

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

Ayes	...	...	...	13
Noes	...	...	...	28

Majority against ... 15

**AYES.**  
Mr. Bath  
Mr. Bolton  
Mr. Collier  
Mr. Daglish  
Mr. Holman  
Mr. Hudson  
Mr. Lynch  
Mr. Scaddan  
Mr. Taylor  
Mr. Troy  
Mr. Walker  
Mr. Ware  
Mr. Horan (Teller).

**NOES.**  
Mr. Brebber  
Mr. Butcher  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Cowcher  
Mr. Diamond  
Mr. Eddy  
Mr. Ewing  
Mr. Foulkes  
Mr. Gregory  
Mr. Gull  
Mr. Hardwick  
Mr. Hayward  
Mr. Hicks  
Mr. Isdell  
Mr. Layman  
Mr. McLarty  
Mr. Male  
Mr. Mitchell  
Mr. Monger  
Mr. N. J. Moore  
Mr. S. F. Moore  
Mr. Piesse  
Mr. Price  
Mr. Rason  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. A. J. Wilson  
Mr. F. Wilson  
Mr. Gordon (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

MR. BATH (in explanation): During the discussion on these as well as on the Revenue Estimates, the Premier had intimated that the Estimates were being unduly delayed by the Opposition; and this statement was re-echoed in alleged Press interviews with Ministers and with Government supporters. For the discussion of the Estimates a reasonable time had not been allowed; and the records of previous Parliaments would show that in this year the consideration of the Estimates had occupied less time than at any other period in our Parliamentary history. The Opposition had not been actuated by any desire to delay the passing of the Estimates.

This concluded the Loan Estimates; grand total (£799,603) put and passed.

Resolutions reported, and the report adopted.

#### APPROPRIATION BILL.

THE PREMIER, in accordance with the foregoing resolutions in Committee, now obtained leave and introduced the Appropriation Bill, which passed through all stages without debate, and was transmitted to the Legislative Council

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 9.30 o'clock, until the next afternoon.

### Legislative Council,

Friday, 22nd December, 1905.

	PAGE
Papers: Police Commissioner's Suspension and Reinstatement	826
Bills: Wines, Beer, etc., 3a.	827
Stamp Act Amendment, Com. resumed, 3a.	827
Appropriation, 1a., 2a., Com., progress	827
Land Act Amendment, Council's Amendment	838
Bread Act Amendment (holidays for carters), 1a., 2a. negatived	839

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: 1, State-mens under Section 60 of "The Life Assurance Companies Act, 1889." 2, Report of the Governors of the High School for the year ended 30th June, 1905. 3, Report on the working of the Government Railways and the Roebourne-Cossack Tramway for the year ended 30th June, 1905.

#### PAPERS—POLICE COMMISSIONER'S SUSPENSION AND REINSTATEMENT.

HON. E. M. CLARKE (South-West) moved—

That all papers in connection with the recent suspension and reinstatement of Captain Hare, the Commissioner of Police, be laid upon the table.

In justice to the Commissioner of Police, it was only right that the public should know what had transpired in his case. Captain Hare had been in the Government service a great many years, and was a most efficient and zealous officer. The papers would show the public exactly how the case stood.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. W. Kingsmill): There was no

objection, and the papers would be laid on the table as early as possible. He had much pleasure in endorsing what Mr. Clarke had said about the character and services of the Commissioner.

Question passed.

#### BILL—THIRD READING.

Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act Amendment, *passed*.

#### BILL—STAMP ACT AMENDMENT.

##### IN COMMITTEE, ETC.

Resumed from the previous sitting.

HON. M. L. MOSS: The Assembly had agreed to the amendments suggested by the Council, and had made the same.

THE CHAIRMAN would put the clauses as amended by the Assembly in accordance with the Council's request.

Clauses 9, 16, 20—agreed to.

Schedule:

HON. M. L. MOSS wished to move a farther amendment in the schedule, on page 14.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Committee had already exhausted its power, and no farther amendment could be made.

HON. M. L. MOSS explained the amendment. The Government had reduced the shilling duty to sixpence, to enable policies of marine insurance to be put on a footing as near as possible with policies in the other States.

THE CHAIRMAN: No amendment could be made at this stage. Precedent was against it.

Schedule put and passed.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time, and *passed*.

#### BILL—APPROPRIATION.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and read a first time; the Bill embodying the Estimates (Revenue and Loan) in schedule form.

##### SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. W. Kingsmill): I do not think it is necessary or customary for the Leader of the House, in moving the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, to do so otherwise than formally.

HON. R. F. SHOLL (North): I take exception to the remark of the Leader of

the House, that it is not usual or proper to introduce an Appropriation Bill into the House with explanation. It is rather a serious thing to attack the Estimates passed in another Chamber; but I maintain that we are going to justify the existence of the House, and we must receive information from the Minister. Whilst I am in the House I shall raise my voice against the idea that is generally abroad, and certainly exists in the mind of the Colonial Secretary, that this House is simply an automaton, to accept everything from another place without explanation. I strongly protest against the few remarks made by the Colonial Secretary in introducing to this House for its concurrence an expenditure of £3,600,000 without any remark. We are not a House of Lords. This is not a hereditary House, but we are elected by the people, and therefore stand on quite a different footing from the House of Lords. I think members in this House should assert their rights and be treated with a little more courtesy by the Colonial Secretary, who said it was not customary and it was unnecessary to say anything in introducing a Bill which grants £3,600,000.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Do you say I was discourteous?

HON. R. F. SHOLL: I do not think the Colonial Secretary intended to be discourteous, but the expression he used conveyed that idea. I should like to hear an explanation as to the expenditure of this large amount of money; and while I am in the House I shall justify the existence of the House by inquiring into the expenditure of any money or any matter brought before the House.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY (North-East): I am aware it is not usual in this House or in another place to make a second-reading speech on the Appropriation Bill; but I enter my protest against the remarks made by the Leader of the House. He said it was not usual or necessary; but I differ from him when he says it is not usual. I have been a member of the House for four years, and the hon. member knows it is usual to give some explanation. I think Mr. Sholl was right when he said the House was being treated discourteously.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: He did not say "discourteously."

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: Discourtesy was shown by asking the House to pass without explanation an expenditure of £3,600,000. I will not delay the House by speaking of the details of that expenditure; but were it not for the seriousness of the step, I think that the House would be quite justified in rejecting the Bill. When a Bill is before this House, members accept it or reject it on its merits, after hearing an introductory speech by the Leader of the House. If this Bill is not worthy of a little explanation on the part of the Minister, it is not worth our while to pass it.

THE PRESIDENT: If my memory serves me rightly, it has not been customary to make a speech when introducing the general Estimates; but I think it has always been customary to explain fully the Loan Estimates, when we go into Committee.

HON. W. T. LOTON (East): The Estimates before us have been for some time in our hands, and every member has had an opportunity of considering the details. Personally, I do not intend to discuss the items, or to take any exception to them. But with regard to the Loan Estimates, amounting to £800,000, the details, so far as I am concerned, have not been before me for more than five minutes; and I think it would have been well had the Minister addressed himself to those details. When in Committee I should like the Minister to give us some information regarding the expenditure of £90,000 on additions and improvements to open railways, and as to the items, rails and fastenings £42,000, and railway surveys £26,000. I call the Minister's attention to these few details, in order that he may in Committee give us the explanations desired.

THE PRESIDENT: The proper time for discussing the Estimates is in Committee.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: If no other member wishes to speak on the second reading, I should like to inform Mr. Sholl and Mr. Connolly that I introduced the Bill on this occasion in precisely the same manner and in precisely the same number of words as on the former occasion when I was Leader of the House; and on that occasion no exception was taken to my action.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: Did you so introduce the Loan Estimates?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: An Appropriation Bill contains in the schedules both Revenue and Loan Estimates.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: Were they together before?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: They were together before. They are together in every Appropriation Bill.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: I thought they were separate Bills.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member is now confounding Loan Estimates with a Loan Bill. This year there is no Loan Bill, because it is not found necessary to obtain farther authorisation. The Loan Bill and Loan Estimates are two altogether different things.

THE PRESIDENT: Quite different.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: As the President rightly observes, when the House gets into Committee, then will be the time for members to ask for information. I think it is too much to expect from me, as Leader of the House, that I should deliver on these Estimates what would practically be a Budget Speech. That, I think, is not reasonable; but I am most willing to answer any questions members may wish to ask concerning either the Revenue Estimates or the Loan Estimates now before the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

On motions by HON. W. T. LOTON, Clauses 1 and 2, and Schedule A, postponed until after the consideration of Schedules B and C.

SCHEDULE B—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND, total £2,824,943:

HON. R. F. SHOLL: The schedule should be postponed for a week. The House would not justify its existence if, without consideration, it rushed through these Estimates. He did not know what the Council had done in years past; but when he was a member of the Legislative Assembly that House would not have so disposed of Loan Estimates; and he protested strongly now, as he protested last session when a new member. Though he knew members were anxious that the session should close, he would rather that the House adjourn till after

the holidays. He protested strongly, and declined to take any responsibility for passing through the House measures which intelligent men, drawing salaries from the country, were asked to pass without consideration. For members to come to the House at all was in these circumstances a waste of time; and were this sort of thing allowed to continue, he would support the proposal for abolishing the House.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The remarks just made applied more properly to the Loan Estimates, which were contained in Schedule C. Most members would acquit him (the Minister) of a desire to rush through business. Members had complete schedules of the Revenue and the Loan Estimates, and could ask any questions they pleased. Mr. Sholl said that the Loan Estimates were rushed down. Perhaps they were; but members would acquit him (the Minister) of any responsibility for this rushing. The Loan Estimates had reached the Chamber at the earliest possible moment, and reached the Lower House with practically no more notice than this Chamber had received.

**Vote — His Excellency the Governor,** total £1,498:

**HON. J. A. THOMSON:** What was this item?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The hon. member would find a full explanation on page 19 of the Estimates of Expenditure.

**Vote — Miscellaneous Services,** £127,400:

**Item — Paris and Glasgow Exhibitions,** grant of specimens to Geological Museum, £1,895:

**HON. J. W. HACKETT** asked for explanation.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** So far as he could learn, this represented the balance of certain geological specimens, the remnant of those exhibited, which remnant was given to a museum.

**HON. R. F. SHOLL:** English museums being wealthy concerns, why were not the specimens paid for?

**HON. C. E. DEMPSTER:** These specimens should be a valuable asset.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** By far the greater portion of the specimens

was returned to the owners who lent them for exhibition.

**HON. J. W. HACKETT:** As vice-chairman of the Geological Museum, Perth, to which the remaining specimens were given by the Government, he asked the question for the purpose of public information. The item represented the surplus paid for by the Government, and now conveyed to our own Geological Museum.

**HON. R. F. SHOLL** moved:

That it be a suggestion to the Legislative Assembly that Schedule B be reduced by £1,895.

Amendment negatived.

**HON. SIR E. H. WITTENOOM:** Were not these specimens, after being exhibited in Paris, Glasgow, and London, given to a public museum in England?

**HON. J. W. HACKETT:** After the exhibits were finally on view at the Stock Exchange, London, the private specimens were returned to the owners, unless otherwise requested, and the public exhibits were treated as so much bullion, and for the most part sent to the Mint, where they did not realise their cost price. This £1,895 represented the surplus remaining, and presented to the Perth Geological Museum.

**HON. R. D. MCKENZIE:** There was an item for parks and recreation grounds, grants for maintenance and improvements, £27,000. How was this money allocated?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** This was an annual item for distribution in such proportions as the Treasurer thought fit. Apparently there was no definite ear-marking; but certain parks could rely on getting a grant every year. The King's Park received some £2,000; the Zoological Gardens get nothing out of this item.

**HON. J. W. HACKETT:** Formerly the custom was to subdivide the vote for parks and gardens. When Mr. Gardiner was Treasurer all the sums were lumped together; and perhaps too much power was now allowed the Treasurer. The Zoological Gardens appeared on the Estimates as two items, "Gardens, £3,900," and "Special grant for Snake-house, £500." With regard to King's Park, from the first that institution had received a grant of £2,500, placed on the Estimates as a special item; and from time to time

special grants were given for various improvements and additions required for the benefit and convenience of the people who used the park. The King's Park Board expected to receive a similar amount to that received in the past.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was now absorbed in the total vote for parks.

Vote—*Colonial Treasurer's Department*, total £447,256:

HON. J. D. MCKENZIE moved—

That it be a suggestion to the Legislative Assembly that the vote for the Colonial Treasurer's department be reduced by £6,000.

He entered an emphatic protest against the way in which country districts were treated in the parks and recreation grounds vote. An important place like Kalgoorlie received something like £300, while the parks round Perth received between £4,000 and £5,000. Parliament had dealt liberally with the Zoological Gardens. He had seen a letter from the curator of the gardens, stating that their efforts were restricted and crippled for want of funds. Money was required for a snake house and a building for tropical plants; the elephant court required grassing, the grandstand had just been completed, four new grass tennis courts were completed and two or three croquet lawns. If an application were made by the people of Kalgoorlie for money for a tennis court or croquet lawn, he could understand the Minister holding up his hands in holy horror.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: At last the Legislative Council was beginning to justify its existence. The hon. member had made some caustic remarks in relation to the presence in Perth of the Zoological Gardens and King's Park. These places were used more by persons living outside Perth than by those in it. Whilst the Legislative Council was justifying its existence, he thought the House was lowering its dignity to a certain extent. In regard to the Zoological Gardens, Western Australia was not alone in this particular, for every capital city in the world had recreation grounds, parks and zoological gardens maintained by the Government. It was a good and legitimate charge, that any Government might approve of.

HON. R. F. SHOLL: The House might be lowering its dignity, but it was mak-

ing a bid to assert its usefulness by trying to reduce expenditure. He would like the high-sounding but empty title of "honourable" taken from members of that House. He did not feel he was entitled to it. It was more honour to be elected a member of the Lower House than of the Upper House. With regard to the receipts of the Zoological Gardens, did the trustees expend these besides the funds which were granted? [HON. J. W. HACKETT: Yes.] They should be paid into the consolidated revenue. There was a regulation that all receipts should go into the consolidated revenue, and the sooner that regulation was adopted with regard to the receipts from the Zoo the better.

Amendment put and negatived.

Vote—*The Colonial Secretary and Minister for Education*, £426,673:

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: The Colonial Secretary had told members that it could not be expected he should give information about all the departments; and he farther stated that it was unusual, in introducing the Estimates, to say anything at all. He (Mr. Connolly) had turned up last session's *Hansard*, and found that the then Leader of the House (Mr. Drew) occupied a couple of pages of *Hansard* in introducing the Estimates, dealing principally with his own department. We could claim to be told something about the Minister's own department now. The Colonial Secretary controlled, among other things, the Electoral Department, the Fisheries, and the Gaols. A lot had been said in the public Press about the way in which the Electoral Department was administered, and as an election for members of this House would be coming on next year, we should be told something about the working of the Electoral Department.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Was he to understand the hon. member wished him to embark on a general debate in regard to this department?

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: The previous Minister did in regard to his own department.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Then all he could do was to take the Estimates and discuss them branch by branch, to satisfy the hon. member. Still, every hon. member should be con-

sidered, and it would be better for Mr. Connolly to point out some specific item about which he required information.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: Take the Electoral Department.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: When speaking on the Address-in-Reply, he (the Colonial Secretary) devoted a considerable amount of time in criticising the conduct of the Electoral Department, pointing out that the Electoral Act under which we were working was, of all the Electoral Acts we ever had in Western Australia, absolutely the worst.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: Did not the hon. member say that the Electoral Department was almost perfect. He was reported in the Press to that effect.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Such a statement never appeared in the Press. What he did say was that the rolls, from his point of view, were in a better state than ever before; and that statement he adhered to. When speaking on the Address-in-Reply, he stated that the people of the country had to make their choice between a roll unduly inflated and a roll unduly decreased in numbers. Again, he pointed out that many of the faults laid at the door of the Electoral Department should more properly be laid at the door of the general public. In Western Australia, more than in any other State, the difficulties of securing, and when secured keeping, proper regulations was emphasised, and he pointed out that in places like Perth and Kalgoorlie, where we had three or four populous constituencies separated by an imaginary line, where a large percentage of the population lived in boarding-houses and were continually shifting from one boarding-house to another irrespective of electoral boundaries, to keep a good roll was a great difficulty. How much greater became the difficulty when we found people shifted from one electorate to another, and instead of notifying the electoral registrar that they desired a transfer, just before the election they put their names down on the roll of a new district, but never removed their names from the roll of the old district. There would not be much difficulty in reorganising this department. If Mr. Connolly read the daily Press and the Governor's Speech, he would have seen that it was the intention of the Government to

amend the law relating to this matter as soon as possible. Only yesterday or the day before a select committee in another place brought up a report dealing with this question, and did not animadvert strongly on the conduct of the Electoral Department, but drew attention to the bad law and the conduct of the public.

HON. R. F. SHOLL: One could hardly blame the officers of the Electoral Department when Parliament passed faulty Acts. Bills were rushed through Parliament so hurriedly that it was no wonder they were faulty.

HON. R. D. MCKENZIE: There was a vote of £3,613 for the Observatory. How was this amount justified? In Queensland, where they had double the population we had in Western Australia, they had done away with the Observatory altogether; and in South Australia the work was done honorary.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Surely the member did not wish to return to the dark ages. Whether we should have had the Observatory in the first place or not was a moot point; but now we had an Observatory, and when we had in charge of that Observatory one of the foremost astronomers in Australia, it would be a retrograde step not to keep the Observatory going. He hoped the time was not far distant when the Federal Government would take over this institution. He would like to see a British federation of astronomical and scientific institutions. That would come about before long, and when it did the State would be relieved of this small expenditure. The Observatory was carrying out good meteorological work, which was distinctly useful.

HON. J. A. THOMSON: Had it increased the rainfall?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No; but it had shown where the rain did fall. A great deal of good was done in South Australia by the meteorological work there. The Surveyor General had, in a report, defined a line outside of which he advised settlers not to go. It was called the Goyder line of rainfall; and had the people of South Australia paid attention to that report, a great deal of money and misery would have been saved.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: Could not the amount for the Observatory be cut

down? There was a sum of £920 for contingencies; could not that be struck out? Was the country justified in spending money in keeping up beautiful gardens at the Observatory?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The item could not be reduced. He had looked keenly into the vote, and out of the amount for contingencies £220 was paid for meteorological instruments. Then incidentals included postages, stationery, and travelling. The astronomer, when he travelled, delivered lectures at various centres. The Observatory conducted an extensive correspondence, and the printing bill was heavy, as the reports of the institution had to be circulated throughout the world. The Observatory was needed in Perth for the purpose of the astrographic map of the heavens now being photographed nightly throughout the globe. Neglect to do our share of this work would be a bad advertisement for the State.

**HON. G. RANDELL** congratulated the Minister on cutting down expenditure for the Observatory, which was now economically managed. Something should be done, however, to clear from the western part of the grounds the unsightly and dangerous bush.

**HON. J. W. LANGSFORD:** Had the Government considered the need for higher education? Was any provision made for preparing State school pupils for the Adelaide University senior examination?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** Yes. For bursaries, a sum of £300 was provided, and £215 was expended last year. The bursaries enabled State school pupils between 14 and 16 years of age to continue their education past the seventh standard. Several of them had distinguished themselves at the examination to which the hon. member referred. The system should be extended.

Votes in Schedule for Mines and Railways, for Works, for Lands and Agriculture, for Commerce and Labour—agreed to.

Item—Advance to Treasurer, £150,000:

**HON. R. F. SHOLL:** Was this money advanced without legislative authority?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** No; it was voted in the general Estimates, to meet unforeseen expenditure.

By the last Audit Act, Form J was abolished. During one year the Form J expenditure exceeded £700,000, and it frequently reached £300,000. That was thought to give the Treasurer too much license; hence the advance of £150,000, which must not be exceeded without parliamentary authority.

**HON. R. F. SHOLL:** Since the present Government took office there had been no Supply Bill. Money was spent without authority, and the Estimates were brought down subsequently. Was not this an absolute farce? Members talked to the galleries, but did not attend to the practical business side of politics. Parliamentary seemed to be surrendering control of the public purse.

**HON. M. L. MOSS (Minister):** Surely neither House of Parliament could complain of the Government, who after being in office for a little over two months brought down the Estimates. Such expenditure as was necessary to carry on the services of the country was made strictly in accordance with the Audit Act, on Government warrants, and was strictly scrutinised, first by the individual Minister, then by Cabinet, and finally by the Executive Council.

**HON. R. F. SHOLL:** No doubt the Government had taken proper precautions; but why did they carry on without supply?

**HON. M. L. MOSS:** In past sessions the hon. member always complained of Supply Bills being brought in too late. However, the next session would open before the end of the financial year, and the hon. member could vote expenditure in advance.

Schedule put and passed.

**SCHEDULE C.—GENERAL LOAN FUND AND LOAN SUSPENSE ACCOUNT, total £799,603:**

Vote—*Departmental*, £51,540:

**HON. J. D. CONNOLLY** protested against the sum of £55,000 being spent out of Loan on rabbit-proof fencing, a non-productive work.

**HON. G. RANDELL:** Did these Estimates include expenditure on the proposed spur lines? If so, our consideration of the Railway Bills not yet introduced might be prejudiced.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: "There was no expenditure of the sort under "Departmental"; but even if there were, it could not prejudicially affect the consideration of the railway proposals.

Vote—*Railways, etc.*, £316,750:

HON. R. F. SHOLL: For additions and improvements to open railways, £90,000 was set apart. Parliament gave too much power to the Commissioner to spend money on open railways. Once built and equipped, a railway should be maintained out of revenue. One line appeared to have been duplicated out of loan funds. We were told that the railways paid interest and sinking fund, and a balance to consolidated revenue; but the balance was fictitious if loan moneys were spent on railways, and our railways were not paying. Without a schedule showing how the money was to be expended, he objected to the item, and to allowing the Minister or the Commissioner to spend loan money for such a purpose. Even rolling-stock might be purchased out of the amount. He moved—

That it be a suggestion to the Legislative Assembly that the vote be reduced by £90,000.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member was wrong in assuming that the Commissioner of Railways had power to spend this money; for by Section 17 of the Railways Act the expenditure was subject to Ministerial approval, and the expenditure of any considerable sum to approval of Cabinet. The money would not be spent on rolling-stock. The item was essentially business-like; for to improve the railways in order to earn more money, the Government were justified in increasing the capital cost. Among the works to be included were the subway at Fenian Crossing, improvements to Fremantle station yards, improvements to station yards on Great Southern Railway at Narrogin, Wagin, etc.; improvements to Perth station yards; and duplication of line from Chidlow's Well to Wooreloo.

HON. R. F. SHOLL: A railway had been duplicated without the consent of Parliament; and surely this would justify our striking out the item. He did not infer that the money would be used improperly to bolster up the net receipts

of the railways; nevertheless, by such expenditure of loan moneys our creditors and the public might be deceived. This could not have been done prior to 1896.

At 6-30, the CHAIRMAN left the Chair.  
At 7-30, Chair resumed.

HON. W. MALEY: This House should make some demonstration against the expenditure of large sums of money without proper authority. To come to the House after great works had been undertaken for a vote was making a farce of responsible Government.

Amendment put and negatived.

HON. W. T. LOTON: Under "Railways" there was an item of £5,000 for agricultural railways; and the explanation given was that the money was to be devoted to the commencement of constructing the Goomalling-Dowering Railway, Katauning-Kojonup Railway, and Wagin-Dumbleyung Railway. These works had not been authorised by Parliament, and no details had yet been placed before members. He moved—

That it be a suggestion to the Legislative Assembly that the vote be reduced by £5,000.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: If the Railway Bills which the Council expected to receive this evening did not pass, the item would be inoperative, and the money would not be expended.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: What about postponing the item.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There was nothing to be gained by such a course.

HON. W. T. LOTON: We could not pass a vote for the expenditure of money unless Parliament had authorised the work to be carried out.

HON. G. RANDELL: The Committee would be placed in a very peculiar position if the amount was not struck out. We knew nothing about the details of these railways, and it was a most extraordinary proceeding on the part of the Government to put an item on the Estimates when the works had not been considered. If the amount was left on and the Bills for the construction of the railways did not come from the Assembly, the House would be placed in a peculiar position. No harm could be done to the country if these railways were postponed till next session.



HON. W. MALEY: We had already passed many items involving a much larger amount and of graver importance than this item; and if members were prepared to strain at a gnat and swallow a camel, it would only make members appear ridiculous. Some expense had already been incurred in connection with these proposed railways. This money was for surveys and permanent expenses in connection with the lines. We would shortly have the Bills before us, and he thought members would be convinced of the importance of constructing these lines. It was to be hoped members would not jeopardize the future of Western Australia by refusing to pass the Bills.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY failed to see the necessity for striking the amount out.

HON. G. RANDELL: Members must know there were on all Loan Estimates large amounts of unexpended balances which were reappropriated. As to striking out of the amount, the object could be achieved if we postponed the consideration of the item until the Railway Bills had been discussed.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

That the Railways vote be postponed until after the discussion of the Railway Bills.

Motion passed and the Railways vote postponed.

Vote—*Harbour and River Improvements*, £34,528:

HON. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: There was an item of £5,000 for the Fremantle dock and slip. Was this amount for preliminary expenses in connection with a dock at Fremantle, which he did not think was necessary? He protested against the item at the present juncture, for there was no necessity to go in for a dock. The present slip was sufficient for all requirements. The slip had carried the vessel that ran to Geraldton. He moved—

That it be a suggestion to the Legislative Assembly that the vote be reduced by £5,000.

HON. R. D. MCKENZIE: What was the £5,000 to be expended on?

HON. M. L. MOSS: The amount was for the purpose of dredging a site for a

floating dock. He believed the "Julia Percy" was a boat of about 400 or 500 tons, and the slip was capable of docking the "Julia Percy" but not of a boat of larger tonnage. When we talked of a dock at Fremantle we wanted one capable of taking a ship of 10,000 tons.

HON. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: When would it be used?

HON. M. L. MOSS: It was not intended to ask for this appropriation to provide a dock to take a ship such as the "Julia Percy." He personally was not in favour of a floating dock: he was of the same opinion as Captain Laurie. The people of Fremantle did not want a floating dock or a graving dock until the finances of the State would enable it to be built, and when the finances of the State permitted we wanted a graving dock at Fremantle and nothing else. A floating dock was an expedient resorted to when a graving dock could not be built. Mr. Fergusson, the secretary and civil engineer of the Wellington (New Zealand) harbour board, had visited various large ports throughout the world to report on the advisability of constructing a dock at Wellington, and he reported strongly and emphatically against a floating dock. The Government would make a serious blunder if a floating dock was persevered in. There was no necessity to vote on this item at all because it had already been struck out in another place. During the recess he hoped the Government would be able through their professional advisers to get information to justify the commencing of a graving dock, and such work must proceed as the harbour at Fremantle had proceeded, and the building extend over a number of years. In point of tonnage Fremantle stood third amongst the ports of Australia. The construction of a dock at Fremantle was a pressing necessity when the finances of the State would permit the work to be undertaken. Except at Singapore and the Cape there was no other port, certainly not on the west coast of Australia, where a ship could go for repair.

HON. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: What he had said about a graving dock was that at the present time the finances of the country were not able to stand the expense, and that the present slip would answer for all requirements. Fremantle

was only a port of call for the larger boats coming from England and elsewhere. The terminal port was Sydney.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: This item seemed altogether out of order. We were asked to consider the Appropriation Bill, and the schedule provided a grant of £84,528 for harbour and river improvements, yet the Minister said that the amount was £5,000 less. Was this procedure constitutional?

Amendment (suggested reduction) put and passed.

Vote — *Development of Agriculture*, £104,784:

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY again protested against spending loan moneys on the rabbit-proof fence and other non-productive works. It was said that a previous Government did this; but that Government was rejected by the country.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The fence had to be built, and was to some extent reproductive because it protected the State revenue, rendering the land more likely to be settled. Anyone who had seen a country devastated by rabbits would admit that work which kept them out was reproductive. We had already spent out of loan £330,000 on public buildings.

HON. G. RANDELL: In a State with a widely-scattered population the demands on revenue were heavy; but spending loan money on public buildings and rabbit-proof fences was bad, and to avoid it we should strain ourselves to the utmost. The principle was altogether wrong, and we ought to face the difficulty instead of postponing it.

Vote—*Public Buildings*, £70,000:

HON. R. F. SHOLL moved an amendment—

That it be a suggestion to the Legislative Assembly that the vote be struck out.

The bulk of the works in the loan schedule were not reproductive, and should be paid for out of revenue. Hitherto the bulk of our loan works were reproductive. Most members doubtless agreed with him, but might not have the courage of their opinions.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY protested against the vote. It was almost a rule with previous Governments to construct

public buildings out of revenue. He questioned the accuracy of the Minister's statement that £330,000 of loan moneys had been spent on public buildings. The sum spent did not amount to half that.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The information was given him by the Treasurer.

HON. R. D. MCKENZIE supported the amendment. The buildings would not be reproductive. To-day the Minister for Works informed him that the total expended on public buildings since responsible Government was about £130,000. Probably the Treasurer included in the £330,000 public buildings of a reproductive nature.

HON. G. RANDELL: Fortunately there was no Loan Bill this session; for if such a Bill were sent to England with these works in the schedule, serious reflections would be made by financiers on our methods of doing business. In the circumstances, he would not oppose the vote.

HON. R. F. SHOLL: What was the difference whether the items were scheduled in a Loan Bill or placed in the Loan Estimates, when we were spending loan moneys? If even one member supported him, he would divide the House.

HON. M. L. MOSS: With the shrinkage in revenue owing to uniform Customs duties, it was impossible to build out of revenue many works so constructed in the past. The buildings in question were schools and the Claremont hospital for the insane, which latter would absorb more than half the vote. Surely no one desired that the insane should continue at Fremantle, huddled together without classification or proper treatment, and without possibility of cure. Yet the new hospital must be constructed out of loan, or not at all. The general Estimates had been twice cut down; and money could not be found out of revenue for these works.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: The revenue of the country was not so small that £35,000 could not be found for an asylum.

HON. M. L. MOSS: True; the building should have been constructed long before the Mint or Parliament Houses were constructed; and this vote was not inserted without considerable protest in Cabinet. But members would pass the money if they read the reports of the

Inspector-General of the Insane for the last three years.

HON. G. RANDELL: Had the Minister considered the effect of this on the London money market?

HON. M. L. MOSS: There was not much cause for alarm, considering the large proportion of our buildings constructed out of revenue. It was impossible at present to avoid such an expenditure from loan, unless taxation were greatly increased. We could not postpone the new asylum until it could be built out of revenue; and the same applied to the schools.

HON. R. LAURIE: While objecting to constructing buildings out of loan, he agreed that in our present financial position it was impossible to complete out of revenue the Claremont hospital for the insane; and anyone visiting the Fremantle asylum, and hearing the cries of the patients, would withdraw the protest, in itself legitimate, against building the new asylum out of loan.

HON. J. A. THOMSON supported the amendment. It was altogether wrong to borrow money for reproductive works and afterwards employ it on unproductive buildings, whether asylums or schools.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: These buildings must undoubtedly be erected. The Fremantle Asylum had for many years been congested; and a little later than the 30th June next the Claremont hospital would provide accommodation for 100 lunatics, thus lessening the congestion at Fremantle and treating the patients with some degree of humanity. The Fremantle Asylum was now more of a gaol than a hospital.

HON. J. A. THOMSON: The Government, in framing the Estimates, should have provided for that extra accommodation; and if money were not available, should have introduced proposals for extra taxation.

HON. J. W. LANGSFORD: This was one of the best methods of investing loan moneys. Public schools would ultimately return to the State much more than their cost; and even the Claremont hospital was a good investment, and would show to the world our regard for the insane.

HON. E. M. CLARKE supported the vote. It was idle to say that our loan money must be spent exclusively on

reproductive works. A lunatic asylum was absolutely necessary, as the lack of accommodation had been a disgrace for years.

HON. E. McLARTY strongly disapproved of borrowing money for public buildings; but this case was exceptional. The condition of the patients at Fremantle should be improved without delay; in several districts schools were overcrowded; and we could not afford to neglect the education of children till we could spare the money from revenue. This was an exceptional case. The interest would be under £3,000 a year, and the State was justified in incurring the expenditure.

HON. G. RANDELL: Although feeling strongly on this question, he could not vote for the striking out of the item. It was undesirable to use loan moneys for such purposes, and he hoped when Parliament met again the Government would have gone into the financial position of the country, and so arranged the finances that loan moneys would not be used for this purpose in the future. It was an obligation on the Government to see that the accounts were kept square. The only legitimate use for loan money was for works in the shape of railways.

HON. V. HAMERSLEY supported the amendment. This was undoubtedly a new departure. It was a serious matter indeed when we found the finances of the country not able to bear the strain of ordinary works, when for years past we had erected buildings of this class out of revenue. There was an inclination to draw a red-herring across the trail by mentioning the institution for the insane at Fremantle.

HON. M. L. MOSS: It was more than half the amount.

HON. V. HAMERSLEY: Then it might be possible to reduce the amount by half. Good would result from the discussion.

HON. W. T. LOTON: A strong protest had been made against the expenditure of loan moneys for works which were generally known to be unproductive, but the principle with every Government had been whittled away. Anyone who looked into the position of the loan expenditure would find that nearly four-fifths of the loan money had been expended on works that were not reproductive. He was

in accord with the strong protest made, but we were in this position, that the Estimates in chief had been passed, and we knew that unless these particular works were undertaken out of loan moneys they could not be undertaken at all at present. Were members prepared to say that the extension of school buildings in various parts of the country should remain in abeyance and that no farther provision should be made for them because we could not spend this small amount out of loan? On this occasion it would be pushing the matter too far to carry the amendment. It was to be hoped Mr. Sholl would see his way clear to withdraw it.

HON. R. F. SHOLL: There was not the slightest intention of withdrawing the amendment. A red-herring had been drawn across the track by bringing up the home for lunatics, and appealing to the feelings of members so that we should carry a vote that ought not to be placed in a Loan Bill. Twelve or thirteen years ago he was a member of a committee that recommended to the Government the advisability of making suitable provision for the lunatics. Year after year a protest had been made to every Government, but nothing had been done. Instead of deficits we had had surpluses in the past, and money was wasted by thousands of pounds. Through the carelessness on the part of the Legislature the Government had been spending money illegally, and now they had to fall back on loan funds to balance accounts; for this money had already been expended. The Boulder Technical School was built; the Old Men's Dépôt had been built, but the Government accepted a contract to build the home, and did not provide accommodation for superintendent and attendants. The Government required a little money for those additions. Let the Government take into consideration the enormous amount of expenditure and cut down, and they would find money for these buildings. It would be better to build up a deficit to the extent of £70,000 next year than erect those buildings out of loan.

HON. J. A. THOMSON: It had been pointed out by Mr. Loton and others that the Government had sent an ultimatum to the Council that if members did not pass the item the onus would be thrown

on this House; that there would be no extra provision for schools or an institution for the insane. The Government had no right to tell members anything of the kind.

HON. W. T. LOTON had never made use of any expression as to the Government sending down an ultimatum.

HON. J. A. THOMSON agreed that it was inadvisable to expend loan money on unproductive works, but these works were of a desirable nature, and in the circumstances the Government could not arrange matters otherwise. As to the item for the construction of a lunatic asylum at Fremantle, some years ago the Government purchased the Whitby Falls estate for a lunatic asylum, but it seemed that the Whitby Falls site was not suitable. That place might be sold, and the proceeds devoted towards the erection of an asylum somewhere else. He could not vote for the striking out of the item.

HON. G. RANDELL said he would vote with the Government on this, not so much because of the urgency of the case, although he realised that there was a necessity for the buildings, for he had always been a friend of State education, and he was pleased to see schools erected. He would vote for the item because he realised the Government had not been in power long enough to alter the present state of affairs.

HON. S. J. HAYNES was in accord with the protest entered, for it was not right to spend loan moneys on works of this description; but after hearing the expression of opinion from several members with respect to the urgency of a building for the insane, and that the Government had cut down the expenditure as closely as possible, he would vote for the item. He hoped the Government would be impressed with the necessity of good administration in the future. We certainly wanted administration rather than legislation, and he trusted the Government would earn great laurels in the future by careful and economic administration. There was room for economy, which could be effected without doing an injustice to the civil servants. There were many channels in which money could be saved. The time to deal with these matters was when the Government brought down their next Estimates. Then members could see whether the

Government kept the loan expenditure within constitutional limits.

HON. R. LAURIE: The proper time to have entered a protest against this expenditure was on the vote for the rabbit-proof fence. A great portion of this vote had not been spent by the present Government.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	7
Noes	...	...	...	14

Majority against ... 7

AYES.	NOES.
Hon. T. F. O. Brimage	Hon. E. M. Clarke
Hon. J. D. Connolly	Hon. J. W. Hackett
Hon. R. D. McKenzie	Hon. S. J. Haynes
Hon. R. F. Sholl	Hon. W. Kingsmill
Hon. C. Sommers	Hon. Z. Lane
Hon. J. A. Thomson	Hon. J. W. Laingford
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. R. Laurie
(Teller).	Hon. W. T. Loton
	Hon. E. McLarty
	Hon. M. L. Moss
	Hon. G. A. Piesse
	Hon. Sir G. Shenton
	Hon. C. Sommers
	Hon. C. E. Dempster
	(Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: When the item of £5,000 for preliminary works in connection with the Fremantle dock and slip was being considered, he received a Message from the Assembly saying that this item had been struck out. That was incorrect, for he afterwards found that the part struck out was the words explaining that the vote was for the commencement of dredging a site for the floating dock. Those words were struck out to give the Government more freedom in expending the £5,000, which would be used in prosecuting farther inquiries, the Government not yet being wedded to either a floating dock or a graving dock.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Would Parliament be consulted before it was decided to proceed with the work?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Certainly. This Bill must be recommitted to reinstate the £5,000. Owing to the objection by Mr. Loton and other members to pass the Railways vote till after the consideration of the Railway Bills expected from another place, we must now report progress and ask leave to sit again at the next sitting.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

## BILL—LAND ACT AMENDMENT.

### AMENDMENT CONSIDERED.

Schedule of one amendment made by the Council, and not agreed to by the Assembly, now reconsidered in Committee.

No. 2—Clause 7, insert the following words at the beginning of the clause: "On and after the first day of March, 1906":

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

That the Council's amendment be not insisted on.

When the Bill was under discussion Mr. Maley secured an amendment of the clause so as to give notice to intending settlers that half the survey fees were to be charged. With this end the operation of the clause was postponed till the date mentioned. There was, however, no fear that new settlers would suffer. The Minister for Lands stated that over a month ago orders were sent by cable cancelling those parts of the notices which stated that surveys were free. The Assembly, in the reasons for disagreeing with the amendment, stated that such an amendment would give an excellent opportunity for the land speculator to take up land under present conditions, with a view to disposing of it after the amendment came into force; and that no reference to free surveys had been made in any recent departmental pamphlet; consequently, there was little probability of anyone coming to the State under a misapprehension of the terms on which land was granted.

HON. W. MALEY: Such subtle reasons as those furnished by the Assembly would hardly occur to anyone in this Chamber, nor would members here be influenced by a desire to make a profit of £20 on an average selection. Apparently hon. members in another place thought that they were protecting the State from fraud. The object of the amendment was that, as the fees would hamper settlement, the operation of the clause should be postponed so as to defer the evil day, and allow *bona fide* settlement to take place.

HON. C. A. PIESSE: Would the clause affect people whose applications were already approved, but whose lands were not surveyed?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No.

Question passed, the amendment not insisted on.

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

#### BILL—BREAD ACT AMENDMENT.

##### HOLIDAYS FOR CARTERS.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and on motion by HON. M. L. MOSS read a first time.

##### SECOND READING.

HON. M. L. MOSS (Minister): I move the second reading of this Bill. It is not a Government measure, but was introduced by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Bath) in another place. He has asked the Government to take up the measure here, and we have much pleasure in so doing. This small Bill has been sought, I am informed, by the master bakers of Perth and Fremantle, and by their employees. The object of the Bill is set forth in Clause 2, which provides that on every third Wednesday in every calendar month, any person carrying on the business of a baker or seller of bread shall not deliver, or permit any person employed by him to deliver, that bread to the consumer's house. The places of business of the bakers will remain open in the ordinary course, and bread can be procured at the establishment or premises of the vendors. I believe that Mr. Randell has an amendment which will provide that the holiday shall not be observed in case one or more public holidays during the month have been observed by bread-carters. By Clause 3 the Bill will be of limited application, being operative only within a radius of 14 miles from the General Post Office.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: If it be good in principle, why not apply it to the whole of the State?

HON. M. L. MOSS: If the hon. member chooses to move in that direction, let him do so.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: I am not introducing the Bill.

HON. M. L. MOSS: I am introducing the Bill as it stands, and do not wish to extend its operation. The Premier stated in another place that he had no objection

to the measure; and he has asked me to pilot it through this House.

HON. S. J. HAYNES (South-East): I am surprised to hear that the Premier has taken over such a trumpety Bill, one of the most ridiculous that could be brought before a Legislature, and at a time when we are working at high pressure with a view to disposing of business. The Bill provides that it shall be unlawful, on the third Wednesday of every calendar month, for any person carrying on the business of a baker or seller of bread to sell or deliver, or employ any person to sell or deliver bread, elsewhere than in the shop or premises of such first-mentioned person.

HON. W. MALEY: Why not make it every Wednesday?

HON. S. J. HAYNES: If it is wrong to do that, how much more wrongful is it to deliver from a hotel a bottle of whisky up to 11 o'clock at night? It will be an offence even to take a loaf of bread from a baker's shop to a starving man. If this is the class of legislation to be put on the statute-book of Western Australia, the sooner we emigrate to other places the better. I have much pleasure in moving, though I regret the occasion for moving—

That the word "now" be struck out, and "this day six months" inserted in lieu.

HON. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan): I think it my duty to state on behalf of the master bakers that they have no objection to the Bill, so long as the proviso they have handed to me is added to Clause 2. Of course, whether that shall be added is for the House to decide. Personally I have some sympathy with a monthly holiday for men engaged in a very arduous occupation.

HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: The work is not very hard.

HON. G. RANDELL: I think it is. The hours are long. To that extent I sympathise with the Bill; and if the proviso which I have been asked to move is attached to the clause, I understand that there will be no objection from the masters or the men. The proviso is as follows:—"Provided that if one or more public holidays occur in any one month, and such day or days are granted as holidays to bread-carters, no holiday on the third Wednesday of such month

shall be granted." If the Bill passes without this proviso, I am informed that it will be a source of considerable inconvenience and loss to the master bakers. Of course there will be no need to move my amendment if the House rejects the Bill. I confess that this class of legislation is not very acceptable to hon. members; but I cannot help expressing the opinion that there is some reason for giving a monthly holiday to bread-carters.

HON. J. W. LANGSFORD (Metropolitan-Suburban): I shall support the second reading, yet shall support in Committee any reasonable amendments which will meet the requirements of the public. I understand that the only holidays which the bread-carters have are Christmas Day, Good Friday, and of course Sundays. They do not get any of the public holidays.

HON. R. F. SHOLL (North): It is a great pity that a measure of this sort should be placed on the statute-book; and I am surprised at the Government for fathering the Bill. I believe that this holiday is already provided for by an award of the Arbitration Court. At any rate, it is purely a matter of agreement between employers and employees. I suppose that next time we shall have a Bill declaring a holiday for butchers' carters; so that in the middle of summer we shall have to order enough meat for two days, with the probability of going for one day without meat.

HON. M. L. MOSS: The third Wednesday is in order to enable bakers' carters to have one day at home.

HON. R. F. SHOLL: Better let them have a night at home instead of a day. I shall certainly support the rejection of the Bill.

HON. E. McLARTY (South-West): I certainly think this one of the most stupid Bills ever introduced to the House. The Bill will get no support from me. I take it that the bakers have Sundays to themselves—the day that the Lord has set apart for rest; and possibly they have part of some other days, such as Saturday. How many more days are required? And why should we legislate for one class of the community and not for all? Why should not farm labourers have one holiday in the month? They are content to

work six days a week, and do not even have the Wednesday half-holiday which is enjoyed in towns. We agriculturists work from Monday morning till Saturday night, and are thankful if we can occasionally get Sunday free from work and anxiety. I am utterly opposed to this sort of legislation, and will not give it any support whatever. I do not know why bakers should have a Bill to give them one day's holiday a month, rather than butchers, grocers, or any other section of the community.

HON. W. MALEY (South-East): Allowing that this is a step in the right direction, which it may or may not be according to the standpoint from which it is viewed, the Bill does not go far enough. If we are to have a time of rest in the metropolitan area, I think we had better take an absolute rest. In some parts of Western Australia, in the early days, customers had to go to the store to get their goods, taking with them a basin to bring back the butter or the sugar. Fully to carry out the intention of the Bill, I think it would be well to strike out a few words in Clause 2, so that it should read: "It shall be unlawful for any person carrying on the business of a baker or seller of bread to sell or deliver or employ any person to sell or deliver bread, elsewhere than in the shop or premises of such first-mentioned person." If that were passed, we should not have to remember whether any given Wednesday were the first or the third in the month, but we should have to go every day to buy our own bread at the shop. Then, I think, everybody, including the members of the House which passed this Bill, will be satisfied that the bread-carter has got a sufficient rest.

HON. C. SOMMERS (North-East): I oppose the Bill. In my early childhood I was taught to pray that my daily bread should be given to me. If this Bill passes, on the third Wednesday in every month that bread will not be given to me. I shall have to go for it.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	5
Noes	...	...	...	17
				—
Majority against	...	...	...	12

AYES.  
 Hon. W. Kingsmill  
 Hon. J. W. Langsford  
 Hon. M. L. Moss  
 Hon. G. Randell  
 Hon. C. A. Fiesse  
 (Teller).

NOES.  
 Hon. H. Briggs  
 Hon. T. F. O. Brimage  
 Hon. E. M. Clarke  
 Hon. J. D. Connolly  
 Hon. J. W. Hackett  
 Hon. V. Hamersley  
 Hon. S. J. Haynes  
 Hon. Z. Lane  
 Hon. B. Laurie  
 Hon. W. T. Loton  
 Hon. W. Maley  
 Hon. E. McLarty  
 Hon. R. D. McKenzie  
 Hon. R. F. Sholl  
 Hon. C. Sommers  
 Hon. J. A. Thomson  
 Hon. C. E. Dempster  
 (Teller).

Question thus negatived.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I regret having to ask members again to incommode themselves somewhat by sitting on a day which is not one of the regular sitting days of the House. However, I am sure members will recognise that I do so with the object of concluding as early as possible the business of the session. I therefore move that the House at its rising do adjourn till 11 o'clock tomorrow forenoon. I hope members will attend in large numbers in order that the somewhat important business to be brought before us may be discussed by as many members as possible.

Question passed.

The House adjourned accordingly at 9-30 o'clock, until the next forenoon.

## Legislative Assembly,

Friday, 22nd December, 1905.

Questions: Narrogin, Clerk of Courts	841
Day Labour in Public Works	841
Unemployed at Fremantle	842
Judicial Appointments (Chief Justice)	842
Bills: Bread Act Amendment (carters' holidays)	
3a.	842
Land Act Amendment, Council's amendments	842
Railways Bills (spur lines), three Bills discussed conjointly on 2a.	843
No. 1, Wagin-Dumbleyung in Com., reported; 3a. postponed	899
No. 2, Katanning-Kojonup, all stages passed	902
No. 3, Goomalling-Dowerin, 2a., 3a. passed	903
Metropolitan Waterworks Act Amendment (extension of supply), 2a. debated, Com., 3a. passed	903

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 2-30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: Report of Governors of the High School, 1905-6.

By the MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND LABOUR: Report by the Chief Inspector of Factories on the working of the Early Closing Act, the Seats for Shop Assistants Act, and the Employment Brokers Act.

#### QUESTION—NARROGIN CLERK OF COURTS.

MR. COWCHER asked the Premier: 1, Does the Government intend to appoint a clerk of courts at Narrogin? 2, If so, when?

THE PREMIER replied: The Government is aware that the present arrangements as to the clerk of courts' work at Narrogin are unsatisfactory. The Government intends to so arrange matters, inter-departmentally, that in future the work will be performed by a capable officer always available in office hours. With this end in view, the Public Service Commissioner will probably visit this and other southern districts during the month of January.

#### QUESTION—DAY LABOUR IN PUBLIC WORKS.

MR. BATH asked the Minister for Works: 1, Is it his intention to alter the system adopted in the erection of the Hospital for the Insane from day labour to contract? 2, If so, why?