could not agree with that. It was said you should not prophesy unless you knew; but he ventured to prophesy that public opinion on this question of early closing would in five years time be so strong that they would be forced to deal with it. He maintained that even at present there was a strong public opinion formed on this question, and, if it were made a platform question at Perth and Fremantle, it would be found to be so.

At 6·30 p.m. the Chairman left the chair.

At 7·30 p.m. the Chairman resumed the chair.

MR. SIMPSON said he could not lend too strong a support to the new clause proposed by the hon. member for East Perth, and he could not imagine the Government doing any other than adopting it, for it simply provided that people of their own race employed in shops should not be subjected to undue competition by aliens. The Premier had always been in favour of helping those who were weak. The Commissioner of Crown Lands was not likely to oppose the new provision; nor was the Director of Public Works disposed to drag the last farthing out of any employé of his. One astounding feature of the discussion was that the merchants in this House had unanimously supported this proposal. Those aliens were Indians, Afghans, Chinese, who, as a rule, were bachelors in this community, without wives or children to support. Their unequal competition in business was becoming a very grave question in all the Australian communities. Careless people who chose to shop late at night should not be left to fix the hours for shop assistants; nor should those alien traders be allowed to trespass on the reasonable profits of the shopkeepers of our own race. No kindlier form of amelioration, no more righteous thing, was ever proposed for this community than this new provision affirming that municipal councils should have the power of making by-laws for regulating the closing of shops, when supported in such action by the ratepayers.

MR. LEAKE said this proposal had been materially altered since it was previously discussed in the House; for the compulsory closing at certain hours, as previously proposed, was to apply to publicans as well as other traders, whereas the public-houses were not affected by the present proposal. Eight hours daily work was enough for any person; but the shop assistants were worked harder than any other class, except, perhaps, bank clerks. There was nothing compulsory in this provision, and he thought the town councils which adopted the power would exercise it considerately. If this provision were merely a demand to shut out the Afghans and Chinese, he would not vote for it, though he would support any measure for prohibiting them from trading at all, because these persons should be employed in this community

only as labourers, and should not be allowed to compete against European enterprise except as labourers.

MR. COOKWORTHY opposed the new clause, which was like the thin end of the wedge in legislative interference with the liberty of the subject. Shopkeepers had the power to enforce an eight hours day if they chose to do so. The hours of labour for the farming class were much longer, for many of these persons started the morning's work by candle-light, and finished the evening's labour by candle-light. He objected to any legislative interference of this kind.

MR. MONGER said that for the first time he was able to support the hon. member for East Perth. This proposal was about the most sensible provision in the whole Bill, and was in accordance with the Imported Labour Registry Act passed in the last session. It would wipe out Chinamen, Afghans, and other aliens who are unfairly competing in business.

MR. PEARSE said he could not support the proposal, as his constituents had not had an opportunity of expressing their opinions on the proposed change of system, and no representations upon it had been made to him by constituents. If a Bill for dealing directly with Chinese, Afghans, and other aliens were brought in, it would have his hearty support.

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

Ayes ..	...	11
Noes ...	...	13
Majority against ...		2

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Connor	Mr. Burt
Mr. Illingworth	Mr. Clarkson
Mr. James	Mr. Cookworthy
Mr. Leake	Sir John Forrest
Mr. Monger	Mr. Loton
Mr. Moran	Mr. Marmion
Mr. Phillips	Mr. Pearse
Mr. Simpson	Mr. R. F. Sholl
Mr. Throssell	Mr. H. W. Sholl
Mr. Wood	Mr. Solomon
Mr. Paterson (*Teller*).	Sir J. G. Lee Steere
	Mr. Venn
	Mr. Lefroy (*Teller*).

New clause negatived.

Clause 105—"Council may grant licenses for certain purposes:"

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved, as an amendment, that the following sub-clause be added to the clause:—"(*e*) For movable or temporarily fixed stalls in or near any street for the sale of meat, fruit, vegetables, drink, eatables, or articles of merchandise."

Amendment put and passed.

Clause 144—"Lighting rate:"

MR. RANDELL, referring to clause 142 of the Bill as first printed (renumbered as 144), moved that the clause be struck out, with a view to the insertion of a new clause in lieu thereof. He said the clause referred to "the lineal frontage of the premises lighted" as the principle on which a property should be specially rated for lighting, whereas the principle of rating according to the lineal frontage was not provided for in any part of the Bill. He wished to make it imperative to strike a special lighting rate, so that those who received a benefit should contribute specially.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the only difference was that, according to the clause, one moiety of the cost of lighting a particular street or locality could be charged to a special rate instead of to the general rate. The question was as to the other moiety. He was not wedded to the method in the clause, and would leave the question to the committee.

MR. RANDELL said that in any case the reference to the rating according to lineal frontage should be struck out. He would withdraw his amendment, on the understanding that those words should be struck out of the clause.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved, as an amendment, that the word "either" be struck out of line 15, and the words "or according to the lineal frontage of the premises lighted" be struck out of line 16. This would meet the objection of the hon. member for Perth.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause 155—"Mode of making valuation:"

MR. JAMES (for MR. A. FORREST) moved, as an amendment, that the words "two pounds ten shillings," in lines 2 and 3 of sub-clause (3), be struck out, and the words "four pounds" be inserted in lieu thereof. He said the Town Clerk of Perth had estimated that if the annual value of unimproved land in Perth when occupied at a rental was to be only £2 10s. per cent. of the fair capital value,

the present rate of 1s. in the pound would not yield a sufficient revenue to the City Council, and would have to be increased. By reducing the rating value of what was practically unimproved land in Perth, there would have to be a heavier charge on the improved land for making up the required revenue. The effect of the clause would be to reduce the rateable value of unimproved sections of land in the city, and, as a consequence, the present 1s. rate would have to be increased to 1s. 3d. in the pound, the difference falling on the fully-improved land. In any case, £4 per cent. per annum of the capital value would be low enough as the minimum rating value of occupied land.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said he had previously stated his opinion that 3 per cent. would be nearer to a fair annual value than 2½ per cent. for land occupied and not fully improved within a municipality. The sub-clause related to occupied land, and the first sub-section of the clause provided that the rate should be struck on the *bonâ fide* rental, less the amount of rates and taxes, and also 10 per cent. for outgoings. The third sub-section fixed a minimum of 2½ per cent., but he thought house property on any land should return more than 2½ per cent. The amendment was for 4 per cent. His own opinion was still in favour of 3 per cent. as fairly meeting the case of occupied land that was not fully improved.

SIR J. G. LEE STEERE opposed the amendment, and said he had noticed that the mover consulted the Perth Municipal Council after this clause had been altered in committee by this House; but the Perth Council wanted to get as much revenue as they could, and why did not the hon. member try to get the opinion of the ratepayers by calling a meeting? The Attorney General had said that a rental of 2½ per cent. was very little to get on the value of occupied land; but the amount received for such land was really less than 2½ per cent. in the majority of instances. Experience showed that the valuation for rating purposes in Perth was generally too high, and the consequence would be that the rates in Perth would be considerably increased, even if the minimum were left at 2½ per cent. as in the clause. It had been stated recently, in the *West Australian* newspaper, that if the rating clauses passed as they stood, the rating in Perth would be at a lower level than in any other city in Australia. He would show, on the contrary, that the rating in Perth would be higher than in other cities. In New Zealand, the municipal rating was levied on 9-10ths of the annual value, and at five per cent. of the capital value of all unimproved lands, as compared with 7½ per cent. of the capital value of unimproved lands in this Bill; therefore, this rating could not be said to be lower than that in New Zealand. But in New Zealand the general rate was not to exceed one shilling in the pound, and the special rates were not to exceed one shilling, so that the total rating was not more than two shillings in the pound; whereas in Perth the general and special rates at present amounted to 2s. 5d. in the pound, independently of the loan rate. In Queensland the rating was up to 2s. 3d. of the annual letting value; so that the rating in this colony would be higher than in Queensland. In South Australia the special and general rates were not to exceed two shillings in the pound. In Tasmania the rates were not to exceed 1s. 6d. in the pound, exclusive of the police rate. And so on with other colonies. Therefore, comparing the lower figures in other colonies with the 2s. 5d. now levied in this colony, and which might be increased, he did not know how anyone could say that the city of Perth would, under this Bill, be the lightest rated of any city in Australia. He affirmed, on the contrary, that the Perth citizens would be the most heavily rated. He hoped hon. members would not agree to the present amendment, which would tend to increase the exodus from Perth to places outside the municipal boundary, for escaping the high rates.

MR. JAMES said the City Council must obtain a sufficient revenue, and if they could not get it from a small rate they would have to increase the rate. The principle of sub-section (3) was that if a section of occupied land in a municipality was not improved to the extent of bringing in an annual rental of £2 10s. per cent. on the capital value, it should not be rated below that annual value. The lower the minimum for occupied but unimproved land was made in the Bill, the more would the burden of rating be

cast on the land that was properly improved. So far as the councils were affected by the minimum, they could obtain the required revenue by increasing the rate. The sub-section would give exemption to unimproved lands let at a nominal rental, and owned by persons who did not deserve exemption; so that their share of the burden would be placed on owners who improved their land properly.

Amendment put and negatived.

MR. JAMES moved, as an amendment, in reference to sub-clause (4), that the words "seven pounds ten shillings" in line 4, be struck out, and the words "eight pounds" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause 164—"Manner of making rate; who liable to pay":

MR. ILLINGWORTH moved, as an amendment, that all the words after the word "by," in line 10, be struck out, and the words "the owner of the property rated" be inserted in lieu thereof. He said the power to seize a tenant's goods in distraint for rates was a great hardship. He knew of one case in which a tenant had been occupying a house only ten days when he was distrained upon for arrears of rates owing by previous tenants, and extending over eighteen months. Many such cases of hardship occurred, the new tenant not being aware of the arrears owing when he entered the premises. The municipal council should look to the owner, and not to the tenant, for the rates.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the hon. member did not follow the meaning of the clause, for the distraint could be levied only on the person who was the occupier at the time the rate claimed for had been struck; therefore, in the case mentioned, the levy could have been only for one year's rate, and not for any longer period of arrears. To make the owner instead of the tenant liable for rates in the first instance would revolutionise the system, and he did not see why it should be altered.

MR. LEAKE said the amendment was intended to relieve the tenant from the possibility of being distrained upon for arrears of rates not properly due by him, and to throw the responsibility on to the land instead of the occupier, so that in the last resort the council might sell the land for recovering the rates due. The right of distraint was a summary remedy and a relic of feudalism, and the sooner it was wiped out the better for the community. It was an undue privilege by which one man could sneak into another man's house, armed with a piece of paper authorising him to seize and sell the tenant's goods. It meant that one man's property was taken to pay for the debts of another person. Working-class tenants became occupiers of premises without knowing the law on the subject, and after having been in occupation a week or a month, the municipal bailiff demanded the payment of rates due by a previous tenant. Was it right, in such case, that the municipality should have the legal power to sell that unfortunate occupier's goods, because a previous tenant had failed in his obligation? It was, in truth, a great injustice. The amendment did not propose to deprive a tenant of his right to vote, but only to protect his goods.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the hon. member for Albany would lead the committee to suppose that tenants who rented houses had no common sense. One of the first things a new tenant, a reasonable one, would ask was whether the owner or the tenant was to pay the rates, and the terms were arranged accordingly. Even if a new tenant had to pay the arrears due before he entered the house, he would have his remedy against the owner. This had been the law for many years, and the case made out by the other side was, in his opinion, all moonshine. He did not believe there were any instances in which the Perth municipality enforced the power of distraint harshly.

MR. LOTON said the question was whether the owner or the tenant should be made liable for rates. If the occupier was to be liable, it would be a hardship to distrain upon him for rates due before he entered into possession of the property. For himself, he had never heard of a case of the kind in Perth during his experience in renting and letting properties. The tenant ought not to be liable for rates that accrued before his tenancy began.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said that case was met by Clause 132 of the Bill.

MR. SOLOMON said property in towns was often leased for long periods, and who was to be considered the owner in such a case?

MR. LEAKE said one of the usual covenants in a lease was that the tenant should pay all rates and taxes. The Commissioner for Crown Lands could tell all about that sort of thing, in his experience as an agent for property.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion) said the hon. member for Albany had adopted a dictatorial and rude style towards him, but he would not allow that hon. member to do so, or if the hon. member persisted in doing it he would get sat upon.

MR. LEAKE: Sat upon! I'm a political porcupine.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion) said he did not deny there was a certain amount of injustice in the law which permitted distraint under the circumstances mentioned; but, though such cases were possible, he asked where and when they actually occurred.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said that, in reference to weekly tenants, it was the almost universal practice in Melbourne for the landlord to pay the rates; and seeing that hundreds of people who had been accustomed to such practice were coming to this colony, it was desirable that the law should protect them against unfair distraint as tenants of houses in this colony. They might come here and be made liable for a whole year's rates after occupying a house a week or two, when the rate collector happened to call. Hon. members in this House were too wealthy, individually, to realise the difficulties of poor tenants. Too many members were connected with the Wealth of Nations mine to trouble themselves about poor tenants in such circumstances. He could bring instances in which tenants had been distrained upon for 18 months' arrears of rates after having been in a house a fortnight. It was easy to say the tenant would have his legal remedy against his landlord in such a case; but after the poor tenant's goods were all sold, how could he go to law against his landlord?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said one question was, how was a municipality to collect its rates? It was found impracticable to collect the rates from owners of house property, because where could some of the owners be found, and how was the owner to be made to pay when found? The land might be sold, in default, but were municipal councils to be compelled to collect their rates in that way? The owners would laugh at the councils, and say "Sell away"; and the legal process of levying on the land in this way would be very tedious. The present system was introduced into the municipal law of this colony about twenty years ago, by way of amendment, and the power of distraint was surrounded with precautions. Tenants, as a rule, were not in and out of a property in a week or a month. If any tenant had been distrained upon, under the circumstances stated by the hon. member for Nannine, he had got his remedy against the landlord, also against the preceding and the succeeding tenants for their portions of the rates so paid. Tenants were not sold up, as a matter of practice; but by the town council having this power of distraint over the tenant, the council were enabled to get the arrears paid by the tenant in possession, and he was left to recover against the landlord or deduct the payment from the rent, or to recover against the preceding tenant, as well as against any succeeding tenant who might follow him during the year. If the town council were obliged to follow the owner as the person liable, the rates would not be collectable in many cases.

MR. LEAKE said the land should be attached, and the tenant's furniture should not be liable to distraint for debts due by another person.

MR. SIMPSON said he was in sympathy with the amendment, and would like to see the power of distraint abolished. If this power were retained, the Ministry might be described as men who ground down the poor and protected the rich.

MR. JAMES supported the amendment, and said he had, at a previous stage, unsuccessfully moved a similar amendment. The pernicious principle in the clause ought not to be perpetuated.

MR. COOKWORTHY supported the amendment, because it was unjust to compel a tenant to pay arrears of rates when he had been only a short time in occupation.

MR. R. F. SHOLL opposed the amendment, and said the renewed discussion at this stage was a waste of time.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the same kind of amendment had been discussed at the previous stage, and rejected. The Government had adopted a number of other amendments moved by hon. members, but could not accept this one. The Bill would have to be re-cast if this new principle were adopted now.

MR. LEAKE denied that the amendment would complicate matters to the extent just stated. It would only necessitate the striking out of certain clauses.

MR. JAMES said the Attorney General was quite right in saying that, if the amendment were adopted now, several important clauses would have to be re-cast.

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

Ayes	7
Noes	16
Majority against ...	9

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Connor	Mr. Burt
Mr. Cookworthy	Sir John Forrest
Mr. James	Mr. Lefroy
Mr. Leake	Mr. Loton
Mr. H. W. Sholl	Mr. Marmion
Mr. Simpson	Mr. Moran
Mr. Illingworth (*Teller*).	Mr. Paterson
	Mr. Pearse
	Mr. Phillips
	Mr. Randell
	Mr. R. F. Sholl
	Mr. Solomon
	Sir J. G. Lee Steere
	Mr. Venn
	Mr. Wood
	Mr. Clarkson (*Teller*).

Amendment negatived.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt), referring to the same clause, moved, as an amendment, that the words "and have failed to recover the amount payable" be inserted in line 15, after the word "aforesaid." This would not alter the intention of the clause. The whole effect of it was to make the new tenant look out and ascertain whether the rates due had been paid, and were not to be paid by him.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause 169—"Distress for amount payable in respect of rates and costs, charges and expenses:"

MR. JAMES moved, as an amendment, that the following sub-clause be added to the clause:—

"(6.) Under a warrant of distress the collector or bailiff shall not sell any personal or family clothing, bed clothes, bedding, tools or implements of trade, nor such household furniture, cooking utensils, and effects as may be absolutely necessary for the use of the person whose goods are seized, and of his family."

He said some protection should be extended to a poor tenant, in order that his tools of trade, and the bedding and cooking utensils of his family, should not be seized and sold for arrears of rates.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said he did not object to the amendment.

Amendment put and passed, and the new sub-section added to the clause.

Clause 227—"Service of notices":

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved, as a verbal amendment, that the words "as such" be inserted after the word "thereof," in line 4.

Amendment put and passed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved, as a further amendment, that the words "or by posting such notice in a registered letter addressed to such owner or occupier" be inserted after the word "abode," in line 6.

Amendment put and passed.

Seventh Schedule:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved, That the following words be added to the Schedule:—

"To be endorsed as follows:

"Any person served with this notice may appeal against the valuation put upon the property as regards the amount thereof or the manner in which such valuation has been made, or otherwise howsoever, to the Local Court in the municipality, by serving a notice in writing, stating the grounds of his appeal, on the clerk of the municipality within fourteen days after the service of this notice, and upon depositing in the hands of the clerk of the Local Court the amount of the rate and two guineas to answer costs.

"The appeal must be entered for hearing within ten days after service of the notice of appeal at the sitting of the Local Court next after the expiration of ten days from the entry of such appeal."

Amendment put and passed.

Bill further reported, with amendments.

Report adopted.

Ordered—That the third reading of the Bill be made an order of the day for the next sitting of the House.

LOAN BILL, 1894.

IN COMMITTEE.

Consideration of the Bill in committee resumed.

Item 9—*Development of Agriculture, including Land Purchase, Clearing Land, Draining of Land, Market in Perth, and Cold Storage*, £40,000:

Debate upon motion of MR. ILLINGWORTH—That the item be struck out of the Schedule—continued:

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the item had been discussed at length, and he hoped it would now be passed. Too much had been said on the proposed power to purchase land, as the Government did not intend to rush into the market as buyers, but only desired to be in a position to purchase suitable blocks near railways when opportunity offered for acquiring a desirable block here or there for promoting settlement and increasing production. The Government expected to spend about £12,000 —[THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS: More than that.]—perhaps more, in providing a market and cold storage in connection with the railway in Perth, as the beginning of a system which they hoped to extend to all parts of the colony connected by railway, including the great consuming centres on goldfields. Land purchase, clearing land, and draining of land would require the remaining £25,000 or £28,000. It was far from the intention of the Government to rush into the market as buyers of land; and as to the allegation that they intended to perpetrate some job for benefiting their friends or supporters, he treated that remark with the contempt it deserved. The Government thought that if a block of land alongside a railway became available for purchase, they might cut up the block and dispose of it in portions without cost to the country. The Government desired to have the power of purchase, to a limited extent, when such opportunities offered, for promoting settlement along a railway. There was a movement in that direction in every part of Australia. In South Australia, in New Zealand, in New South Wales, Bills had been before the Parliament for this purpose; and in Queensland a Bill for this purpose was before the Parliament at present. As to clearing and draining land, if the Agricultural Bank Bill became law it would provide for improving land alongside railways during construction as well as after construction, and thus make the land more valuable and more suitable for settlement. He could not see anything wrong in the Government expending limited sums for ringbarking land along a railway during its construction, and probably an outlay of 9d. to 2s. an acre would greatly improve that land for settlement; and although some hon. members thought the State should do nothing, and that everything should go on at its own pace, his opinion was that the Government were justified in trying to improve the national estate by inducing people to settle on land, and make it more productive. He had no sympathy with the argument that they should let things go on at their own pace, by leaving them alone; for he thought that, by judicious expenditure and forethought, they could vastly improve this great national estate entrusted to their care, and in doing so he did not object to strike out even in new directions for improving the land of the country. This item, of all others in the Bill, was intended for the benefit of all persons in the country, and not for any particular section; it was intended principally to benefit consumers, but its effect would be equally to benefit the farmers as producers. It appeared in the Bill as a farmers' item; and he believed that if the opinion of the country were canvassed, everyone would admit that an item like this, having for its object the increase of production, and consequently the lowering of prices to consumers, must benefit the country as a whole.

MR. SIMPSON said they were borrowing money to lower the prices.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Yes; but the country was not going to lose by it, for the outlay would be reproductive in itself, besides the good it would do to the country. The miners and other consumers should hail with pleasure this item for lowering prices, and providing cold storage for perishable produce. With cold storage at the centres of population, in connection with railways, there would be nothing to prevent the

miners on goldfields having supplies of perishable food—not only butchers' meat, but fruit and vegetables—which might be carried in cold-storage trucks over long distances, and be stored at the end of the journey in as good a state of preservation as at the beginning, for use as the market required. Fruit might be carried to the goldfields in this way in as fresh a state as when plucked from the trees. If this was not an object worth striving for, he was altogether mistaken in his judgment. If hon. members struck out this item, they would save him from much personal trouble and responsibility in carrying it out, but they would do a wrong to the country. To those who represented the large centres of population, he would say that if there ever was a measure that was to their advantage, it was this provision for the establishment of a market and cold storage; because, if the scheme proved a success in Perth, it would be extended to other places in connection with the railway system. If hon. members struck out this item, the Government would be under no obligation whatever to the people of Perth to establish a public market at the corner of William and Wellington streets and to establish cold storage in connection with the railway. The responsibility would rest on those members who opposed the item. The Government had tried their best to provide this great boon, not only in the interest of Perth, but of the whole country—as much in the interest of persons living at the Vasse, or at Bunbury, or at the Canning, or in the Avon Valley, or on Victoria Plains, as in the interest of the people living in Perth. If this provision did not remain in the Loan Bill, the responsibility would rest with those members who voted against it. This was a development item, a production item. The people of Perth had been congratulating themselves for some time past that they would have the great boon of a public market with cold storage—a boon to them and to the producers and consumers generally—but some members of this House were trying to prevent them from having that boon. As to what the London financers might think about this item, he asked hon. members to dismiss that idea from their minds, for he had never yet found that any question had been raised or any remark made by the Government's financial advisers in London, or any objection made by subscribers to the loans of this colony, as to the way in which the money was intended to be expended. He did not think the subscribers cared particularly as to what were the items in a Loan Bill; but they considered whether the borrowing colony was able to pay the interest and repay the principal. They no doubt considered that the people in this colony had sufficient good sense and patriotism not to waste the money in works that were not necessary. The lenders in England ought to give credit to the people in this colony for knowing better than outsiders could know, what was best in the interest of the colony which required the money for particular works. The Government might congratulate themselves on the progress made with the Schedule up to the present; and, although some hon. members were absent from that sitting of the House, he was going to submit this item to the vote, and leave to hon. members the responsibility of deciding it for themselves. It was an item of great importance, and one that would have a material influence on the development of agriculture in the near future; but if a majority of hon. members considered this item should not find a place in the Bill, then let that be so.

Mr. R. F. SHOLL said the Premier had, as usual, appealed to the pockets of members. His own intention was to support the amendment, because these schemes should not be undertaken with loan money. Money obtained from the sale of Crown lands might be used for purchasing other land, when necessary. He was not in favour of a land tax, but if ever there was an argument in favour of land taxation, it was that used by the Premier, when he said the State had built railways through good land owned by private individuals who made no use of their land.

The Premier (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): No, no.

Mr. R. F. SHOLL said the Premier's argument was to that effect. It was an argument in favour of the bursting up of large estates.

The Premier (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I never said anything of the kind!

MR. R. F. SHOLL said it was not necessary to purchase land from private owners when there was so much Crown land available, and especially in view of the agricultural land that was to be made accessible along the Bridgetown railway. He did not approve of the Government clearing land, as that should be purely a private enterprise. The Government could not force population to settle on the land so long as those people could get other employment that paid them better. The best inducement to settlement was the large consuming population on the goldfields; and when farmers found they could cultivate land profitably, there would be more land put under cultivation. Ringbarking and clearing should also be left to private enterprise. The proposal for establishing a market and cold storage in Perth was a regular bait; and this scheme was a disgrace to the Government, by interfering with private enterprise, and by using public funds for competing against the industry already established in Perth by a private company, who had spent £6,000 to £7,000 in providing ice works and cold storage, which they had invited the farmers to use, but the farmers had not responded to that invitation, no replies having been received by the company. As to dairy produce, there was not sufficient butter produced at present to require cold storage. Quoting from a printed pamphlet which had been circulated by the Perth Ice and Refrigerating Company, he said the company stated they had expended a further sum of £800 during the last year in providing cold storage for perishable produce; and, although they had made efforts to induce farmers to use the cold storage, there had been no response from them, and had it not been for the use which the Perth butchers were making of the cold storage accommodation, the company's enterprise in this direction would have been a complete failure. It was well known there was no farming produce to be stored, because as fast as the farmers raised the produce they could sell it in the towns without the need of storage. The storage scheme arose out of a little dispute between the Ice Company and a would-be Dairy Company, the latter having a small capital of about £150 paid up. The Ice Company, when requested, erected a room for the cold storage of dairy produce; but the Dairy Company was not ready to use it so soon as had been promised, and the Ice Company then let the room to the butchers. There was also some dispute as to the rates for storage, the Dairy Company refusing to agree to the rates. The matter in dispute between them was only £40 a year. The Dairy Company then got up a deputation to the Premier, and they asked that the Government should subsidise and build a public market in Perth, and provide cold storage in connection with it and the railway. The Premier was always very glad, at the colony's expense, to oblige his supporters. Nothing had ever been given to him, but plenty had gone into the pockets of Government supporters. When the Government were asked by the Ice Company to provide refrigerating cars, they refused to do so, saying that was a matter for private enterprise; but that was not the Premier's line of argument now. His own opinion was that the country was not ripe, at present, for expensive refrigerating equipment; and it was very doubtful whether the experiment would pay. He did not object to a public market in Perth, but the people had not been used to that system, and preferred to have produce taken to their doors. He would like to strike out of the item all the works except a market for Perth.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the hon. member had opposed every item in the Bill; at any rate, he had voted against the Bill in every division.

MR. LEFROY said that every item already passed in the Schedule should assist in developing agriculture. He approved of the desire to develop agriculture, but some of the proposals in this item would not have that effect. If the large importations of agricultural produce did not stimulate the farmers in this colony to grow more produce, he did not know of anything else that would do so. Seeing such a good market in the colony, and that the consumers were increasing rapidly, and having some protection for our farmers, he thought the State should not go further by borrowing money to develop agriculture at present. The purchasing of land was not a good thing for the Government to go into. In opposing

this item, those members who did so were attempting to save the Government from themselves. He believed the Government would lose money by the purchasing of land and attempting to settle people on it, because if they paid £1 an acre they could not expect to sell it again for more than that price, and expense would be incurred in cutting up the blocks, the best parts being selected by purchasers, and the worst parts left as waste. With regard to clearing, he had often thought such an experiment was desirable, but it should be done out of ordinary revenue. It would be well, perhaps, to make a small experiment in this direction.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): A hundred acres, I suppose.

MR. LEFROY said his mind was not so small. A thousand acres could be cleared for £2,500, and that quantity would be enough for an experiment. It might be tried on some Crown land along the Midland railway. As to a market in Perth, he had not heard of any requirement for it. The Government should adopt a cold storage system in connection with the railways, and provide refrigerating cars.

MR. COOKWORTHY supported the item as one that would be beneficial. He particularly defended the proposed power to drain Crown lands in the South, by pointing out that the Harvey and Collie River districts contained large areas of good heavy land, which could not be settled on until some general drainage scheme were carried out by the Government, the land being excellent for root crops, but useless until the surface water accumulating in winter could be drained off. He thought the people of the country would insist on the necessity for cold-storage trucks being run on the railways for connecting the agricultural districts with the consuming centres of population. To obtain money at a low rate of interest, and use it reproductively for earning a higher rate of interest, was the very basis of trade. As to not interfering with private enterprise, the interests of the colony should not be sacrificed to an abstract objection of that kind. He was reminded of the old story that when troops were employed vigorously in the Scottish Highlands to put down lawlessness and cattle stealing, the Highlandmen sent a petition to King George, pleading that their vested interests in the old state of things should be considered.

MR. CONNOR said he could not support the item. If the cold storage scheme were carried out, the Government should take over the interests of the Ice Company, to avoid unfair competition. He had no personal interest in making that suggestion.

MR. JAMES supported the item, and argued that if it was right to borrow money for developing the goldfields, it was equally right, and, perhaps, more necessary, to borrow money for developing the productions of the soil in agricultural districts. He had opposed the making of agricultural railways as not being the proper means for developing agriculture, because they merely opened the land, and did nothing more; but in this item the Government proposed to undertake those other forms of development which he regarded as more necessary, for they proposed to purchase suitable blocks of land near railways, so as to create settlement nearer to the towns, instead of compelling settlers to go far into the back country, because not allowed by private owners to cultivate the good land near towns which remained unused. The Government also proposed to clear land for immediate settlement, and to drain Crown land where that was necessary for making good soil fit for occupation. Although the purchasing of land might be a dangerous power, yet no man in the colony was so qualified by knowledge and trustworthiness to be entrusted with this power as the present Premier, in whom the House and the colony had confidence. Indeed, very few members of that House knew what was required in detail for the development of agriculture, whereas he felt that Sir John Forrest was the man above all others who should be generously trusted with the necessary powers for carrying out the proposals in this item for developing agriculture. The market and cold storage he also approved of as necessary means for bringing producers and consumers into direct contact, and so reducing the price to consumers and increasing the gains to producers. Under present conditions the producers did not get a fair share of the price for produce paid by consumers. Hon. members generally would be most ungenerous if, by their action on this

item, they refused to entrust the Government with the use of a few thousand pounds for carrying out the objects set forth in this item. Shareholders in the Ice Company were mostly citizens who had invested in shares for the purpose of supplying a long-felt want, rather than for making a profit; and the Premier might be trusted to duly consider that aspect of the question when entering into the work of providing cold storage.

MR. MORAN said he must again support the item, and he objected to the contention of some members in having said the private interests of the Perth Ice Company should block the Government in their desire to provide cold storage on the railways as part of a general system which would eventually be extended to the goldfields.

MR. SIMPSON said the appeal of the clever, rising young member for East Perth, though earnest and interesting, was discounted by the fact that he had particularly attached himself to the Ice Company. Parliament had sanctioned the giving away of land for inducing settlement; railways were also being built for the settlers; later the State was to lend money to settlers, through the Agricultural Bank; and now it was further proposed to borrow money for coddling agriculture in other ways. The House was asked to borrow money and place it in the hands of the Ministry, so that they might ladle out sops to lazy, careless farmers. The history of the development of agriculture in Australia showed that where the concessions granted were the largest, there the lazier and more indigent had the farmers become. Did any member of this House realise what was meant by the present proposals? As to land purchase, could hon. members imagine any graver avenue of misadventure on which the Government could start? As to clearing land, what guarantee was there of the value of the clearing, unless the ground was immediately occupied? He believed the £40,000 proposed in this item was for expenditure in the Bunbury, Wellington, and Vasse districts.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Not a bit of it.

MR. SIMPSON said he meant that the draining of land was intended for those districts. The building of a public market should be a municipal work. As to the cold storage scheme, there would be no limits to the pressure which might be brought to bear on the Government, so far as their scheme was likely to interfere with private enterprise. If the Ministry were going into a petty, little, pettifogging industry like this, where would they stop? The proposals in this item were so ridiculous that he could not help being a little satirical. The House was asked to mortgage the property of every member of the community for the Government to fiddle away on their fads.

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

Ayes	9
Noes	14
Majority against ...	5

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Illingworth	Mr. Burt
Mr. Leake	Mr. Clarkson
Mr. Lefroy	Mr. Connor
Mr. Loton	Mr. Cookworthy
Mr. Phillips	Sir John Forrest
Mr. Randell	Mr. James
Mr. H. W. Sholl	Mr. Marmion
Mr. Simpson	Mr. Moran
Mr. R. F. Sholl (*Teller*).	Mr. Pearse
	Mr. Solomon
	Mr. Throssell
	Mr. Venn
	Mr. Wood
	Mr. Paterson (*Teller*).

Motion negatived.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said he would now object to the item in certain details. He moved, as an amendment, that the words "Land Purchase, Clearing Land, Draining of Land," be struck out. There were grave reasons why the Government should not undertake these works out of loan moneys. The vote just taken had practically decided in favour of the proposals for cold storage and a market in Perth; and as the £40,000 in the Schedule would be little enough for doing these works thoroughly, the other proposals in the item should be struck out. The demand for agricultural produce created by the goldfields population should be sufficient to encourage agriculture. Take butter, for instance. The standard export price in Victoria was 7½d. per pound; yet the producers in this colony could get twice that price for their butter, and until the local market was supplied fully, the price here would keep up. Great Britain imported the great mass of its food because its people were engaged in more profitable employment than producing food. If the people in Western Australia were suffi-

ciently and profitably employed in other occupations, as they were, they would not take to the cultivation of land. It was only when people could not find more profitable or more pleasing avenues of labour that they would become tillers of the soil.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the words "Development of agriculture" would include, in their general sense, all the other words which the hon. member proposed to leave out. He would advise that the words should be left to stand as printed. No doubt the cold storage scheme would cost a considerable amount, and the whole £40,000 could be spent on it; but the Government wished to go gently at first with this experiment, and make sure they were on the right track. Not much of the £40,000 was intended to be spent in purchasing, clearing, and draining land. The Government would not cripple the cold storage and market scheme by spending much on the other works in the item. There was no intention to buy land in the Southern districts so as to help the friends of the Government, as suggested by the member for Geraldton.

MR. SIMPSON: I never said so. I made no such statement, and I ask the Chairman to prevent the Premier from imputing such statements to me or any member of this House.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said what the hon. member did say was that this money was to be used as sops for the people of the Southern districts. He could understand the insinuation. But that was not the intention of the Government at all. He asked the committee to oppose the amendment.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said that in his amendment he found he had made a slight mistake, which he wished to correct. He intended that the whole sum of £40,000 should be devoted to the market and cold storage, and to strike out all reference to the development of agriculture.

MR. CONNOR said that, when speaking before on the item, an hon. member had suggested that he might be interested in the Ice Company—that a commission might be sticking out. He wished hon. members to understand thoroughly that was not so. He now asked the hon. member referred to to withdraw the insinuation.

MR. MORAN: What I said was a joke.

MR. RANDELL supported the amendment, and said the Government were embarking in a policy which was certain to create difficulties sooner or later. He would limit his concurrence to the providing of refrigerating cars. With regard to a market in Perth, he had no high expectation from it, but did not oppose it. He believed the Government intended, by-and-by, to shunt the market on to the Perth Municipal Council.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the hon. member was willing to take the market for Perth, but the Government were not proposing this for the benefit of Perth only, but for the whole colony; and for that reason the item should remain as it stood in the Schedule. The desire was to do justice to every place, and to carry out the scheme so that it should help the country districts equally with the towns. He was prepared to go to a division on the amendment, and accept the result, whichever way it went. The attempt already made to strike out this item, in a thin House, had utterly failed, and the opponents should be satisfied with that decision, instead of now proposing to tinker with the item in detail. He was willing to go to a division, and let those who voted for the amendment take the responsibility.

MR. SOLOMON said if the amendment had been to strike out the purchase of land, he would have supported it; but, as it stood, he would vote for the item.

MR. LOTON said those members who had voted for the item while objecting to parts of it, were perfectly free, and had the right to vote on this amendment.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): What is the good of telling them that? They are not boys.

MR. LOTON said he had a right to put the position before those hon. members. Possibly they might not, on all occasions, be inclined to be blindfolded. He would support the amendment.

Amendment (in the corrected form as intended by the mover) put, and division taken, with the following result:—

Ayes	11
Noes	11
A tie	0

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Connor	Mr. Burt
Mr. Illingworth	Mr. Clarkson
Mr. Lefroy	Mr. Cookworthy
Mr. Loton	Sir John Forrest
Mr. Phillips	Mr. Marmion
Mr. Randell	Mr. Morau
Mr. R. F. Sholl	Mr. Paterson
Mr. H. W. Sholl	Mr. Pearse
Mr. Simpson	Mr. Solomon
Mr. Wood	Mr. Throssell
Mr. Leake (*Teller*).	Mr. Venn (*Teller*).

THE CHAIRMAN: There being a tie, I shall vote for the item—that is with the Government. Whichever way I vote now, the question can come up again.

The Chairman's casting vote being given with the Noes, the amendment was negatived.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said a lot of unpleasantness had been introduced about the proposed power to purchase land; but, in order to show that he did not care two straws about that, he was willing to strike out the purchase of land.

AN HON. MEMBER asked if the Premier would take out the clearing of land.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he would not move to strike it out, but if any hon. member moved to do so, he would not object.

MR. LEAKE moved that progress be reported.

Motion put and negatived.

MR. LOTON moved, as an amendment, that the amount placed opposite the item be reduced by £25,000. He said this would leave £15,000 for the proposed market and cold storage.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the railway cold storage would cost the balance.

MR. LOTON said he was distinctly and earnestly opposed to the borrowing of money for purchasing or clearing land. A majority had decided in favour of a market and cold storage.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he had stated his willingness to withdraw land purchase, if the rest of the item were accepted. The present amendment would be foolish. The amount of £15,000 remaining would not be sufficient for providing a market and cold storage, with refrigerating cars on the railway, besides a few thousand pounds for clearing and draining land. In order to meet the views of hon. members, he would consent to withdraw the land purchase if the rest of the item were accepted. Otherwise, he must resist the amendment.

MR. RANDELL said he would be content, individually, to accept the offer of the Premier to strike out land purchase, as being the most objectionable feature in the item. He did not want to press the rejection of the item. His impression was that the amendment indicated by the Premier was not nearly sufficient.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he would undertake to move, on the report, that land purchase be struck out of the item.

MR. LOTON: What about the clearing? Won't you strike that out?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): No.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Does clearing land mean the ringing of timber?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): It means ringing, principally.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: I look on the purchase of land as the most objectionable item. The refrigerating cars will take the rest of the money.

MR. LOTON: I think the object of my amendment will be attained, and, on the assurance of the Premier, I will withdraw the amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Item agreed to.

The committee continued sitting after midnight.

FRIDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER.

Item 10—*Harbour Works at Geraldton, including extension of jetty*, £10,000:

MR. LOTON said he would not object to any further items in the Schedule, because whatever arguments might be used against them the result would be the same in a division. Some of the earlier items would not have passed in the manner in which they did if he had been present. He hoped the Bill, if passed, would tend to the best interests of the colony, though he did not expect much benefit would result from some of the items. Before the Government got to the end of the current four years, the result would be that the colony would have been floating to a great extent on borrowed money; and, as sure as hon. members were sitting there, that crisis would very soon come.

Item agreed to.

Item 11—*Improvements to Harbours and Rivers, including Jetties and Dredging*, £40,000:

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the proposed improvements to harbours were principally in the Northern part of the colony. At Carnarvon, the jetty was in a bad state, being eaten by the *teredo*. Some improvements were necessary at the Ashburton, and at Cossack; also at Port Hedland—he hoped in connection with a railway to the Pilbarra goldfields—besides some jetty improvements at Broome and Derby. He did not think any more works were required for Wyndham, at present. As to dredging, which was included in the item, it was intended very soon to remove the dredge then at Albany to Geraldton, and afterwards to Carnarvon. This statement would give a general idea of the work contemplated by the Government.

Item agreed to.

Item 12—*Lighthouses*, £25,000:

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the works included in this item were the Rottnest light, this work being in progress; and a better light would be placed at Breaksea, the present light being removed to Point King. It was hoped that it would be practicable to construct a light at the entrance to King George's Sound, where a light was much required, the navigation being most inconvenient. Lights were also intended for North-West Point and Roebuck Bay.

Item agreed to.

Item 13.—*Telegraphs from Broome Hill to Albany; from Bannister to Mooradong; from Moora to Dandaraga; from Coolgardie to Hannan's, White Feather, Kurnalpi, 25-Mile, 45-Mile, and to 90-Mile; from Cue to Day Dawn, The Island, and to Mount Magnet: connection to Yalgoo; from Marble Bar to Bamboo Creek; and extensions to other centres on goldfields, and to other parts of the colony*, £20,000:"

Agreed to.

Item 14—*Roads and Bridges, including Stock Route to Northern Districts*, £50,000:

MR. LEAKE said he would like to see this item struck out. The Loan Act of 1878 included a large sum for roads and bridges, but most of the money was wasted by the Roads Boards. He would rather see the amount in the present item applied to public buildings, such as Parliament Houses and Supreme Court buildings worthy of the colony.

MR. RANDELL said he held a strong opinion that Parliament Houses and Supreme Court buildings should be provided, not out of loan, but out of current revenue. He was not quite satisfied with this item, but hoped the Government would keep a strict supervision over the expenditure.

MR. LEFROY said this was one of the most important items in the Bill. There must be roads for giving access to the railways.

MR. RANDELL added that, if the Government built railways into districts, the settlers there ought to construct the connecting roads. The principle should be admitted, as soon as possible, that the necessary roads leading to railways should be constructed by settlers in those districts.

MR. LOTON said many settlers in country districts were obliged to provide rough roads through their own lands, perhaps for miles in extent, before they could get to a public road of any description.

MR. SOLOMON approved of the item.

MR. MORAN moved, as an amendment, that the words "and from the Murchison to Coolgardie" be inserted after the word "districts." He said that by extending a road *viâ* Cue to Coolgardie the Government would be serving the double purpose of opening a chain of wells between the two largest goldfields, for developing a reefing country, and making a route by which fat stock could travel from the North to the principal goldfields.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the Government did not object to the amendment, as it was intended to open up roads in that country, and there would be a great advantage in having a stock route to Coolgardie.

MR. SIMPSON said it would be better to leave this new question in the hands of the Government. The Premier had informed a recent deputation that he recognised the desirability of opening up roads in that district. The Premier's knowledge as an explorer of that back country was also exceedingly valuable, and the question of making roads there might be left in his hands.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said it would be a satisfaction to stock owners in the North, as far as Kimberley, to know that it was definitely intended to provide a means of travelling fat stock to Coolgardie, and, by adding to the clause the words suggested, the intention of the item would be made clear, although the Government had intended to make a stock route to Coolgardie without the additional words being in the item.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said roads were a necessary means for the development of agriculture. He was willing to leave in the hands of the Premier the question of a stock route to the goldfields, but satisfaction would be given by inserting definite words in the item. At Cue the cost of butcher's meat was about 4d. a pound, because supplies were obtainable from stations in the district; and a road to Coolgardie for fat stock from the North would make a great reduction in the cost of meat to miners around Coolgardie.

MR. CONNOR said it was not possible to travel fat stock from the far North by the overland route to Coolgardie. The stock must continue to come by sea to a Southern port, if the meat was to be in good condition. As an experiment, however, he would support the amendment, but did not expect a successful result.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he could not support the item at all. Such an item was improper in a Loan Bill. Unless the Government were prepared to get some revenue from this expenditure, as a reproductive work, the item ought not to be passed. He did not suppose they would put up toll-bars for getting a revenue. He knew, however, it would be only a waste of time to move that the item be struck out.

Amendment put and passed.

Item, as amended, agreed to.

Item 15 — *Miscellaneous, including charges and expenses of raising loan*, £30,000:

MR. ILLINGWORTH asked whether it was really necessary to make this provision, in view of the state of the English money market.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he expected the loan would realise a premium; but it was better to provide for contingencies, and such an item was usual in our Loan Bills. The amount lost on the loan of 1891 was over £20,000 in floating it, but about half that amount was got back in premiums on the loan of 1893. He anticipated to get a large premium, perhaps £100,000, on floating the present loan. Still, it would be better to keep this item in the Bill.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he was inclined to move that the item be struck out. It was a sort of "petty cash" item, and he objected to allow a large sum for "incidentals," or anything of that kind.

MR. RANDELL said the hon. member for the Gascoyne might be rightly termed the Joseph Hume of Western Australia. As to this item, it was as well to provide for contingencies.

Item agreed to.

Postponed clause—Clause 1:

Agreed to.

Preamble and title:

Agreed to.

Bill reported, with amendments.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 12·45 o'clock a.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Monday, 24th September, 1894.

Employment of Dredge at the Canning—Estimates, 1894-5: Budget Speech—Small Debts Ordinance Amendment Bill: third reading—Municipal Institutions Bill: third reading—Loan Bill, £1,500,000: consideration of committee's report—Droving Bill: in committee—Homesteads Act Amendment Bill: second reading: in committee—Marriage Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 7·30 p.m.

PRAYERS.