

Question put and passed.  
Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etcetera.*

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

Read a third time and passed.

## ADJOURNMENT — DATE OF PROROGATION.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It would be well to remind members that the House would meet again on Monday at 4.30 o'clock, p.m. In all probability Parliament would be prorogued on Tuesday.

*House adjourned at 11.40 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Friday, 17th December, 1909.*

	PAGE
Questions: Railways, Special trains	2354
Railway Footbridge, William Street	2354
Railway Station, Fremantle, Vehicular traffic	2354
Bills: Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act	
Amendment, 1st stages	2355
Transfer of Land Act Amendment, 3a	2356
Commonwealth Enabling, 2a	2356
Permanent Reserve Rededication (No. 2), 2a, Com., 8a	2359
Fisheries Act Amendment, Council's Message	2362
District Fire Brigades, Council's requests	2364
Interpretation Act Amendment, 2a, Com., 8a	2367
Agricultural Bank Act Amendment, Council's Message	2370
Annual Estimates, Votes and Items discussed, concluded	2371
Supplementary Estimates	2413
Adjournment, Date of Prorogation	2417

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

## QUESTION—RAILWAYS, SPECIAL TRAINS.

Mr. SWAN (for Mr. Horan) asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Under what circumstances was the amount of £330

10s. 1d., as shown on page 221 of Auditor General's report for 1909 on account of special trains, written off as irrecoverable? 2, To whom were these services rendered?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: In connection with the military encampment held at Tammin at Easter, 1909, under special arrangement with the Defence Department, a lump sum contract was made for all railway transport service. Debits were raised in the ordinary manner and the amount specified, being the difference between the lump sum and the actual debits, namely, £214 6s. 7d., was written off. The lump sum was all the money the Defence Department had for this purpose. The charge of £69 6s. in connection with the visit of a Parliamentary party was for a special train from Katanning to Beverley, and half cost of special train (£47 17s. 6d.) run from Perth to Kalgoorlie in connection with the visit of the Premier of New South Wales and other distinguished visitors. The cost of these services was at first debited, but it was decided subsequently that no charge should be made.

## QUESTION—RAILWAY FOOTBRIDGE, WILLIAM STREET.

Mr. JACOBY (for Mr. Brown) asked the Minister for Railways: In view of the Railway Department having removed the footbridge over the railway at William-street, Perth, without the consent, and greatly to the inconvenience, of the public, whereby the public were deprived of direct means of crossing the railway, do the Government intend to restore the overhead footbridge or to construct a subway?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: It is not the intention of the Government to construct a footbridge or subway at William-street.

## QUESTION—RAILWAY STATION, FREMANTLE, VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

Mr. ANGWIN asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is the Minister aware that preferential treatment is granted to a

person licensed by the Railway Department to ply for hire a "motor car" on railway premises, by placing the motor car adjoining, and in close proximity to, the railway gates at the Fremantle passenger station? 2, Will the Minister issue such instructions that this motor car shall be placed under similar conditions as other licensed vehicles that are granted licenses to ply for hire at the Fremantle station by the Railway Department, and take its stand on the opposite side of the road?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Pending the issue of licenses, the stationmaster at Fremantle allowed the motor car to stand in front of the railway station. This position was selected not from any preferential point of view, but because it was considered unsafe to allow the motor car to stand among the cabs, owing to the risk of horses being frightened. 2, Arrangements are now being made for the motor car to stand on the opposite side of the road, away from the cabs.

#### BILL—INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION ACT AMENDMENT.

##### *All stages.*

Introduced by the Attorney General and read a first time.

##### *Second Reading.*

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. J. L. Nanson) in moving the second reading said: I may explain that the object of this Bill is to enable the Arbitration Court to make an award dealing with the employment of apprentices. This is effected by adding to the definition of "industrial matters" a paragraph which members will see deals with the persons who may take or become apprentices; the number of apprentices that may be taken by any one employer; the mode of binding apprentices; the terms and conditions of apprenticeship; the registration of apprentices; the examination of apprentices; the rights, duties, and liabilities of the parties to any agreement of apprenticeship; the assigning or turning over of apprentices; and the dissolution of ap-

prenticeships. On all these matters the court will be able to make an award. If this Bill becomes law "industrial matters" in future will include those questions relating to apprentices. This Bill is introduced at the request of the Arbitration Court, and I do not anticipate that it will meet with the opposition of either side of the House. I beg to move—

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

Mr. BATH (Brown Hill): I am very glad the Attorney General has introduced this measure because it is one which has been found through the operations of the Arbitration Court to be absolutely necessary. If there is one thing essential here, as in other parts of Australia, it is that we should give to those who will be our future artisans, carrying on our industries, a full training in their trade. This fact has been borne in upon the Arbitration Court by practical experience gained from the cases brought before them. They have found that our own workmen have been passed over simply because other countries are ahead of Australia, owing to the fact that they ensure to those growing up who work in the various trades a full grounding in the practical and technical side of their work. Some employers have pointed out that they have engaged these workers from other countries, not because there was any preference to outsiders or because they accepted lower wages, but because they had a full knowledge of their trade. We are now on the very threshold of industrial life in this State. Industrial undertakings are bound to grow with our agricultural and mining development, and we want to ensure that our youths, when they grow up, will be able to compete successfully with the skilled workers from other parts of the world. I am very glad we have this Bill which will confer upon the Arbitration Court the powers that they found to be absolutely necessary.

Mr. JACOBY (Swan): I join with the leader of the Opposition in supporting heartily this Bill. The measure will

relieve the position, as far as apprentices are concerned, very considerably. The position in the past has been that the Arbitration Court have made regulations with regard to the employment of apprentices, but that those regulations have not been availed of. The position of apprentices has been that the employers have taken on young fellows as apprentices, paying them apprenticeship wages, but instead of giving them a proper grounding in the trade, they have employed them for a comparatively short time, and then put others on in their place. The object of this Bill is to ensure that apprentices shall, in return for the services they render to their employers, receive a thorough grounding in their particular trade. That is quite impossible now owing to a deficiency in the Arbitration Court, and I am very glad this Bill is introduced to remedy the position.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

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

Read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

#### BILL—TRANSFER OF LAND ACT AMENDMENT.

Read a third time and returned to the Legislative Council with amendments.

#### BILL—COMMONWEALTH ENABLING.

*Second Reading.*

The PREMIER (Hon. N. J. Moore) in moving the second reading said: In introducing this short Bill of three clauses I am acting in accordance with certain resolutions passed by the Premiers' Conference in Melbourne in August of this year. These resolutions recognise the desirability of the States vesting in the Commonwealth certain powers in regard to industrial matters. The regulation of industrial disputes has been a matter which, under the Constitution Act, ap-

pertains to the States. With a view to securing, as far as possible, industrial peace, wages boards or arbitration courts have been established in the various States of the Commonwealth, with the exception of Tasmania. As a result of that Conference an assurance was given by the Premier of Tasmania that a measure would be introduced into the Tasmanian Parliament this session, with the object of bringing the industrial laws of that State into line with the laws of the mainland. With these courts or boards in operation in the various parts of the Commonwealth, the charge that the States are unequal to the responsibility cast upon them in this matter falls to the ground, and when the promised Bill passes in Tasmania the machinery for the adjusting of disputes in the various States will be practically complete. However, it is maintained that there are possibilities which might, at any time, take practical form, and might just as surely overtax the present State machinery. This, of course, is in reference to disputes which might occur in connection with matters not restricted to any one particular State, and in regard to which at the present time means are wanting to cope with the possible eventuality. This Bill is the result of an undertaking given by the various Premiers, that measures would be taken to vest certain powers in the Commonwealth Parliament in connection with these matters. The resolutions which were passed at the Conference were as follow:—

"1. It is desirable that each State should establish tribunals for regulating the conditions of labour in that State.

"2. That the jurisdiction and powers of each State industrial tribunal should be uniform as far as practicable.

"3. That to meet the case where it is proved that inter-State competition exists in industrial matters which is unfair, and the State tribunals have failed to grant relief, the Parliaments of the States should agree to vest the Commonwealth with the power to adjust the grievance complained of.

“4. When the Court of a State determines on complaint of an industrial tribunal that—

- (a.) Injury is caused to an industry carried on within that State;
- (b.) Such injury is caused by competition of persons engaged in the same industry in another adjoining State or States;
- (c.) Such injury is solely caused by the conditions of labour under which employees in the competing industry work;
- (d.) Such conditions, whilst making allowance for local circumstances, are unfair to the complaining State;
- (e.) The industrial tribunals of the States concerned have failed either jointly or by separate action to alter the conditions of labour which caused such injury;

such Court may order that the conditions which are the cause of the unfair competition shall be referred to a Commonwealth tribunal for adjustment.”

In pursuance of these resolutions a Bill was introduced into the Senate two or three months ago, the purport of which is to give powers to the Inter-State Commission to take up matters which might be referred to it by the various States in the event of a dispute arising. That Inter-State Commission Bill has not yet passed the second reading stage, but I deemed it advisable, in order to keep faith with the undertaking given, that this measure should, at least, be introduced here so that the House may have some idea as to its provisions. Owing to the fact that the Inter-State Commission Bill is not law, of course any measure we might pass would be inoperative until the Inter-State Commission Bill has secured the approval of both Houses of the Federal Parliament. Resolution No. 4 states concisely the nature of grievances which shall be the subject of appeal by the State to the Federal Court. I would like to make it clear

that by our concurrence in this proposal we by no means abrogate in favour of the Federal authorities those powers in connection with industrial legislation which we retain at the present time. There is no fear of encroachment by the Federal authorities upon awards of our own Arbitration Court that affect this State alone. Furthermore, the Federal Parliament cannot confer larger powers on the Inter-State Commission than this Parliament or any other State sees fit to confer upon it by the introduction of legislation. Clause 42 of the Inter-State Commission Bill provides that the Governor-General may, by proclamation apply this part of the Act to any State the Parliament of which has referred to the Parliament of the Commonwealth the matters dealt with in this part. Where, for instance, the cause of complaint is unfair disparity in wages, that question alone would be referred to the Commonwealth tribunal. No power is given to the Inter-State Commission to directly or indirectly review other conditions which might bear upon or be affected by the question of wages. In case of misunderstanding, I would like to say that the adoption of these proposals will not imply that a dead level of wages in any industry throughout the Commonwealth should be fixed. Clause 46 of the Inter-State Commission Bill reads as follows:—

“In exercising its powers under this part, the Commission shall make allowance for the difference of economic conditions in different parts of the Commonwealth and shall have due regard to the interests of producers, workers, and consumers, and of the public generally.”

Perhaps I can better illustrate the class of dispute to be referred to the Inter-State Commission by a fairly concrete illustration of the conditions of the boot trade as carried on respectively in Victoria and in New South Wales. In both these States the wages have been dealt with by their respective wages boards. If the same work were carried out by adult workers in both States there would be no cause of complaint, but the

work in Victoria can be carried on to a larger extent by apprentices than is possible under the awards in New South Wales. Here the element of unfair competition comes in. This was one of the cases quoted when the matter was being discussed at the Conference. It is one of those cases which the proposed Inter-State Commission will have power to rectify.

Mr. Holman: The Federal Court has made an award for that.

The PREMIER: I have no information about it.

Mr. Holman: Well, it has made an award for bootmakers.

The PREMIER: Then the dispute must have extended over more than one State.

Mr. Holman: How is the Commission to be constituted?

The PREMIER: Clause 44 provides that three members of the Inter-State Commission shall constitute the Court with assessors who shall be (a) a person nominated in the prescribed manner, in each State concerned, by employers in the industry; or, failing any such nomination, a person chosen by the Commission to represent the employers in that State. (b) A person nominated in the prescribed manner in each State concerned by employees in the industry; or, failing any such nomination, a person chosen by the Commission to represent the employees in that State. (c) Such other assessors as the Commission think fit. So there will be three members constituted by the Interstate Commission, and two nominated by, respectively, the employers and the employees. The measure is truly Federal in spirit because it aims at removing what may be causes of differences and misunderstandings between the various States and the Commonwealth. In order that Parliament may have an opportunity of conceding this power so far as Western Australia is concerned I move—

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

On motion by Mr. Bath debate adjourned.

## BILL—PERMANENT RESERVES REDEDICATION (No. 2).

### *Second Reading.*

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. J. Mitchell) in moving the second reading said: This Bill deals with Class A reserves and rededicates portion of them for other purposes. We seek to take portion of Reserve 4228A for the purpose of adding to the ground now occupied by the municipal electric lighting station at Claremont. The ground at present held by the municipality is too small and it is desired to add to the area in order that they may provide stabling and other accommodation. The municipality agree that the frontage shall be beautified by planting trees and putting down grass. We also seek to eliminate 13½ acres from reserve 1790A, Mount Barker, for the purpose of railway water supply. The area is required by the Railway Department, and the Commissioner of Railways has approached the local authority and obtained its consent. He is paying compensation for the improvements effected on the land to the extent of £100. The local authority agrees to the transfer and there really can be no objection, because 70 acres will remain for recreation purposes. At the request of the Greenmount Road Board we seek to take out 410 acres from Reserve 7537A, the National Park near Parkerville. This 410 acres will adjoin the York Road about a mile from Smith's Mill railway station. Portion of this 410 acres is suitable for cultivation for orchards. There is a great demand for small blocks in that locality and on the recommendation of the Surveyor General and at the request of the road board it has been determined to cut up this 410 acres into small blocks in order that they may be sold to purchasers who will use them for garden purposes. It is thought the land will be settled by workers in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Bath: How can you call that rededication?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: We revert it in the Crown and it can afterwards be dealt with. Reserve 11528A at Parkerville, containing 15 acres and set

inside for recreation purposes, really for picnic purposes, will be cancelled by the Bill. It is found that a larger block adjoining, with a frontage to the railway, and upon which there is a miniature waterfall with rapids, is a more suitable site for a picnic ground. The local governing body brought the matter before the Government and asked that the larger block might be substituted. The larger block contains 53 acres, so that we are adding to, instead of reducing a reserve in this case. It will be a better reserve, and the brook which runs parallel to the railway goes through the reserve, whereas the 15 acre reserve is not reached by the brook, and consequently is not so valuable a site for public purposes. We seek to take  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres from reserve 7077A at North Fremantle for Government Stores. With the erection of abattoirs and freezing works at North Fremantle it has been necessary to select another site for Government Stores and the Works Department have asked that a portion of this reserve be set aside for this purpose. I believe the site is eminently suitable for a building. It is where the stone was excavated for the North Mole. It was thought advisable to ask Parliament to consent to the elimination of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres from the reserve. In Committee I intend to move to amend the Bill at the request of the Bunbury Council. They have arranged with Mr. Beigel that a portion of recreation reserve 4191A should be sold to him. By some mistake Mr. Beigel's fence includes a portion of the reserve representing an area of one perch. The local authorities desire the Government to make it possible for Mr. Beigel to purchase this one perch, so that certain improvements made by him on the area may be protected. I move—

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

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

Mr. Daglish in the Chair; the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

#### Clause 3—Change of purpose of portion of Reserve 7537A:

Mr. JOHNSON: If this portion of the National Park was to be cut up and sold in the way the Minister indicated the clause could not be supported. The Minister had been originally asked to excise the land from the National Park and cut it up into working men's blocks. As there was no desire that working men should take up these blocks with the idea of making a living on them, only small blocks were necessary. The desire was that they should reside on them while working elsewhere.

Mr. JACOBY: Previously a number of blocks were thrown open in that district as working men's blocks, but they were taken up by people who were not bona fide working men, and taken up at prices below the value for the purpose of speculating in them. If we could insist that the blocks were only utilised for the purpose of bona fide working men, it would be well to carry out the idea. Perhaps the Minister would look into the matter and see whether he could reserve a portion of this ground for the use of workmen.

Mr. SCADDAN: The Minister should have provided members with plans of the locality. We should retain several pieces of land for a national park for the future. There was no doubt as Perth extended the people would require to go to the hills for health purposes. The Minister should explain what portion of the national park it was proposed to cancel.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Being acquainted with the genesis of this request it might be stated that the locality was badly off for water. Some time ago a proposition was put before the Goldfields Water Supply Administration to reticulate this area. The rateable value of that locality was insufficient to pay reasonable interest on the cost of an installation, and on that account it was suggested two years ago that this area, which was only a small portion of the national park, should be cut up by the Government and sold in order to increase the rating value of that district and render it possible to give the people there, many of whom were working people, an efficient

water supply. The property should therefore be sold on the very best possible terms.

Mr. Scaddan: Is the roads board rating on the unimproved or the capital value?

The HONORARY MINISTER: On the unimproved value.

Mr. Scaddan: Then it will not affect it.

Mr. JACOBY: There were five or six small townships in the district which had not been able to raise sufficient funds to secure an adequate water supply. The cutting up of the park and the sale of portion of it would enable the Minister to guarantee a supply from Mundaring. Settlement was what was wanted there.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The proposal would not interfere with the utility of the park. The greater portion of the park was to the north of the railway line. It could not be seen how speculation could take place in connection with these working men's blocks as some members seemed to fear because they had to perform residence conditions for the first five years, and for nine months of each year the holders would be compelled to reside on the land. The clause might be allowed to pass.

Mr. SCADDAN: The Minister should have provided a proper lithograph of the district. It was a serious question when we started cutting up our national parks. There seemed to be some doubt as to where this portion of the park was.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The portion which it was proposed to sell adjoined the York Road, and the Government had reserved all the land to the north of the Eastern Goldfields line.

Mr. SCADDAN: The national park as a whole crossed the railway line, but the portion it was proposed to subdivide was the south-east corner of it. The Minister had stated it was to the north of the railway line.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I said that the whole reserve was to the north of the railway line, but that the portion it was proposed to cancel was the south-eastern corner.

Mr. SCADDAN: At any rate it was unfair to ask members to agree to the

Bill without supplying them with a lithograph so that they might see what they were doing. What would happen would be that people would know these blocks were of some value and there would be speculation in them. If they were cut up and given to men who would reside there, it would be better for the district as a whole. One of the conditions was residence. If land was put under the hammer the highest bidder would get it. The working man of the district who had been clamouring for land ought to receive some consideration.

Mr. JOHNSON: This national park included an area of 11,000 acres and the small portion taken from it would not do much harm. The Minister proposed to reserve a certain portion of the land when cut up as working men's blocks, to give those in the locality an opportunity of securing them, and if the Minister gave that assurance he had no further objection to offer.

The Minister for Lands: I have said so.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 4 and 5—agreed to.

New Clause:

The MINISTER FOR LANDS moved—

*That the following be added as a new clause:—"All that portion of permanent reserve A (broad arrow) 4991, known as Bunbury Town Lot 363, situated east of a line extending 31deg. 29 min. from the north-west corner of Bunbury Town Lot 352 to the western boundary of Russell Esplanade, is excluded from the said reserve and re-vested in His Majesty."*

Mr. JOHNSON: We ought to have some reason given why this had been taken out of a permanent reserve and was to be re-vested in His Majesty. It was to be hoped that the land was to be used for some public purpose, and not vested in the Government so that they might hand it over to someone else.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: This amendment was made at the request of the Bunbury municipal council. A Mr. Beigel effected some improvements on a portion of the land, the Bunbury Coun-

cil had asked that that portion be excised from the reserve so that it could be sold to Mr. Beigel and he would be protected. The buildings had been erected on the land in error. The Bunbury council were mostly concerned and they asked that this clause should be inserted so that Mr. Beigel might be protected. It was a one hundred and sixteenth part of an acre and was taken from a reserve of 28 acres. It was done at the request of the Bunbury council who should know what they were doing. The Bunbury council said it would not interfere with the reserve and the Premier, who knew the place, said that that was so.

Mr. HAYWARD knew this reserve; taking this little portion away would not inconvenience the public. It was on the sea beach and could not be utilised in any way. The inhabitants of Bunbury, one and all, were in favour of it.

Mr. SWAN: If the Government took up the attitude that anyone could build on a public reserve, and then the Government were to bring in a Bill that the person should take over the portion of the reserve built upon, it was time we took the matter in hand. It was a very unsound principle.

Mr. JOHNSON: Were the Committee to understand that there was a certain public reserve in Bunbury, and a person of the name of Beigel had improved a portion of the reserve which was adjoining his private property; that because he had improved it, it was proposed to cut off the improved portion of the reserve and hand it over to Mr. Beigel at his price? It was a dangerous precedent because there was a possibility of other people following this example, and it precluded public competition.

The Honorary Minister: Only one perch.

Mr. JOHNSON: The smallness of the area prevented public competition, it was a dangerous proposal.

Mr. GEORGE quite agreed that the principle was absolutely wrong but he understood there had been some error in laying out the buildings in connection with Mr. Beigel's house, and he had en-

croached on the reserve; it was a mistake that had been made and did not make any difference to anybody.

Mr. JOHNSON: Was it his garden or buildings that encroached?

Mr. GEORGE believed it was the building.

Mr. Scaddan: Was there a litho. showing how the buildings were situated?

Mr. GEORGE: The principle was wrong, we could not sanction it as a general thing, but in this case, as a mistake had been made, he could not see any objection. If the Committee were not satisfied then the matter could be postponed and brought up next session.

Mr. SWAN: If this was a wrong principle then why should the member for Murray be prepared to vote for it? We had not sufficient detail to allow us to depart from any principle.

Mr. HAYWARD: This reserve was half a mile from any of Mr. Beigel's business premises, it was a corner of the block and did not make any difference to the public. A mistake had been made and the municipal council were willing that Mr. Beigel should take up the land and pay for it.

Mr. SCADDAN: This was a reserve controlled by the Government, what had the municipality to do with it? We ought to have a litho. showing why this land should be excluded. What improvements had Mr. Beigel made on this land, and was he not aware of the boundaries of the reserve when he erected the building? If he had encroached on private property he would soon have received notice to quit. What was the nature of the improvements, was it a brick building, or a garden that encroached, or had he only a couple of peach trees planted there? No matter what Mr. Beigel had put on this land he had no right to do it, and he should be given 24 hours' notice to quit. What was it members were asked to do in this matter?

The PREMIER: Of course there was a big principle at stake in this matter. The facts were these. There was a small triangular place of land of no value to anyone. On it there was a fence and other improvements. It was found on



survey that the fence was outside where the boundary should be. Mr. Beigel said that, as the land was of no value to anybody, if the excision requested were agreed to, he would be prepared to purchase the land at any price the Government put on it. If members thought it inadvisable that the land should be sold, well and good, let the matter go. The municipal council had said they were not adverse to the land being sold, but if the House did not agree to the proposal no one would be hurt, except perhaps Mr. Beigel who was anxious to keep this extra piece of land and was prepared to pay for it. The area of the land was one perch. He was not going to press the point. Personally he would not take up a piece of land connected with the Government because he would be accused of having an interest in it.

New clause put and passed.

Schedules, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

## BILL—FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT.

### *Council's Message.*

The Assembly having insisted upon an amendment, and the Council agreeing to the same with a further amendment the Council's Message now considered.

### *In Committee.*

Mr. Daglish in the Chair; the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill.

The HONORARY MINISTER moved—

*"That the original amendment made by the Legislative Assembly be no longer insisted upon, but that we agree to the amendment thereto made by the Legislative Council."*

Since the Bill was previously before the House certain members, who had been somewhat critical with regard to the measure, had expressed their intention no further to oppose the amendment submitted by another place. He might inform members that there was a considerable sum of money now ready to be put

into the industry of turtle catching. It would be unwise, in his opinion, to jeopardise the Bill and prevent the establishment of that industry, consequently it was to be hoped the motion he had suggested would be passed. If members could not agree on the question there would be no chance of getting the industry established. The representative of the company had stated that they did not propose to employ coloured labour. He recognised that the Bill applied to the establishment of other industries in which coloured labour might be employed, but the people who were originally responsible for instituting the Bill did not propose to employ any but white labour. The reason why another place had objected to the amendment submitted by this House was, they said, that the admission of people into this State was now controlled absolutely by the Federal authorities and that if coloured British subjects were allowed to come into Western Australia it would be interfering with their status if we refused to give them employment. That might or might not be a good argument, but the other place were prepared to stand by it. If the proposal were not carried we must face the fact that the industry would not be established.

Mr. Bolton: The Upper House would be responsible.

The HONORARY MINISTER: It was to be hoped hon. members would agree on the matter. The Government were not prepared to have a lengthy discussion on the question at this stage of the session and if the House were against the proposal then the Bill must go.

Mr. BATH: If this House agreed to the amendment they would be submitting to a humiliating reversal of the position the branches of the Legislature should occupy. The amendment bore exactly the same relation to the purpose of the Bill as another amendment had that was receiving the same treatment. By the Bill certain people were being given a special concession and in return a reasonable protection with the object of carrying out the policy to which a great majority of the people of Australia were committed to, was asked. There were times when

this House should take up a firm attitude, and the present was one. Another place had said they were anxious to see the industry started, they were given an opportunity with fair and reasonable conditions and they had rejected that opportunity; whatever responsibility was incurred must be borne by them.

Mr. SWAN: As one who had taken some interest in the Bill when it was previously before the House, he desired to inform members that his opposition had not been silenced. There were many reasons other than those mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition which should induce members to insist on their amendment being included in the Bill. If the industry could not be established on fair and reasonable lines, and in accordance with the policy adopted by the Commonwealth Parliament, then we would be better without the industry. People of the locality in which it was proposed to establish the industry were fully in accord with the contention that aliens should be excluded from employment in the industry.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member would have to discuss the amendment.

Mr. SWAN: The matter being discussed was the general principle embodied in the amendment. The people of the locality were opposed to establishing the industry on the lines proposed by the Council's amendment. A correspondent of the district in writing down had declared that the member for the district must have been grossly misinformed when he had stated that persons from the locality visited the islands and killed the turtles for the sake of their eggs.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member would have to discuss the question before the Chair.

Mr. SWAN: When previously the Bill had been before the Committee the Premier was allowed to declare that the Asiatics took a delight in killing the turtles for their eggs.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member would have to discuss the amendment before the Chair, and not the general principle of the Bill.

Mr. SWAN: The general principle of the amendment was what he was discussing. On a previous occasion the member for Roebourne had declared that none of the members of the Ashburton roads board lived in Onslow, but the letter he (Mr. Swan) had received concluded with the assurance that all the members of the roads board lived in Onslow.

The Honorary Minister: Who was the letter from?

Mr. SWAN: The letter was from the chairman of the board. According to the letter it was the unanimous decision of the Ashburton roads board that the industry should not be carried on by black labour. Apart altogether from this question, it was time that the Committee showed a little firmness towards another place.

Mr. OSBORN: The statement that the members of the Ashburton Roads Board resided in Onslow was quite incorrect. However desirous we might be to retain the principle of a white Australia he recognised that in justice to his electorate the proposed industry should be established. By endeavouring to block the Bill the member for North Perth was attempting a grave injustice to that part of the State. All that the Council's amendment asked for was the recognition of Asiatics or Africans, being British subjects. If inquiries were made it would probably be found that there were not 10 naturalised coloured people in the whole of the district in which the industry was to be established.

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

Mr. JOHNSON: It was true, as the Honorary Minister had pointed out, that he (Mr. Johnson) and the member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) had agreed to protest against the amendment made by the Legislative Council, but not to debate it at any undue length. To this compact he would adhere, but he had made that agreement on his own behalf and certainly not on behalf of the Opposition.

Mr. McDOWALL: The member for Roebourne asked us to pass a Bill for

only half a dozen people. There certainly was no desire to inflict hardship on any individual, but if we were to have a White Australia it was our duty to fight for the principle at all points.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The gentleman who was arranging this matter had informed him that in conversation with some members of the Opposition he understood that, sooner than see the whole project dropped, some of the Opposition would be prepared to agree to the amendment. In order to make sure whether this was correct or not, he (the Honorary Minister) had spoken to the member for Guildford and certainly understood from that hon. member that, while he objected to the amendment and thought it undesirable, still he and another member of the Opposition, sooner than see the project lapse, would enter their protest against the Council's amendment but would assist in the passage of the measure as it now stood.

Mr. Johnson: I could hardly protest against it and vote for it.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The value of the industry would outweigh the undesirability of employing a few coloured persons. It was understood that only white labour would be employed by the people seeking the exclusive right, but of course the amendment would leave it open for others who started in the industry to employ coloured labour. There was no desire at this stage to argue whether that was desirable or not. The only point was that if this industry was to be established at this juncture it meant the acceptance of the Council's amendment. Sooner than see a lengthy debate on the matter he would move that progress be reported.

Progress reported.

## BILL.—DISTRICT FIRE BRIGADES.

### *Council's Requests.*

Schedule of 47 amendments requested by the Legislative Council now considered.

### *In Committee.*

Mr. Daglish in the Chair: the Premier in charge of the Bill.

No. 1: Clause 2—Definition of "District." after the word "A" insert the word "fire":

The PREMIER moved—

*That the amendment be made.*

A select committee of the Legislative Council had gone exhaustively into this measure, and after hearing evidence from persons interested, representatives of local authorities, those interested in volunteer fire brigades, and representatives of insurance companies, they had submitted certain amendments. This amendment was to make the definition of "District" clearer.

Question passed; the Council's requested amendment made.

On motion by the Premier requested amendment No. 2 was made.

No. 3.—Clause 6: Constitution of board (provision being made for two members to be appointed by the Governor, three members to be elected by the insurance companies carrying on business within Western Australia, and three members to be elected by the local authorities, one of the latter to be elected by the councils of the municipalities of Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, and Boulder, and the road board of the Kalgoorlie road district conjointly; and one of such members, subject as hereinafter provided, to be elected by the remaining local authorities conjointly in each fire district, but only those local authorities which contribute under this Act to be permitted to vote at such election):

The PREMIER: The amendment which dealt with the constitution of the board was a very important one. It was his intention however to move an amendment—

*That in paragraph (a) all the words after "by" in the first line be struck out with a view of inserting the following:—"local authorities situated east of the rabbit-proof fence; local authorities within the metropolitan area, one of such members shall, subject as hereinafter provided, be elected by the remaining local authorities conjointly in each fire district, but only those local authorities which contribute under this Act shall be permitted to vote at such election."*

It was desired that this board should be distinct from the board established at the present time under a special Act. It was understood that provision should be made, if necessary, for the Perth Brigade to come in and also for the Fremantle brigade. In order to give effect to the wishes of the House it was desired that the amendment of the Legislative Council's amendment be made, and while there was a provision in the original Bill which passed the Legislative Assembly for the constitution of the board, no provision was made for the division of the districts. The suggested amendment now made provision for the three districts, in order to enable three representatives to be elected.

Mr. Brown: Will Perth remain as it is?

The PREMIER: The idea was that Perth should remain as it was and that the other municipal bodies in the neighbourhood of the metropolitan district should have the right to nominate one representative and that the municipalities and other local bodies east of the rabbit-proof fence should elect another representative, and all the remaining local bodies should elect the third representative.

Mr. BROWN: It was his intention to oppose the amendment moved by the Premier. All along the city of Perth had looked forward to having control of all the brigades. One board should certainly be able to manage all the brigades.

Mr. HOLMAN: Two boards would be more economical than one. In Victoria the Country Fire Brigades Board controlled 110 volunteer fire brigades and the maintenance amounted to £11,300; in South Australia where the country brigades and metropolitan brigades were controlled by one board the total cost of the maintenance of the 12 brigades outside of Adelaide was £9,000. It would be seen therefore that it cost almost as much to work those 12 brigades outside Adelaide under one board as it did to work over 100 brigades in Victoria under two boards.

Mr. Jacoby: What is the system in New South Wales?

Mr. HOLMAN: It was very deficient there; the most efficient system was in Victoria. Rather than see the whole of the State sacrificed for Perth, he would

prefer the amendment of the Premier being adopted, and if we found from experience we could work the fire brigades under one board, then it could be done.

Mr. SCADDAN: The proposal submitted to the Committee from another place did not give entire satisfaction, but it was advisable that we should agree to it with some qualification to allow the Bill to pass. We were anxious that the insurance companies should contribute to the upkeep of the brigades. He differed from the member for Murchison as to the number of boards. He did not see the necessity for having two boards. Perth had a permanent brigade and it had to keep a number of men permanently. All these men were tradesmen and had to manufacture what the brigade required, but at the same time the staff was not sufficient for a growing city like Perth. These men should be kept at their work so that they might not become dissatisfied through being idle half their time. Kalgoorlie and Boulder could obtain great benefit if these permanent men in Perth could build their hose carts for them, and do other work. It would cheapen the cost also. Although there were two boards in Victoria, the country fire brigades board did not control purely volunteer brigades. A number were partly permanent and partly volunteer men, but there was not a better controlled lot of men in the world than those under the country fire brigades board in Victoria. As to the representation on the board he did not agree altogether with the proposal submitted to the Committee, but he would not oppose it so as to get the Bill passed. He had shown all along that what we wanted was a recognition of the volunteer brigades, and a proper contribution by the fire insurance companies. Then the proposal gave undue representation to the country brigades as against the representation of places like Kalgoorlie and Boulder. If there was to be special representation to the metropolitan area, that area should be defined. The districts within the metropolitan area should be given in a schedule. He did not wish to jeopardise the Bill although there were many clauses he did not agree with. Still the Bill was better than when it

left this Chamber. When the board was established he thought the municipality of Perth would see the advisability of coming in under the Bill, although the Perth brigade would have to be a permanent brigade for all time. He did not agree with the representation on the board. The volunteer brigades did as much as the Government, the municipalities, and the insurance companies put together, and it was to be regretted that the volunteer brigades had only one representative.

The PREMIER was as anxious as other members that the measure should become law, but at the same time he was disappointed with the representation given under the proposal to the volunteer fire brigades.

Mr. Holman: Will you bring down an amendment next year?

The PREMIER: It would be well to see how the Bill worked. He agreed with the member for Ivanhoe that although the volunteer men did not contribute in cash they spent all their time in becoming efficient fire fighters. Therefore they should have better representation than was offered. He did not wish to delay the passage of the Bill, and would ask leave to withdraw his amendment on the Council's amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr. ANGWIN: While anxious that the insurance companies should contribute, he would like to see fair representation, and he thought the Premier's amendment would have given fair representation. The representation according to the Council's amendment was that Boulder, Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, and the Kalgoorlie roads board should elect one representative, whereas the annual value of property which they would represent would be £305,000. Then there were the fire brigades in the other portion of the State who had to elect two representatives; and if Perth came under the Act within six months Perth would elect one of these two representatives. While Kalgoorlie would represent property of the annual value of £305,000, Perth would have one representative for £420,000 annual value and the whole of the other districts throughout the State

would have one representative for £750,000 annual value. That was not fair representation, and he felt confident that the Bill would not give satisfaction. The metropolitan area outside Perth would contribute on the basis of an annual value of about £500,000. According to the latest returns published by the Government the net annual value of the metropolitan area was £892,000, while for the whole of the other municipalities, outside roads boards, the annual value only amounted to £519,000.

The Premier: Should they have representation according to the annual value?

Mr. ANGWIN: As near as possible. Was it fair that where there was an annual value of £750,000 the representation should only be equal to £500,000 annual value. The representation was very unfair.

Question, that the Council's requested amendment be made, put and passed.

Requested amendments Nos. 4 to 14—made.

No. 15, Clause 40—Proportion of value of vested property to be paid by insurance companies:

The PREMIER moved—

*That the amendment be made.*

Mr. BROWN moved an amendment on the amendment—

*That the following be added to Sub-clause 3:—"On an extension of this Act to any municipal district to which at the commencement of this Act the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act, 1898, apply, the board shall pay to the insurance companies so much of the value of the real and personal property vested in the board under the provisions of Sub-section (2.) of Section ninety-six of this Act as is proportionate to the contributions by the insurance companies for the acquisition thereof by the Fire Brigades Board constituted under the Fire Brigades Act, 1898. Any amount payable by or to the insurance companies under the section may be paid (with interest thereon at the rate of five pounds per centum per annum) by equal annual instalments over not exceeding ten years."*

The addition was a copy of a provision in the New Zealand Act. It was only reasonable that if the brigades had to pay a portion of the value of the plants all over the State, they should receive back their proportion of what they had contributed to the central brigade.

The PREMIER: You do not include maintenance, only capital value?

Mr. BROWN: Only capital value.

The PREMIER: The proposed amendment of the hon. member only provided for the insurance companies to get back their share. Why did it not include reference to the Government getting back their proportion? This matter might have been brought up earlier. A select committee had gone exhaustively into the question and had examined representatives of the various bodies. There were many amendments he personally would like to make to the Bill but rather than interfere with the progress of the measure he was prepared to accept the suggested amendments by another place.

Mr. ANGWIN: So far as Perth and Fremantle were concerned, the insurance companies had only paid their fair quota, but outside of that they had not paid a penny.

Mr. SCADDAN: The Government and the municipalities might also claim to receive their proportion. The amendment was absurd. However, there was this point, that if the metropolitan brigade came under the Act the insurance companies might have to pay one-third of the cost they had already contributed. That would be wrong for they should not be made to pay a second time.

Mr. BROWN: Members might consider whether the insurance companies should not be allowed a term of years in which to pay their proportion of the cost of the brigades; interest could be charged at five per centum. In the circumstances he would ask leave to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr. DRAPER had desired to speak to the amendment; would it be in order to do so now?

The CHAIRMAN: No, the amendment has been withdrawn.

Mr. DRAPER: Well, if he could not get what he wanted he would stonewall the Bill.

Mr. Scaddan: Is the member in order in threatening to stonewall the Bill?

Mr. DRAPER withdrew the expression.

Question passed; the Council's requested amendment made.

The PREMIER moved—

*That the Council's requested amendments 15 to 47 inclusive be made.*

Mr. DRAPER: Some information should be given as to these amendments, which, in the aggregate, made practically a new Bill. Would the Premier reconsider this Bill at an early stage and give the House an opportunity of amending the Bill when it had been tested by practical working?

The PREMIER: No doubt as the result of the operation of the Bill it would be found necessary to make certain alterations in the machinery. If this proved to be so he would readily make provision for amendments.

Question passed; the Council's requested amendments made.

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

## BILL—INTERPRETATION ACT AMENDMENT.

### *Second Reading.*

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. J. L. Nanson): The object of this small Bill is to bring the law as regards service of documents by post into line with that of the Commonwealth, and of the several other States. In our Interpretation Act the services of these notices by post must be by registered letter, while in the Commonwealth law, and the law of the Eastern States service by ordinary post is sufficient without any registration. The matter would not perhaps be worth going into but for the fact that a very large number of these notices have to be sent out in connection with the land and income tax demands, and the amounts thus paid to the post office in

one year for registration is, I am given to understand, very considerable. If, under the law of the Commonwealth and of the Eastern States service by ordinary post is deemed sufficient, I think it will generally be admitted that we are putting ourselves to unnecessary expense in prescribing that all these notices must be registered. As I have explained, the sole object of this Bill is to save this registration. Of course in cases where it may be deemed wise to register a notice it can still be done, but it will not be necessary by law, if this Bill be passed. I beg to move—

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

Mr. JACOBY (Swan): Does this Bill apply to all notices which have to be served—to writs, and so on?

The Attorney General: It will apply to all notices in the Interpretation Act of 1898.

Mr. JACOBY: As far as one can gather from a hasty consideration of this measure it seems rather dangerous to consent to giving power for notices to be served by ordinary post. Neglect to obey such notices, or to attend to them, may lead to serious consequences, and to allow such notices to be served in an ordinary letter is, I should say, paving the way to trouble. A letter might go astray and there may be no record of it at all. This, of course, would not happen with a registered letter. Probably the Attorney General is justified in bringing in this measure, but I feel some hesitation in voting for it on such scanty consideration. I should like some further reasons given for this Bill than those I have already heard.

Mr. DRAPER (West Perth): I trust that when in the Committee stage the Attorney will give us a little more information on the subject. It appears to me to be somewhat dangerous to allow notices under any Act to be served by merely posting a letter. It is laying the way open to considerable abuse. The proof of posting of a letter is a matter of exceeding difficulty and, on the other hand, it is impossible to disprove the statement of a man who de-

clares that he posted a letter. Notwithstanding that the Commonwealth may have a different method—

The Attorney General: And all the other States.

Mr. DRAPER: It does not necessarily follow that the Commonwealth and all the other States have adopted a better practice than we have here. Unless some more satisfactory reason for this alteration is given I certainly intend to vote against the Bill.

Mr. HUDSON (Dundas): For the reasons given by the member for West Perth I intend to oppose the Bill. I do not think there is any necessity to wait for the Committee stage; the Bill may just as well be opposed at this stage. It would be very dangerous to adopt the practice of allowing notices to be posted by letter without registration. Some documentary evidence of posting of the letter should be available and there can be no better evidence of the actual posting of a letter than the receipt given for a registered letter.

Mr. GILL (Balkatta): This Bill seems to me to be capable of being used to cover up negligence of duty. I am afraid it will lead to considerable abuse if we are not to have any check as with the registered letter. I can easily conceive of some important results following on the neglect to properly post a notice. It appears to me to be a bad method as against the sending of notices by registered letter.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (in reply): When the Interpretation Act of 1898 was drafted the draftsman of that time, like some hon. members who have criticised this Bill, was a gentleman of an exceedingly careful disposition, and he inserted this provision that these notices must be conveyed by registered post. Now in that respect we have departed from the law as it is in every other part of Australia. I would ask hon. members to look at the matter in a practical light. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and in other parts of Australia they have had this practice going on for many years without experiencing any difficulty at all. If there is

at all likely to be any hitch in the delivery of any notices it will still be open to the sender of the notices to register the letter, or the letter may be delivered personally. I do not for a moment suggest that an amendment of this kind is a very important matter, but there is the position that thousands of these notices have to be sent out from the Land and Income Tax Department. But for that fact it would not be worth while to alter the law, but it is an absurdity that all these innumerable notices from the Taxation Department should have to be registered. The Commissioner of Taxation has pointed out that it means an additional expenditure of some hundreds of pounds yearly. Surely we are justified in accepting the experience of other places where the practice is to send notices by ordinary post. We are not legislating for exceptions. I can see the force of what the member for West Perth and others have said. It is possible that occasionally some notices may go astray, but so long as the convenience is so enormously in favour of not being compelled to register, and if only to meet the case of the land and income tax notices, the House would be well advised to make this small amendment to the law. I do not care to disregard the strong request of the Commissioner of Taxation on the subject, and therefore I feel compelled, if necessary, to test the opinion of the House on the subject, although as I have said of course I do not regard it as a matter of vital importance affecting the existence of the Government. However, the Bill will save a few hundred pounds a year, and I hope the House will allow it to go through.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

Mr. Daglish in the Chair; the Attorney General in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Amendment of 62 Viet., No. 30, Sec. 9:

Mr. DRAPER: Health notices and similar notices were sent through the post compelling people to do certain things, statutory obligations cast on

them. It was an easy matter to keep a record of posting letters, and yet for these letters not to be posted. The person entrusted with posting the letters might keep the office record, but might pocket the stamps, and throw the letters in the waste-paper basket. If we passed this clause there would be no definite proof of posting a letter. Proof would be exceedingly difficult, and fraud would be easy and hard to detect. Under the system of registration there could be no doubt as to whether a letter was posted, as the person registering a letter could get a receipt. By passing the clause we would abolish a system that had worked satisfactorily and introduce a system which was of doubtful value, and we would open the way to a considerable amount of fraud which it would be impossible to detect.

Mr. BUTCHER moved—

*That progress be reported.*

Motion negatived.

Mr. JACOBY: If it was merely the desire to avoid expense, perhaps the Attorney General might accept an amendment limiting the Bill to notices served under the Land and Income Tax Assessment Act. He moved an amendment—

*That after "amended," in line 1, the following be inserted: "as far as it refers to notices served under the Land and Income Tax Assessment Act of 1907 or any amendments thereof."*

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Though not persuaded of the need for the amendment, yet for the sake of peace, and as the object of the Bill was to meet the difficulty of the unnecessary expenditure in regard to the land and income tax notices, he was prepared to accept the amendment.

Amendment passed. the clause as amended agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment, and the report adopted.

*Third Reading.*

Read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Council.



# **BILL—AGRICULTURAL BANK ACT AMENDMENT.**

## *Council's Message.*

An amendment requested by the Legislative Council having been further amended by the Assembly, and the Council not having concurred, the Council's Message now considered.

## *In Committee.*

Mr. Daglish in the Chair; the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The position with regard to the Message was as follows:—The Bill was sent to this Chamber from another place to make an amendment. The Committee of the Legislative Assembly agreed to make such amendment with a modification; the Legislative Council sent back a Message that it did not concur in the further amendment of the Legislative Assembly. The position therefore was that we were now where we were when a request was received to make a certain amendment. The position of the Minister in charge of the Bill was that he should move that the amendment requested by the Legislative Council be made.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS moved—

*That the amendment requested by the Legislative Council be made.*

It would be better to accept this amendment than to jeopardise the Bill. There was power conferred upon the Minister which could be exercised for the protection of those engaged in the industry. He had already told the House that it was his intention to see that the conditions of those employed in the industry were fair.

Mr. BATH: There was such urgent necessity for the increase of the capital of the bank and for the provision of this increased accommodation for the settlers that he was very loth indeed to see the Bill lost. If the Bill were lost it would mean a cruel sacrifice of the interests of those who had been induced to take up land, and who were entirely dependent upon the provisions Parliament made from time to time to increase the capital of the bank. He was amazed that hon. members

of another place, who claimed to be the special representatives of the producing community, should be so ready to sacrifice the interests of the settlers just because of the clause which had been suggested by the Legislative Assembly. That clause contained nothing more than a reasonable proposal, and there was absolute blindness in the attitude of the Legislative Council when they were prepared to ask for this consideration for the few manufacturers. Their prejudice actuated them against giving reasonable protection to those who would be employed in the industry. If the Minister would give a definite assurance that he would exercise his power to refuse registration to those who would not conform to reasonable conditions of employment, as far as wages and conditions of the workers were concerned, he (Mr. Bath) would be willing, in the interests of new settlers, to agree to the motion.

Mr. JOHNSON: As mover of the original amendment providing for the prescribed wage clause he regretted exceedingly the action of the Legislative Council. Still we had the satisfaction of knowing that they had agreed to the ruling rate, but, as had been pointed out, there was a marked difference between prescribed and ruling rate. If the Minister would take the power he had under the ruling rate he would be able to see that a fair rate of wages was paid by those manufacturers who got special consideration from the Government. That being so it was not his intention to insist upon the original amendment. The action of the Legislative Council demonstrated that when we got those gentlemen from another place into a corner they would sacrifice anything in order to try and compel the workers of this State to work under unfair conditions. It was not often we got them into a position of this description. This action clearly demonstrated that when the time came to ask them to do something to protect the workers, while giving every consideration to the manufacturers, they totally disregarded consideration for the workers.

Mr. TROY: The Minister had stated that if we did not accept the amendment

the Bill would be jeopardised. If that was so the duty of the Assembly was to throw the responsibility on the other House. If we were going to give way on every matter then we would suffer much humiliation at the hands of the other House. It was not the place of the Legislative Assembly to give way; therefore, he was not in agreement with the action taken up by which the interests of the workers would be to a great extent sacrificed. The Minister gave an assurance that he would see that a fair wage was paid, but the Minister would not always be in office and a new Minister could refuse to accept the responsibility of promises made by his predecessor. No doubt the present Minister might do a fair thing, but we only had his assurance, and not the assurance of succeeding Ministers. Members in another Chamber representing agriculturists were sacrificing the interests of the agricultural people by insisting on the amendment.

Mr. WALKER: We had done our best to place the position of the workers engaged in the manufacture of agricultural machinery in the best position and we had been frustrated. Having done our utmost should we go further and jeopardise the interests of the settlers? The responsibility was still with another place they having been informed of the full extent of their responsibility. There were a number of settlers who had gone out on the land and who had arrived at that stage when it was necessary to obtain machinery, and it was on the question of machinery that the other House frustrated the object of the Bill. An increase of the capital of the bank could not be obtained unless this amendment was carried, nor could the settlers get assistance in the shape of machinery. Under these circumstances we had done our best, but we were forfeiting no principle and with the assurance of the Minister that the workers would be protected, we should say that in spite of another place the settlers should receive the assistance to which they were rightly entitled.

Question passed; the Council's requested amendment made.

Resolution reported; the report adopted, and a Message accordingly returned to the Legislative Council.

#### ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1909-10.

##### *In Committee of Supply.*

Resumed from the previous sitting; Mr. Daglish in the Chair.

Colonial Secretary's Department (Hon. J. D. Connolly, Minister). The Minister for Works in charge of the Votes.

##### *Vote—Friendly Societies and Industrial Arbitration, £3,879:*

Mr. McDOWALL: Under this heading he proposed to discuss the recent appointment of the Registrar of Friendly Societies, and he wanted at the outset to make it perfectly clear that he was not making a personal attack on the gentleman who had been appointed to that position. He wanted it to be distinctly understood that he only wished to speak on the question of the principle of appointing people in Australia to important positions when they became vacant in this country, as against the importation of people to fill these positions. We realised that it was entirely useless to educate our children for the higher positions in this country, for when a position of any value whatever was going we sent to the old country or to other parts of the world for people to fill those positions. We had no right to be forever hewers of wood and drawers of water. If we were ruled by some persons in this country we should find, no matter what education we gave our children, that if ever an appointment of any consequence was to be made, it would be given to somebody else and we could send our children to break stones in the road. It was on that principle he desired to speak, and in no way in connection with the gentleman who occupied the position of Registrar of Friendly Societies. So far as he knew the gentleman was eminently qualified for the position, and he had no doubt would fulfil the duties thoroughly and properly, but the fact remained that when applications were called for this position there were applicants with credentials

on paper superior to those of the gentleman who had been appointed, and those applications were from within the Commonwealth. Under the circumstances it was his duty to call attention to this, and he wanted now to emphasise that his chief grievance was against the Public Service Commissioner (Mr. Jull), because in this instance there was no doubt there was bias—whether unconsciously or whether intentional or not he could not say—but there was no doubt whatever a bias against the Commonwealth and in favour of other places. Some little time ago a paragraph appeared in the press with reference to the arrival of our present Registrar of Friendly Societies. That paragraph was as follows:—

“Mr. Samuel Bennett, A.I.A., of London, has been appointed Registrar of Friendly Societies and Government Actuary for Western Australia, *vice* Mr. E. T. Owen, who is now Commissioner of Taxation. Mr. Bennett was formerly chief accountant at the head office of the National Deposit Friendly Society of England. He was born in 1878, and was educated at Workington Academy. In his final year he was at the head of the list of successful students, taking first-class certificates in mathematics, chemistry, and physiology. In 1900 he joined the National Deposit Friendly Society, and reached the position of chief accountant at the head office, London, which he relinquished to come to Western Australia. The National Deposit Society is the largest society of its description in England. It has a membership of 200,000, and its funds amount to over £1,000,000. Mr. Bennett arrived at Fremantle by the mailboat on Tuesday, and he commenced his new duties yesterday.”

He had taken the trouble to read that paragraph for the purpose of pointing out that Mr. Bennett was actually in the State of Western Australia before we had the slightest opportunity of knowing that he was appointed. As a matter of fact his appointment was practically contradicted on one or two occasions.

The Minister for Works: When was the appointment contradicted officially? I have no knowledge of it.

Mr. McDOWALL: If the Minister would wait he would produce a letter which the A.N.A. wrote to Mr. North asking if it was true that the appointment had been made.

The Minister for Works: Have you the file there?

Mr. McDOWALL: No. Extracts had been taken from it. Mr. North replied on the first of June that the matter would be sent on to Mr. Jull, but Mr. North was aware the appointment had been made a month or six weeks before that, therefore the letter was tantamount to an official contradiction. He (Mr. McDowall) wished to call attention to the fact that the paragraph said that Mr. Bennett was “accountant to the National Deposit Friendly Society, which was the largest society of its description in England.” It might possibly be the largest society of its description in England, but he proposed to show it was not a friendly society in the real acceptation of the term. Other applicants with proper friendly society qualifications were passed over. Then a letter appeared in the *West Australian* protesting against this importation, and he would read an interview with the Colonial Secretary, when that letter appeared. It was as follows:—

“Referring yesterday to the letter appearing in the *West Australian* complaining of the action of the Government in appointing a gentleman from England (Mr. S. Bennett) to the position of Registrar of Friendly Societies, while retrenchment was the order of the day in this State, the Colonial Secretary (Mr. J. D. Connolly) said that applications for the position had been called in Western Australia and the Eastern States as well as in England.

A few junior officers applied——”

Mr. Bennett was in exactly the same position as the other persons who applied for the position. It was never expected that the heads of the profession in Australia or England would apply for a position starting at £405 and going up to £500 a

year. Fancy Mr. Teece of the A.M.P. Society, or other prominent actuaries taking a position at that figure. The letter went on to say:—

“A few junior officers applied from the Eastern States, but there were no applications in Western Australia. The position was not only that of Registrar of Friendly Societies, but also Government Actuary and the only actuary in this State prior to Mr. Bennett’s arrival was Mr. Owen (Commissioner of Taxation).”

There were any number of actuaries in the Commonwealth. When it was proposed to establish this position, Mr. Jull sent forward this memo. to the under secretary—“This I am putting forward to-day with a suggestion that we should at once create a position to be entitled Registrar of Friendly Societies and Actuary who should be an Associate of the Institute of Actuaries, London or Scotland, and have had previous experience in friendly societies’ work.” He placed the qualification as high as he possibly could, for he stipulated for friendly society experience, etcetera. That was to be commended. The memo. continued—“Such a man we are most likely to get, as far as I can understand, from the North of England or the South of Scotland.” Why we should want to go there for such a man was surely a mystery, and in fact was no less than an absurdity. The letter continued—“If the suggestion is acted upon, I could draft a cable which would be sufficiently explanatory, and not too long, for despatch to the Agent General. We would also at the same time advertise in the Eastern States, but I believe we should be unsuccessful in getting a man there.” On two occasions Mr. Jull expressed the idea that we would not get a man in Australia; this proved absolutely that he was biassed in connection with the position even before it was created. Mr. Jull laid special stress on the necessity for the man being a diplomaed actuary, and having had experience of friendly societies’ work and matters of that description. We now came to the actual letter creating the position, and although

he knew it was wearisome reading so much, the necessity for proving his case compelled him to do so. The letter he would read was interesting from the point of view of an anti-Australian: “To the Under Secretary, Colonial Secretary’s Department. I made some inquiries in connection with this matter, and think a position should be created entitled Registrar of Friendly Societies and Actuary. The position should be in the professional division and carry a minimum salary of £405, which would rise eventually by steps to a maximum of £500. I think it is unlikely that a properly qualified man will be obtained in the States.” Again, the bias to a resident of Australia was shown. The bias existed even before the position was created. Continuing, Mr. Jull said: “He should be an associate of the Institute of Actuaries, London, or Scotland, and be experienced, if possible, in friendly societies’ work.” No one objected to that, for it was necessary to have the most qualified man to be obtained, but when there were people of such qualifications in the Commonwealth one of them should be appointed. The letter continued: “There is a society in London, and one in Edinburgh, and an affiliated society in either Melbourne or Sydney. I would suggest therefore that we advertise in the Eastern States, although I fear there is little chance of getting anyone there.” Again, here was a proof that the Commissioner was opposed to an Australian. The letter continued: “also London and Edinburgh and in the *Journal*, if there is one. I would likewise write to the secretaries of the societies calling attention to our requirements and asking them to be good enough, as far as they are able, to let the appointment be known among their members. This would probably result in our getting a properly qualified man. There is a good deal of friendly societies’ work done at Home, especially in the North of England and the South of Scotland, and it is probable we could get an experienced man from one of the offices dealing with such matters, as they would have several qualified men on their staffs we might secure one of them. There is very little hope outside of Eng-

land and Scotland of getting a man who is not only experienced in friendly societies' work but who is also a diplomaed actuary, and I take it we could not possibly appoint an officer who was not a professional actuary with some recognised diploma, for if a mess were made of the work in this State in connection with the actuarial calculations of the friendly societies' funds, the blame would fall back on the Government and the Commissioner unless we had appointed a man with proper official qualifications." In no less than three places in the letter creating the position the Public Service Commissioner expressed the opinion that we could not find a man in the Commonwealth competent to fill the position. Mr. Jull even infected one of the Ministers of the Crown with the microbe of distrust in Australia. The Colonial Secretary, although in his letter he started splendidly by being a thorough Australian and expressing the highest possible sentiments, was so weak-backed that he was subsequently affected by the microbe of distrust in Australia. He wrote—

"I approve of the Public Service Commissioner advertising the position of Registrar of Friendly Societies and Actuary. I should like to see the appointment filled as soon as possible as the actuarial valuation of the friendly societies' assets should be proceeded with at once, although I have no doubt what Mr. Jull says is right that it would be impossible to obtain an actuary in Australia."

It was proposed to advertise both in England and in the States, and Mr. Jull returned again to the charge. Members might be weary of these letters, but if he (Mr. McDowall) were an instrument to stop the craze for importing people from England he would have done good service. Mr. Jull wrote—

"The proposal to advertise both in England and in the States is to save time and to carry out your desire quickly. I have satisfied myself that there are not many in the States with the necessary qualifications who are likely to apply, and I thought you were satisfied on that point also."

Before the qualifications were heard of the case was settled. What right had Mr. Jull to prejudge the case and to argue that we were most likely to obtain the most suitable man to undertake the work either in the North of England or the South of Scotland. Why should he not look nearer home and consider the insurance and friendly societies work done in Australia? Had he done so he would have found that per head of the population Australia stood, so far as life assurance was concerned, at the top of the civilised world, and he suggested we could not get an actuary in Australia. In the Commonwealth we possessed absolutely the largest Mutual Life Insurance Company in the British Empire, and the second company in the Empire altogether. There was only one other, a joint stock company, the Prudential, which was larger than the A.M.P. We possessed a number of splendid companies with accumulated funds running into millions of pounds. There was splendid business done in all this country, and yet our Public Service Commissioner could not obtain a man from here but had to go to England for one. There were 17 societies in the Commonwealth doing business at the end of 1907; they had in their ordinary branch of business 391,686 policies, and in the industrial branch 337,965 policies. These covered an insurance of £99,589,034. The friendly societies had 336,262 members. Therefore the total number of policies or individuals to be dealt with was 1,065,913 with over one hundred million pounds worth of insurance. Taking the purely Australian companies, it would be found that for the year ended 1908 the nine companies doing business in Australia in the ordinary branch had 536,900 policies insuring £43,097,329. Yet the Public Service Commissioner said we could not get an actuary in Australia. Per head of the population Australia was the greatest country in the world for insurance.

Mr. Collier: And in every other way.

Mr. McDOWALL: Probably that was quite right. Surely it was the officer's duty to consider whether we could not find someone in this country before at-

tempting to inquire in other parts of the world. Instructions were issued to advertise, but before advertising, another Minister had taken a hand in the matter and had written to the Colonial Secretary expressing disapproval of calling applications in the old country for the position of registrar and actuary until it had been made certain that there were none available in the Commonwealth. The communication from the Minister to his colleague had gone on to state that the position of assistant compiler for the Commonwealth Statistician's officer should be easily filled by calling for applications within the State; that in regard to this it was not necessary that the officer should be an actuary. The Minister had expressed noble sentiments when he proceeded to state that it ought to be the object, apart from the benefit which Australian experience would be in such position, it ought to be the object to fill the position, if possible, from applications within the Commonwealth, and that it would be time enough to go to the old country when suitable responses were not forthcoming in Australia. Could hon. members guess who it was had given utterance to these sentiments, sentiments which, directed to the Public Service Commissioner, should have been taken notice of by that officer? The writer of that letter was no less a person than the Hon. Frank Wilson. Those were the Minister's sentiments and they were sentiments which every hon. member most heartily applauded. But Mr. Jull had not been satisfied with these directions to call for applications only within the Commonwealth.

Mr. Angwin: He comes from the North of England.

*[Mr. Taylor took the Chair.]*

Mr. McDOWALL: The Colonial Secretary had subsequently written to the Public Service Commissioner drawing his attention to the minute from the then Treasurer, and expressing the opinion that actuaries would be found available within the Commonwealth. So it would be seen that the Colonial Secretary and the then Treasurer had practically directed

the Public Service Commissioner to make the appointment within Australia if a suitable man could be found; yet in spite of this the position had not been given to an Australian. The Colonial Secretary had pointed out to Mr. Jull that he should advertise simultaneously in Australia and in England, and that if a man could be found in Australia he should be preferred. All the time the Ministers were trying to give the Australian actuaries a chance but the Public Service Commissioner was working against this. On the 22nd January, 1909, Mr. Rason reported from London that he had received sixteen applications for the position. At the same time 13 applications had been received from qualified men in Australia—in the country which the Public Service Commissioner had thought could not produce an actuary—and all of these 13 had qualifications similar to those of Mr. Bennett. At this stage the friendly societies, representing some 16,000 adult members, had taken a hand in the discussion, and the A.N.A. had written to the Premier protesting against the appointment of a registrar of friendly societies from outside the Commonwealth unless it could be clearly proved that there was no applicant in the Commonwealth competent to fill the position; and, not only the A.N.A., but practically all the other friendly societies similarly approached the Premier, who promised due consideration. As a matter of fact the societies had got no consideration whatever in connection with the matter. In due course the applications had been sent on to Mr. North with a memo. from the Public Service Commissioner asking for a report and suggestions, but remarking that if it were not desired to make any report the file should be returned straightway, as the appointment was not exactly on the same footing as an ordinary promotion. Mr. Jull, it seemed, was not anxious that any report should be made on it, for he had suggested that perhaps the Under Secretary would not desire to report upon it. However, the applications had then been submitted to the Registrar of Friendly Societies, the most competent man in the State to judge. In consequence of the

investigation made by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, Mr. North had reported to the Public Service Commissioner that he had conferred with the head of the sub-department with regard to the applications and that after careful perusal of the claims and qualifications of the different applicants, Mr. Owen had selected them in the following order—Doyle 1, Latham 2, Ley 3, Bennett 4. In the covering note Mr. North had stated that in arriving at that decision due regard had been given to the two experienced in friendly societies' work. This was the whole crux of the question, this sending of the applications to the man most fitted to report upon them; and this gentleman had placed three Australians at the head of the list. One would naturally think that in consequence an Australian would have been appointed. But not so. Seeing that the Minister for Works and the Colonial Secretary had advised the appointment of an Australian in preference to one from without the Commonwealth, one would have thought that the Public Service Commissioner would have been delighted at getting the report showing that Australians were just as well qualified as applicants from beyond the Commonwealth. But it did not appeal to Mr. Jull in that light, and on the 22nd March, 1909, he had written asking for the reasons why the applicants had been placed in the order given. This would have been all very well if Mr. Jull had stopped there, for it was only natural that one in his position should wish to know Mr. Owen's reasons for having placed the candidates in the given order. But in addition to that Mr. Jull had specifically asked for the reasons why Mr. Bennett was placed last of the four. Could hon. members not see the whole position now? He (Mr. McDowall) could picture the whole thing in his mind; he could see the Public Service Commissioner astounded at getting 13 applications from actuaries in Australia, when he had thought that they were only to be found in the North of England and in the South of Scotland. The Public Service Commissioner had asked himself, "Could Jull the mighty be wrong:

was it possible?" and acting upon an inspiration he had declared "I will pen a note to my friend and he will pull me out of the difficulty." And the reply of Mr. Owen to this request had been as follows—

"I have received this file from you and I take it that you would like me to place before you the reasons which led me to recommend as the most suitable for this position the gentlemen whose names you forwarded to the Public Service Commissioner in the order given. I attach also for your information notes which I took when examining the applications.

"*Doyle, A. J.*—This applicant has been a qualified actuary since 1898. He was engaged in England and is still working in connection with friendly societies rates, valuations, etc. He assisted in some of the detail work in connection with the British Life Offices Mortality Investigation. He has for eight or nine years been engaged partly in government statistical and partly in friendly society work in Sydney. In the friendly society work he has been engaged in the calculation of contributions, valuation of societies, examination of rules and returns, etc. He states that he has managed a staff of 10 to 20 persons with success. If his application is entertained I presume local information can be obtained through the Hon. the Premier who is just now in the Eastern States, from reliable sources as to Mr. Doyle's habits. I am acquainted with Mr. R. D. Miller, Actuary to the Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company, who states that he imagines that Mr. Doyle would be eminently suited for the position. Mr. Doyle forwards a valuable testimonial from Mr. Trivett, the Government Statistician and Registrar of Friendly Societies, Sydney. He states that his work in the Friendly Societies Department has been carried out very satisfactory. The under secretary in Sydney also supports Mr. Doyle, affirming that his knowledge and familiarity with friendly society matters renders him professionally and per-

sonally eligible for the position. Of course the applicant made no reference to the work which falls upon the registrar here in connection with a number of other Acts, such as dealing with applications, rules, and returns from co-operative societies, trade unions, industrial unions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act (this latter work is a most important part of the registrar's duties and has taken up a great deal of his time in the past), but this remark applies to all the applicants with the exception perhaps of Mr. T. F. Davies, who has the necessary legal knowledge for these duties and he refers to them in his application. In fact the advertisement in connection with the applications gives no indication that the applicant will be expected to carry out these duties which are by statute thrown upon the Registrar of Friendly Societies. The registrar also deals with building societies: this also is not noted."

The applicants were not asked to mention legal qualifications. Very few men had credentials more perfect than these, dealing with every phase of the question for which we were appointing a Registrar of Friendly Societies and dealing with Australian conditions. The letter proceeded:—

"*Latham, B.*—This applicant has not been qualified as an actuary so long as Mr. Doyle. His qualification dates from 1905. His application shows that he is acquainted with the inside work of a friendly society in that he has been secretary of a Rechabite branch for eighteen months, auditor for three years, and has filled various other offices. He further shows that he has had experience in the valuation of life interests for the purposes of probate. Now and then questions of this difficult nature have been investigated and calculated by the Registrar of Friendly Societies and Government Actuary here for the Probate Department of this State, which, however, is of course a minor, although one of the most difficult, portions of the duties.

Mr. Latham's letter and testimonials show that he has shown more than the usual ability in his work in the A.M.P. Society, and that from a personal point of view he is evidently suitable for a position of trust of the nature of the one now under consideration."

Mr. Latham's qualifications being practically all life assurance he was, of course, not to be placed in the same position as Mr. Doyle. Then we came to another man who had more of the qualifications we required; this was Mr. J. Ley. The letter proceeded:—

"*J. Ley.*—This applicant has been a qualified actuary since 1907 (two years). I have met this gentleman and all that I have heard about him is in his favour, namely, that he is a diligent, careful, and capable worker. He has had fourteen years' experience under the Actuary for Friendly Societies in Victoria of the valuations and examinations of the returns received from the societies, and he has been engaged upon the compilation of sickness and mortality experience which is one of the duties incidental to the position of Actuary for Friendly Societies in that State, and of the Registrar of Friendly Societies in this State. In Victoria the office of Registrar of Friendly Societies is filled by a barrister who has no connection with the office of Actuary for Friendly Societies; this is to say, the legal work which consists of the registration of societies, examination of rules, advising the societies with regard to the Act, and the amendment of their rules and numerous other questions is carried out by the barrister aforesaid, while in this State the duties both of Registrar and of Actuary for Friendly Societies are carried out by the one person, namely, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, and it follows, except in financial questions, Mr. Ley has had no experience of what may be termed the legal branch of the duties, nor has he had anything to do with co-operative societies, and particularly with industrial unions and the many legal and important matters which



arise under such industrial legislation which has fallen upon the shoulders, largely here, of the Registrar of Friendly Societies. This applicant's age I should think from memory would be about 35. I feel sure that he could carry out the valuation part of the duties, and as our Act is very like the Act in Victoria his experience in Victoria would help him greatly in that part of the work."

These gentlemen all had splendid credentials. Now we came to Mr. Bennett. Mr. Bennett was the youngest actuary of the lot; furthermore, he had never practised his profession as an actuary because he was only an accountant until he left for this State. Many of these remarks were made by him (Mr. McDowall) because of the exigencies of argument. It was necessary to show that we had people in Australia to fill the position. No remarks were intended as a disparagement of Mr. Bennett, who might be the very best man in the world. Mr. Bennett's qualifications were thus described by Mr. Owen:—

"*S. Bennett.*—This application comes from England and the applicant has been an actuary since 1908, and has had over eight years' experience as a member of the staff of one of the largest friendly societies in England; that is, he was accountant to that society which has about 200,000 members. His experience as a member or officer of a friendly society is of course very much greater than that of Mr. Latham as the branch with which he was connected would most likely number less than 100 members. Mr. Bennett's knowledge of financial matters connected with that large institution would help him materially in dealing with the annual returns and the financial transactions of the local friendly societies. I place him below Mr. Ley, however, because he has not had that intimate acquaintance with the valuation of friendly societies which Mr. Ley has. It has to be remembered that a knowledge of the internal working of a friendly society (which the present registrar possesses, he having been a

member of such an institution) is useful in understanding the working of such institutions and in dealing with their rules, but it does not itself qualify an applicant for the actuarial part of the duties nor for many of the matters connected with the registration of legal work.

EDGAR T. OWEN,  
Registrar of Friendly Societies."

Any unprejudiced person reading these reports and having gone carefully into the matter would see that Mr. Owen has recommended the right people. Mr. Doyl was shown to be an actuary since 189 and to have done actuarial work in Great Britain, and to have been engaged in an important position with the A.M.P. Society, and to have acted under the Registrar of Friendly Societies in New South Wales carrying out the work we wanted here, and getting information in connection with the matter we required. We were told that Mr. Bennett was a member of the largest benefit society in the North of England, but the institution that Mr. Bennett was connected with was not, in the true sense of the term, a friendly society as we understood a friendly society to be. It certainly combined some elements of friendly societies with savings bank business. It differed from other societies in requiring deposits from members of not less than their contributions for twelve months. The president of the society was the Duke of Northumberland. Dukes did not generally become members of friendly societies. He had already explained where Mr. Jull found himself in a difficulty and ascertaining there were actuaries in Australia turned to Mr. North to get him out of the difficulty. This was how Mr. North did it. Writing on the 3rd April, 1909 Mr. North wrote to the Public Service Commissioner saying—

"I am glad you returned these papers with the inquiries as it has given me further opportunity of carefully analysing the merits of the four applicants previously selected. You will see the written reasons of the registrar herewith, and in addition I have verbally discussed the matter with him. The

fact is it is difficult to make a selection with any degree of certainty of applicants of whom one has only documentary evidence as to their fitness."

Was that true? Mr. Owen reported being personally acquainted with Mr. Ley and with a Mr. Miller who knew Mr. Doyle. Further, the Premier was in the Eastern States at the time and it was much easier to get information from him than it was to get it from England. But no, this thing could not be done. This was the way Mr. North got Mr. Jull out of the difficulty. Mr. North continues—

"My own opinion is that the best man, judging by the position which he now occupies and the experience which he must have acquired from that position, is S. Bennett. My reasons for this are because a man would not be in the position of accountant in one of the largest friendly societies in England, dealing with a million of money, and have held that position for over eight years unless he had sterling qualifications."

This is really grotesque reasoning when only applied to Mr. Bennett. What about Mr. Doyle who was connected with an institution possessing funds amounting to £24,000,000? Arguments were not wanted. Had not his friend Mr. Jull sent along a note, and had he not mentioned why he placed this gentleman first. The National Deposit Friendly Society was a mere pigmy and the following figures which he would quote would show this. The U.O.O.F. had a membership of 1,275,080 and funds amounting to £8,895,485. The Manchester Unity I.O.O.F. had a membership of 994,815 with funds amounting to £13,022,048. The I.O.O.R. with its juveniles had a membership of 430,000 and funds amounting to £1,914,000. The I.O.O.F. of Canada had a membership of 250,000 with funds amounting to £1,448,000. The G.U.O.F. had a membership of 389,331 and funds totalling £1,460,000. The National Deposit Friendly Society had a membership of 180,000 and funds amounting to £850,000. What he desired to point out was that these friendly societies, the Manchester Unity, the Foresters and others were the friendly

societies doing business in Australia with which the actuary was called upon to deal, and he would continue his argument by pointing out that the National Deposit Society was a big institution and not a friendly society in the proper acceptation of the term. If one went to the library and looked up "English Associations of Working Men," by J. M. Baerneither, a member of the House of Deputies of Austria, it would be found that he dealt with a visit to England and this class of society. Of the Deposit Friendly Societies he wrote—

"A wholly distinct class of friendly societies consist of what are called deposit friendly societies, which unite in a wholly original manner the functions of a savings bank with those of a provident society. A clergyman, the late Hon. Rev. Samuel Best, was the originator of a system intended to train the working classes to habits of thrift and providence by connecting the allowances with the savings and making the former depend on the latter. This system was certainly ingenious but it was too artificial to obtain any wide adoption."

It was important that this point should be brought out because it had been held that Mr. Bennett was accountant of the National Provident Institution, and he (Mr. McDowall) would point out that this institution was not a friendly society in the real acceptation of the term. Dr. Baerneither went on to say—

"The first institution established on his principles was the Abbot's Arm Provident Society, which became the model for several others of the same kind. This system projected by Mr. Best has its enthusiastic supporters who point to its services as a proof of the advantages it offers. On the other hand, especially among the last affiliated orders which were established of course on wholly different principles, it has been fiercely attacked. The Abbot's Arm Provident Society is a savings bank, a friendly society, and a medical club all in one."

It seemed wearisome to go through this matter, but it was essential to prove his case to the hilt that there were men in

Australia, who had actual qualifications, and every qualification superior on paper to those of the gentleman who was appointed no matter how good that gentleman might be.

Mr. Johnson: He was appointed on paper too.

Mr. McDOWALL: Yes, and much more so than the others. Mr. North went on to say—

“The legal knowledge he has acquired concerning mortgages, common law, and the law of real and personal property, as well as of friendly society law, must be extensive and of a practical nature. He has been in a position of trust and of responsibility and it is in this respect that to my mind he stands ahead over the other applicants; none of them occupying a similar position, as they are all subordinates.”

We did not ask for legal knowledge. This was just an excuse for making the appointment. Our advertisement asked for nothing of the kind. Four persons were recommended. Mr. Bennett was placed at the bottom of the list. Mr. Jull was not satisfied, and he gave a hint and Mr. North wrote back and gave these reasons why Mr. Bennett should be pulled from the bottom and placed on the top. Mr. North went on to say—

“Doyle and Ley respectively in the offices of the Registrar General of New South Wales and Victoria should no doubt be eligible for the position, but I do not read the recommendations of the Government Statistician and Under Secretary of New South Wales as being very enthusiastic as to the former's capabilities.”

There had not been an opportunity of reading these testimonials because they were not on the file, but it was remarkable that Mr. Owen in his report said that this gentleman held a valuable testimonial from the Registrar of Friendly Societies in New South Wales, and also that he was recommended by the Under Secretary in New South Wales. The appointment of Mr. Bennett under the circumstances became scandalous, as far as doing an Australian out of the

appointment. Mr. North continued in his letter—

“In regard to Mr. Ley you will note that all the legal work is performed by the Registrar General himself in the Victorian office, being a barrister, and therefore Mr. Ley's knowledge on this subject will not be extensive.”

What information had we about Mr. Bennett's legal qualifications and what influence was successful in moving one man from the bottom and placing him at the top? There was not a word about “legal qualifications” in the advertisement. After receiving this report from Mr. North he concluded that Mr. Bennett was probably the best man on paper, and in consequence of his having been connected with the National Deposit Friendly Society he went on to say: “I may add that Mr. Owen concurs in my views that Mr. Bennett is probably the best man in the circumstances for the position, and would fill it with credit.” The other part of the letter was typewritten. This portion, however was in Mr. North's handwriting. After receiving this report from Mr. North we had this delightful little document from Mr. Jull:—

“To the Under Secretary C.S.D.—  
Your minute of the 3rd inst hereunder confirms the opinion which I had arrived at, namely, that on paper Mr. Bennett is probably the best man. It was for this reason that I penned my minute of 23rd ult. I should like to have the concurrence of Hon. Mr. Connolly in cabling to the Agent General to make private inquiries regarding Mr. Bennett's personal character, etc., and also to get him medically examined. If the Agent General's reply is in all respects satisfactory, I would be prepared to commend Mr. Bennett.”

There were 16 applications from England and 13 from Australia; four were recommended. Those four were sent to the Public Service Commissioner. Mr. Jull looked at them and he was astonished after saying that an actuary could only be got either in the North of England or the South of Scotland; and after that he passed the minute which he (Mr.

McDowall) had read. It was the most delightful bit of comedy he had come across for some time. Then, there was the formal appointment. An allowance of £100 was made for expenses. If one of the applicants from Australia had been appointed it would not have been necessary to have granted the allowance of £100. At this stage the A.N.A. wrote to the Colonial Secretary protesting against the appointment of Mr. Bennett, and Mr. North replied, stating that the communication would be forwarded to the Public Service Commissioner, in whose hands the appointment rested. That was dated the 1st June. The appointment was practically decided in April. That was the consideration the friendly societies, representing some 50,000 or 60,000 persons, received in connection with the appointment. First, they entered a protest in proper time to prevent any fear of the appointment being made; that was taken no notice of, and the appointment was made. He (Mr. McDowall) had demonstrated that there were men in Australia competent to fill the position, but in consequence of the bias there was no earthly chance of getting an Australian appointed. It seemed remarkable that a gentleman occupying this position should use the arguments which he did. The statistics of insurance as far as Great Britain was concerned centred around London, yet we found the Public Service Commissioner capable of going to the North of England or the South of Scotland, but not capable of going to the Commonwealth. He did not state in his letter that he thought it possible to obtain a qualified man in Australia. When the Commissioner found there were men in Australia with proper qualifications, and with friendly societies experience, why did he not accept the opinion of the late Registrar in this State and appoint an Australian? When people came to this country and became citizens of the country, if any position was going and they were qualified for it, it was our duty to give to a qualified man a position rather than to give it to an outsider. Now that Mr. Bennett had become an Australian, if he applied for

a position to-morrow and was qualified for it and an outsider was appointed in his stead, he (Mr. McDowall) would be aggrieved if Mr. Bennett did not get the position. He hoped the habit of always rushing to the old country, or somewhere else, for people to do our work would be discontinued while we had competent people in Australia. It was pointed out last night that we appointed experts from everywhere but Australia. The only expert we had in this country who had not been imported was Professor Lowrie. It was for this principle we were contending. He realised it was utterly useless going in for technical education, going in for a University, and high schools, or education of any description if, when we educated our children and they had the qualifications to fill positions, when positions worth having became vacant, these positions were given to someone outside. Our own people should receive the first consideration. He sincerely hoped the debate would do some little good.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS congratulated the member for Coolgardie on the magnificent effort he had put up in the case of the appointment of the Government Actuary. The hon. member had a grasp of the file which was certainly creditable to him, and he had put the matter in a concise form before the Committee and had given much information in regard to the appointment. There was an old adage which said, "A prophet has no honour in his own country," and this applied very frequently in appointments of this kind. The Committee and members would be satisfied that the views of the Government generally were embodied in the minutes which the hon. member had quoted. The desire of the Government was that all appointments as far as possible in the Government should be made from our people in Western Australia; if we could not, then he would say from other parts of the Commonwealth; failing the Commonwealth we should get them from wherever we could. All he wished to say in reply to the member was that the Government intended to carry out that policy as far as possible. He be-

lieved that in Mr. Bennett we had an able officer well qualified to fill the position, and if he heard anything about this debate he would recognise that there had been no attack on his capabilities to fill the position. He naturally made the application, took his chance as to whether he would get the appointment, and was successful. He was now amongst us, and he wanted Mr. Bennett to feel that we valued his services.

Item—Industrial Arbitration, Fees to Members of Court, £626:

Mr. TROY: Provision should be made to allow representatives of the workers and employers to travel to the various localities and make themselves acquainted with local conditions when it was impossible for the President to go? In the Pilbara district a Court would be held within the next few months. He feared that the President, despite his willingness to go to every locality, would not be able to spare the time, but it was advisable that the other representatives of the Court should go to the district. With regard to Arbitration Court matters generally, it was to be regretted that the means for approaching the Court were becoming more difficult every year; so much so in fact that steps should be taken at once to make the manner of citing a case and securing a hearing much more simple than it was now. In the old days all that was required was that a union should cite a case and a hearing would be obtained in a short time; but now, owing to the decisions of the Full Court and High Court, the procedure had become most complicated, with the result that in order to establish a dispute eight or nine months must elapse before a hearing could be obtained. There was a dispute at Mount Magnet some time ago and preparations were initiated for hearing last February yet, although not a single day was wasted, the hearing was not begun until the 9th September. Again, there was a case at Southern Cross. Preparations were begun last May but the case was not heard until November. That was not the fault of the Court, but was due to the fact that there had been numberless appeals against the Court's jurisdiction and

awards. It was not reasonable that there should be these long delays. It was provided that persons who created a dispute must always be present at the time of the preparin to prove the grounds of the dispute, but it often happend that nine months after the creation of a dispute there were very few workers who had been there when the trouble first arose. The Act might be revised later on with a view to meeting the difficulties and to have a satisfactory settlement of disputes arranged at an early date. Although there were defects in the Act, there was no doubt that the measure had prevented a great many industrial disputes which would otherwise have caused loss and injury to the State.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was several years since he had been personally connected with the Arbitration Court, but evidently something had cropped up in the interim which had altered the procedure of the Court. The very essence of arbitration was that anyone complaining should be able to get before the Court with promptitude. With regard to the other matter mentioned he fancied there was nothing to prevent the members of the Court from travelling to any district. It was desirable that they should have first hand knowledge of industries and districts, and if they thought it was wise to proceed to Pilbara he knew of nothing to prevent them doing so, if the President could not go.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Gaols, £30,655:

Item, Religious Instructors (2), £300.

Mr. TROY: The principle of paying the gaol clergymen was not a good one, for surely the clergy in whose parish the gaol was, and who were kept by the people of the district, should look after the gaols without this remuneration from the State. The Estimates showed that whereas one of these instructors was paid £175 the other received £125. Why was the difference made?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: One was a visiting clergyman.

Item, Matrons (4), £366:

Mr. W. PRICE: There was an urgent necessity for a searching investigation as

to the allegations levelled against the control of the female section of the Fremantle prison. The conduct of the officials in that section of the prison was certainly not conducive to good conduct on the part of the prisoners. If a proper investigation was carried out it would be found that officials there were known to have been drunk on duty and that at the present time articles made by female prisoners were sent out of the gaol and sold. This had been going on for some time. The charge of drunkenness had come within the knowledge of the superintendent of the Fremantle gaol. He was certain the Minister would not tolerate such conduct. In the matrons' quarters female prisoners were allowed to peruse private documents referring to other prisoners, and to the condition of the gaol. Favouritism was rife, and in consequence of this, and of the drunkenness, discipline was exceedingly lax. He briefly mentioned these facts, intending to at some future time go farther into the matter. He hoped that the Minister would look into it also.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Certainly the allegations made by the hon. member were of the most serious character. They had been duly noted, and if the alleged state of affairs existed it would be put right forthwith.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Harbour and Light*, £26,617—agreed to.

Vote—*Lunacy*, £30,784:

Mr. ANGWIN: Early in the session he had moved a motion affirming the necessity of granting the right of appeal to the employees of asylums and gaols. The Minister might tell the Committee whether the department was likely to grant this concession to the employees in connection with the Lunacy Department in any cases in which those employees thought that justice had not been meted out to them. The Colonial Secretary, it seemed, was inclined to grant the attendants an appeal board consisting of the Inspector General of the Insane with two other gentlemen, visiting officers to the institution, one being a doctor and the other a solicitor. However, if the attendants were to be given the right of appeal it should be to

an independent board, and not to a board like that presided over by the Public Service Commissioner.

[Mr. Daglish resumed the Chair.]

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Colonial Secretary had the question of an appeal board under consideration, notwithstanding the fact that there were many weighty arguments against such an appointment. In some of the larger States these appeal boards were not allowed. In fact there had been one in Victoria, but it had been done away with in the interests of discipline. However, the Colonial Secretary was considering the matter, his idea being to grant an appeal board on the lines of that in connection with the Police Department. The Inspector General would not be on the board at all.

Mr. Angwin: That is all right.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Medical and Public Health*, £93,667:

Mr. TROY: Would any opportunity be given hon. members to discuss the motion moved by the member for Mount Margaret in regard to hospital subsidies? He (Mr. Troy) wished to express his views in connection with the action of the Government in reducing the amount previously paid to the hospitals by way of assistance to their maintenance. If there was one thing more than another which a Government owed to the people it was the provision of means of education, and of securing the public health. These two matters were to be looked upon as first essentials. Any Government which would reduce the vote for the maintenance of public health was not acting in the best interests of the people. If the people of Western Australia had been consulted they would have chosen almost any other means of effecting economy than that of curtailing subsidies to hospitals. The reduction of the subsidies was putting a severe hardship on people in remote portions of the State. It would not affect people in the urban areas, because their hospitals were almost wholly maintained by the Government. But people living

on the very fringe of civilisation, and who with their wives and families were labouring under every disadvantage, unable at times to secure fresh food calculated to keep them in health—these were the people most to be affected by the action of the Government in reducing the subsidies to hospitals. The hospital at Sandstone, a new district in his electorate, had been erected at a time when the exigencies of finance demanded that every care should be exercised in regard to the expenditure. As a result the people of Black Range had been called upon largely to assist in the very erection of their hospital, and were compelled to go to the expense of furnishing it throughout, and generally adding to it. These people had to contribute heavily to the hospital, and had a great struggle to make both ends meet. Through the reduction of the Government subsidy the position at Sandstone would be still worse, and the hospital in all probability would revert to the Government. It had been carried on so far in a very creditable manner—the Colonial Secretary himself admitted it—and if the subsidy were curtailed the Government would not be acting in the best interests of the people in the district. The Cue hospital was exclusively maintained by the Government and the people of the town were not called upon to make any sacrifice for the upkeep of the institution. On the other hand at Mount Magnet the hospital had all along been maintained by the people with the help of the Government subsidy, and the cutting down of the subsidy would mean that the committee could not make ends meet, and the hospital would have to be closed. There was not so much need for hospitals in the agricultural districts. There was not the great possibility of accidents occurring as was the case in mining districts. Everyone would agree that the policy of the Government in reducing the subsidies was not a wise one. The preservation of the lives and limbs of our citizens should be the first duty of the Government; and even at this late hour, it was to be hoped the Government would check their callous action that reflected no credit on the Govern-

ment nor on the department responsible for cutting down the subsidies.

Mr. ANGWIN: The Colonial Secretary had committed a distinct breach of faith in regard to the health boards in the metropolitan area. For some time the local boards of health had been dissatisfied with the charges put on them for the upkeep of patients sent to the hospitals. The Minister told a deputation that for typhus and typhoid cases there would be no charges against the local authorities, but the department subsequently informed the local boards of health that the Minister's reply to the deputation applied to indigent cases prior to the 30th September, and that in typhus and typhoid cases it was to be clearly understood that from the 30th September the management of the Perth and Fremantle hospitals would be absolutely under the control of the respective boards, and these boards would charge for whatever cases they liked, and the Minister would not interfere. It appeared the Minister was dealing unfairly with the local boards of health. At any rate if the local boards of health were required to pay for typhus cases the rating powers of the boards would have to be increased. The Minister should endeavour to keep his promise. It was not right on his part to mislead the members of the deputation.

Mr. WALKER: There was a motion on the Notice Paper in regard to the reduction of subsidies on hospitals, and it was necessary to repeat somewhat what had been said in this matter in order to emphasise the objection to the stand taken by the department, and to endeavour to get some promise from the Minister that in recess there would not be some still further alteration, a still further withdrawal of subsidies, and, therefore, still greater trials placed upon the outback hospitals. It seemed to be the ultimate intention to compel every district in the State to support its hospitals without assistance from the central Government. The position of those who were representing outback constituencies was extremely painful. Those who dwelt in the metropolis and only occasionally visited the goldfields on a

holiday could have no conception of the concern of the inhabitants of the mining districts at finding that their hospitals were being undermined and weakened. If this policy was continued some hospitals would have to be closed up. That would mean additions to the troubles and trials and difficulties of the mining population, whose heroism and utility to the State had never been properly appreciated by the Government. When it was considered that the whole State had been practically built up within the last 20 years, and largely by the mining portion of our population; when we recognised that the pioneer miners had made this State the peer of all the States of the Commonwealth, in progress, advancement, and importance, then on reflecting that the mining population was forgotten, neglected, not understood, ignored, and treated as a negligible quantity, we could not but utter the strongest terms of condemnation. This session should not close unless we had the assurance that whatever might happen the hospitals would not be closed, or would not be put into the position of starvation as far as funds were concerned. On the coast we had a population which could support a hospital. In the mining districts such a thing was not practicable. He did not intend to lengthen out his protest, but he asked the Minister before another stage was taken in the Estimates to give the Committee the assurance that these hospitals would have that treatment which their importance deserved, and which humanity demanded.

Mr. HUDSON desired to enter a protest against the action of the Government in reducing the subsidies of the hospitals. The matter had been placed before the Government, they knew the whole situation, and they should reconsider their position, and, at least, announce that they did not intend to extend the policy they proposed. He desired to bring under notice the case of the hospital at Ravensthorpe. Not only had the subsidy to this hospital been cut down, but the Government had actually confiscated money to which the hospital was entitled. During the whole

of this year efforts had been made locally to raise money to improve the hospital grounds, and to build nurses' quarters, and secure the services of extra nurses, and the people made an application to the Government for a subsidy at the rate of 15s. in the pound on the amount of their collections, which came to about £400. The whole of the correspondence on the matter was in his possession, and though he did not propose to read it all he desired to read a reply which was sent to the hospital authorities by the Colonial Secretary's department, when an application was made for the payment of this subsidy. When they made application for this subsidy they were put off from time to time. Finally the matter came under his (Mr. Hudson's) notice and he succeeded in extracting a reply from the Colonial Secretary's office. This was the reply—

"In reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo, relative to the Ravensthorpe Hospital, I have the honour by direction to inform you that it is recognised that the Committee have worked their institution on economical lines in the past, and doubtless in the future it will be necessary to employ an additional nurse. A special grant of £100 has been approved for the erection of a verandah; but the Hon. the Colonial Secretary is not prepared to grant an amount towards the erection of nurses' quarters. The laying out of the grounds is a matter for the Committee to undertake; but it would hardly appear that this work is a necessity. At present the Principal Medical Officer is holding subsidy claims under the 15s. in the pound vote from January to July last amounting to £414 2s. 3d., which, he states, the committee are not in need of. The last financial statement to hand, for July, showed that after providing for all liabilities to date there remained £83 8s. 5d. to credit, and as the local contributions amount to about £90 per month, it is anticipated that the committee will have sufficient funds in hand to discharge all liabilities for August, and start under the altered conditions of



subsidy with a credit balance of about £80. If the Committee find that they are unable to finance the hospital on the subsidies promised, i.e. £200 towards maintenance and £100 towards the medical officer's salary, the Hon. the Colonial Secretary will favourably consider an application for the granting of an additional £100 on account of the doctor's salary. In the Principal Medical Officer's opinion the present source of income, namely, 1s. per week contribution, is sufficient to finance the hospital, with the subsidies from the Government. When the amendment to the Municipalities and Roads Board Acts becomes law, the committee should receive some additional revenue. The Minister regrets he cannot accede to the request that the present basis of 15s. in the pound be continued."

He would like to know why this sum of £414 had been retained by the Government, which should have been paid according to a promise to the people who raised the money upon which that subsidy was payable. The Under Secretary stated that they were not actually in need of the money, and he went on to say that they did not want it because they had done so much for themselves, and had £80 in the bank. Because they made such an effort the Government now refused to pay what was due to these people. That was not fair or reasonable. At any rate the Government should keep their promise and pay these people the sum which was due to them. The tone of the letter was simply a premium on extravagance. Because these people conducted this institution satisfactorily and economically they were to be deprived of that money which they would have received had they been extravagant. The Minister should give an assurance that the Government would keep faith with the people of Ravensthorpe.

Mr. KEENAN: It was to be regretted that when economy had to be adopted, as we all admitted it must be adopted, it should have been applied to a vote of this character. It would be found that there was a total saving of £12,873; of

that total £10,000 was made up by administrative costs, which might be reduced without affecting the services rendered to the public. These services were absolutely necessary in order that the most ordinary comforts might be extended to the people of the State at the time when they most required them. The Minister should advance some reason why economy of a drastic character should have been applied to a vote of this kind, when reductions had not been effected in connection with other institutions, which were not of the importance and were not as necessary as our public hospitals. The Government should not allow a vote of this kind to be passed, showing such a large reduction without some adequate reason why the reduction had been made.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Committee would recognise that the Government was in sympathy with the hospital movement, and that, too, notwithstanding individual opinions to the contrary which had been expressed not only this evening but on many other occasions. Although the member for Kanowna declared that the Government had neglected and ignored the mining population of the State, even he (the member for Kanowna) would believe that the sympathies of the Government were with the sick and infirm, and the poor of the people. It did not follow that because the Government realised that the hospital expenditure had reached the stage when it must of necessity, in the interests of sound finance and administration be kept within bounds—it did not follow that because of this the Government ought to be accused of want of sympathy or of hardening their hearts against the claims of the sick and the infirm. He wanted to disabuse hon. members' minds of any such idea. He desired to be emphatic that his colleague, the Minister in charge of the department, had in his mind only the idea of securing efficiency in the administration of the hospitals, together with comforts for the sick, and at the same time to effect necessary economy. The member for Kanowna had asked him (the Minister for Works) to adduce reasons for the action taken by the Colonial Secretary in the direction of

reducing expenditure on this department. To thrash the question out from beginning to end would mean to delay the Committee for a considerable time. He would briefly put before the Committee the facts that had appealed to his colleague to endeavour to economise in the department. No hon. member ought to take exception to a movement which as yet had inflicted no hardship on any section of the community. The system should be given a fair trial. A good many local authorities had accepted the conditions, while others had refused them, and others had yet to be communicated with. The system ought to be given a trial for at least one year, in order to prove whether or not the steps taken to effect legitimate economy were wise. The member for Kanowna had asked for an assurance. The Minister was prepared to give the assurance that there was no hidden intention on the part of the Government to whittle away the subsidies to hospitals, no hidden intention to close down hospitals where they were necessary. But there was a sincere intention on the part of the Government to see that the system—and a magnificent system it had been—was not abused as it undoubtedly had been during past years. He did not wish to analytically compare our system with that of the Eastern States—

Mr. Collier: The same old comparison.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS:—yet it was necessary that he should repeat some of the figures in order to show that there was room for economies in the hospitals.

Mr. Bolton: I can read it all in five or six different numbers of *Hansard*.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Then the hon. member ought to be satisfied that it was necessary that some steps should be taken to economise in the hospitals. We were carrying a much heavier burden in connection with our hospitals than was the case in any other State in the Commonwealth. The statistics showed that whereas in the metropolitan hospitals in Western Australia out of an expenditure of £26,824 the Government provided £23,936; in New South Wales,

out of an expenditure of £124,000 the Government provided £69,000; in Victoria out of an expenditure of £58,000 the Government provided £18,000; and in Queensland, out of an expenditure of £23,000 the Government provided £27,000. From this it would be seen that Western Australia did carry a very heavy burden. Nearly the whole cost of maintaining these hospitals was thrown on the shoulders of the Government in this State, whereas in the other States the burden only amounted to 50 or 55 per cent.

Mr. Heitmann: The people pay it all the same.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The people did pay it all, seeing that in the first place the money came from the people. Another aspect of the question was to be seen in the percentage of expenditure, which was very much in excess of that of any other State.

Mr. Collier: So it is in all departments.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The ratio of Government aid to total expenditure was, in New South Wales, 9s. 4d.; in Victoria, 7s.; in Queensland, 10s.; in South Australia, 15s. 3d.; in Western Australia, 16s. 2d. From this it would be seen that in every instance Western Australia led the way and carried the greater burden.

Mr. Keenan: Are these percentages founded on last year's figures?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes. Did not these figures prove that it was necessary that the Government should exercise some economy that they should not only be economical in their own administration but should impress upon those who had been good enough to take over the management of these institutions the necessity for economy. He would ask hon. members to allow the system which the Colonial Secretary had inaugurated to have a 12 months' run, at any rate. The principle underlying the reductions in connection with both the Government and the assisted hospitals in the State had been that wherever we had a populous and thriving centre the hospitals which had hitherto cost the State the large proportion of from 75 to 80 per cent. should become more self-supporting. On the other hand

it had been recognised that where there was a decaying centre, a centre that had once supported a large population, and which, through unforeseen circumstances and the dwindling of the dominant industry had suffered a diminution of the population—in such a case the demand for hospital accommodation must decrease, and, therefore, some lesser expenditure should be expected. He would remind the Committee that the Colonial Secretary, although recognising these two principles and endeavouring to meet them without undue hardship had, by the fact that he had now adopted a fixed subsidy to each hospital, done away with the very grievance that the member for Dundas had referred to in connection with one of the hospitals in his district. It was true that the 15s. in the pound had not been granted in its entirety to hospitals in credit and which did not require the full amount of subsidy.

*12 o'clock, midnight.*

Mr. Hudson: You led them to expect that they would receive it.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The hon. member would admit that there was something to be said on the side of the Colonial Secretary. The intention of the Government and the Minister was to provide facilities for treating sick or injured, but it was not intended to give any more than would provide these facilities. It was the rule of the department that hospitals controlled by local people with credit balances in hand should not draw upon the public funds. It would not be wise to have credit balances accumulating for hospitals.

Mr. HUDSON: In the case mentioned there was no such intention; the money was saved up for a specific purpose, but the department did not keep faith.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The member for Cue claimed it was always the people who paid for the hospitals whether it was done by direct support or through the Government. Surely the hon. member did not want the people again to provide hospitals with surpluses from the funds of the Government? All hospital buildings were to be put in good repair before being handed over to the committees, and

the item on the Estimates had been increased to provide sufficient funds for the purpose. All hospitals had been reduced from the 30th September last whether the committees accepted the conditions or otherwise; and although several committees had refused to accept the responsibility, yet there was only one from a gold-fields centre that complained the allowance was not sufficient.

Mr. HEITMANN: The hospital at Cue was a Government hospital, but the people of Cue refused to take it over. What was the intention of the Government?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Government would have to carry on the institution and effect the necessary economies. There was now £54,000 outstanding for hospital charges outside the metropolitan area due by patients who could afford to pay. This was a serious position and one that demanded a drastic remedy.

Mr. Collier: How does it compare with the land rents owing?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: There was considerably more security in the case of the land rents. Two blacks did not make a white. If we did not get in the land rents sufficiently promptly it was no reason why we should not take steps to see that what was due to the hospitals was collected on a better system than before. These people could afford to pay, but neglected to pay. A sum of £23,000 had been written off in one lump sum. This £54,000 that was owing covered a period of about five years. The Government intended to deal with the matter liberally, but at the same time the Colonial Secretary intended the hospitals to be put on a sound basis. The dangers feared by the member for Dundas could have no weight. At any rate if in twelve months' time the system now adopted proved unworkable no one would be more prompt or readier to effect an alteration than the Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Heitmann rose to speak.

The Chairman: What item?

Mr. Heitmann: I wish to speak generally.

The Chairman: The Minister has replied and the hon. member cannot pursue a general discussion.

Mr. Heitmann: We are in Committee.

The Chairman: The practice of having a general discussion is only following the practice that has grown up for some years, and which the House decided recently should be followed, and that practice has been the same as that prevailing when the House is not in Committee, namely, that any member has the right to speak before the Minister replies on the general discussion, but only once.

Mr. Heitmann: It was not my intention to wait until the Minister had spoken before I spoke. I will speak on Item No. 1.

The Chairman: The general discussion takes place on the first item. The hon. member can now only speak on the item so far as it relates to the officer and his salary. The hon. member cannot speak on the general question.

Item, Principal Medical Officer and President Central Board of Health, £950:

Mr. HEITMANN: What salary was promised to this officer when the position was advertised?

The Minister for Works: The full salary of £950 is provided.

Mr. HEITMANN: The salary was advertised at £350. The work of the department was not being carried out as it should be. Instead of making progress in health matters we seemed to be just sitting down until an epidemic or plague broke out. The premises in the Health Department were an absolute disgrace. The laboratory would not compare with the laboratories on the mines at Kalgoorlie. It was a dungeon in which the officers had not room to work, and there were no conveniences for the public. We should be more up-to-date. The Principal Medical Officer was behind the times.

Mr. Angwin: He has the highest diploma it is possible to get.

Mr. HEITMANN: One could not agree with the officer's twopenny-halfpenny schemes. Any man with common sense could deal with matters better. On the great question of tuberculosis Dr. Hope was begging the miners' unions and friendly societies to put by 3s. a year.

Mr. Angwin: If the Government will not give the money for it someone must.

Mr. HEITMANN: That was no excuse. The officer showed lack of capacity in dealing with the question.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The position was advertised at £800 to £1,000, but he was not sure of this information. The Public Service Commissioner fixed the maximum at £1,000, and Dr. Hope was engaged at £950.

Mr. Angwin: He was foolish to take it. He gave up £300 by doing so.

Mr. HEITMANN: The Government were foolish to appoint Dr. Hope. It was time the country had some announcement as to what was to be done in reference to the Commission on tuberculosis. What was being done in regard to the inspection of schools? It was regrettable the Government had not put the Health Bill through the House. In that measure power was given to examine children in schools. Prevention was better than cure. What was being done?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: There were frequent visits to schools with examinations of scholars to detect infectious diseases. The number of swabs taken was 13,000. There were occasionally examinations of school premises, and a course of lectures was delivered to the trainees at the training college.

Mr. Heitmann: Who is the bacteriologist?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Dr. Steele.

Mr. HEITMANN: The Government could do more in regard to the work performed by this officer. It was high time we recognised the evil of venereal diseases among our midst. In Germany it was openly recognised. It was more infectious than any other disease.

Item, Compulsory Vaccination officer, £180:

Mr. BOLTON moved—

*That the item be struck out.*

The Assembly had unanimously adopted the amending Bill introduced for the abolition of compulsory vaccination, and since then a referendum taken in many centres had decided absolutely against compulsory vaccination. We had not been able to get the reform asked for

owing to the action of another House, but this item could be knocked out so that the compulsory officer should not be provided for. It was understood the police officers were to be compulsory officers. There would then be equal treatment throughout the State, but at present with this one vaccination officer it meant only one district receiving attention. The officer had the cheek to stable his horse in the North Fremantle electorate for six weeks at a stretch. When the police were appointed compulsory officers the Government would soon ascertain that the people desired their reform. If the item were knocked out the Government could easily make provision for the officer's salary for the expired portion of the year. If the Committee decided to strike out the item it would be a direct command from Parliament that compulsory vaccination should be stopped until the amending Bill passed through next session.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** If the Committee deliberately struck out the item, seeing the officer had already been paid his salary for nearly half a year, how was the Treasurer to provide the money? Also, how would it affect the question of vaccination? It was time to do away with the compulsory vaccination officer when the law was altered. It would be very harsh on the officer if the amendment were carried. The member had not advanced an argument in justification of the motion to strike out the item.

**Mr. BOLTON:** It was all very well to say it would be wrong to get rid of the man at once, but if the Act were amended he would have to retire from the position. The desire was to do away with compulsory vaccination as enforced by prosecution.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	20
Noes	..	..	..	13
				—
Majority for	..	..	..	7
				—

## AYES

Mr. Angwin	Mr. Plesse
Mr. Bath	Mr. W. Price
Mr. Bolton	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Collier	Mr. Swan
Mr. Cowcher	Mr. Troy
Mr. Gill	Mr. Walker
Mr. Gordon	Mr. Ware
Mr. Hardwick	Mr. A. A. Wilson
Mr. Horan	Mr. Heltmann
Mr. McDowall	(Teller).
Mr. O'Loghlen	

## NOES

Mr. Draper	Mr. S. F. Moore
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Nanson
Mr. Hayward	Mr. Osborn
Mr. Keenan	Mr. J. Price
Mr. Mitchell	Mr. F. Wilson
Mr. Mounger	Mr. Brown
Mr. N. J. Moore	(Teller).

Amendment thus passed; the item struck out.

Item, District medical officers (45), £9,394:

**Mr. O'LOGHLEN:** There was a great disparity in the amounts paid to the medical officers in the various centres. In some small districts the doctors were receiving large sums. At Donnybrook, for instance, the medical officer was very well paid.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** The medical officer at Donnybrook had suffered a reduction. However, it was always the case in connection with these items that the smaller the district the more the Government had to pay the medical officer to be there. If the district was fairly large and had a good population so that the doctor could have a good private practice the sum paid by the Government was not so great.

Item, Nurses (51), at from £18 to £90, £2,750:

**Mr. O'LOGHLEN:** Some scheme should be adopted whereby the nurses, especially in the country districts, were freed from the necessity to work such long hours. In the City nurses were on duty 10 hours a day, but at a place like Meekatharra they had to work 84 hours a week. That was the minimum, but at times they had to work 20 hours a day. Meekatharra was 600 or 700 miles from the City and in a very bad climate, and the nurses should receive better treatment. It was to be hoped the depart-

ment would take seriously into consideration the question of reducing the hours of matrons and nurses on the fields.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** The hospital at Meekatharra was an assisted one, managed by a local board. The nurses were completely under the control of the local authorities, who fixed their hours. Where the Government employed nurses the hours were not so long. Probably in many of the country hospitals the nurses had a very light time during some periods of the year, while at others they must necessarily be rushed with a considerable amount of work. Personally, he thought the hours might be reduced.

**Mr. HEITMANN:** It was true as the Minister had said, that at times the duties of nurses in country hospitals were very light. He knew that the nurses were prepared to take the good with the bad in the small hospitals, but the Government might well initiate a scheme in their own hospitals for reducing the hours of work. At the Perth hospital the nurses worked from 10 to 12 hours a day, and the only excuse given for failing to remedy this state of affairs was that the cost would be too great. In New Zealand there was an eight hours' day in the hospitals. Then there was the question of importing nurses from the old country. It would be interesting to know whether the adoption of that policy had proved a success. He certainly objected to the department bringing women from England and paying them a lower wage than the nurses here received. He had heard that positions at Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie which had previously carried a salary of £70 a year had been filled by imported nurses for £60 a year.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** Some nurses were engaged from the old country as at that time it was impossible to get all the nurses required either here or from the Eastern States. Truly the importation should not be continued as there were now plenty of nurses in Perth, in fact, in some of the hospitals probationers, nurses, and sisters had been put off.

**Mr. BROWN:** The nurses in the Perth hospital were paid a higher rate of wages than nurses in any other part of Australasia. In introducing an eight hours' day in the Perth hospital the extra cost to the State would be some £3,000 or £4,000 a year. The nurses themselves would not like to be classed on the eight hours a day basis. At present after three years' work in the hospital the nurses were able to leave the institution with a profession which enabled them to earn three or four guineas a week. At the Perth hospital there were wardsmen who cleaned and scrubbed the floors, whereas in England the nurses paid a premium for entering the institution and then had to do all the drudgery work, the scrubbing, etcetera. The Perth hospital had never imported nurses from England, for the majority of those engaged in that institution were obtained from the Eastern States. The Perth hospital came in for a considerable amount of criticism, but there was no doubt that it was one of the best managed in the State and was being worked most satisfactorily.

**Mr. HEITMANN:** I was much to be doubted whether the extra cost incurred by having an eight hours' day in the Perth hospital would amount to an additional expenditure of anything approaching £3,000. The adoption of the principle would mean that not more than a dozen extra nurses would be required. He desired to add his praise concerning the manner in which the Perth hospital was managed.

Item, Temporary labour and relieving officers, £3,500:

**Mr. ANGWIN:** Would this item provide for inspectors to see that the provisions of the Early Closing and Factories Acts were enforced? Additional officers would be needed now that the holiday season was coming on. Last Wednesday 17 or 18 persons were caught working at Foy and Gibson's, but no action was taken.

*1 o'clock a.m.*

Item, Grants in aid of maintenance and buildings, £500:

**Mr. COLLIER:** Was the isolation hospital at Boulder Road to be opened? It

had been built for a long time, and it was intended that the local governing body should take it over, but owing to a dispute the building had been lying idle for nearly twelve months.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The equipment was all completed, but he did not have information about the opening of the institution. Inquiries, however, would be made and the hon. member would be informed.

Mr. COLLIER: The money which had been expended so far appeared to have been absolutely wasted.

Mr. TROY moved—

*That the vote be reduced by £8.*

He did this to protest against the action of the Government in reducing the hospital subsidies and placing them on a basis which would cripple the majority of the institutions and prevent people securing those advantages which they must have.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	19
Noes	..	..	..	18
				—
Majority for			..	1

#### AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. O'Loughlen
Mr. Bath	Mr. W. Price
Mr. Bolton	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Collier	Mr. Swan
Mr. Gill	Mr. Troy
Mr. Gourley	Mr. Walker
Mr. Horan	Mr. Ware
Mr. Hudson	Mr. A. A. Wilson
Mr. Keenan	Mr. Hellmann
Mr. McDowall	(Teller).

#### NOES.

Mr. Brown	Mr. N. J. Moore
Mr. Cowcher	Mr. S. F. Moore
Mr. Davies	Mr. Nanson
Mr. Draper	Mr. Osborn
Mr. Gordon	Mr. Plesse
Mr. Gregory	Mr. J. Price
Mr. Hardwick	Mr. F. Wilson
Mr. Hayward	Mr. Layman
Mr. Jacoby	(Teller).
Mr. Mitchell	

Amendment thus passed.

Vote (as reduced to £93,480) put and passed.

#### Vote—Observatory, £1,990:

Mr. KEENAN: Was it possible to make a reduction in this vote in view of the fact that the Commonwealth had taken over the whole of the work in connection with the Weather Bureau? It was found on the Estimates that there was a miserable reduction of £8. This vote was one which conferred no practical benefit on the citizens. He would be prepared to assent to a vote of this character if we could afford it. He had reason to believe that the work the observatory was carrying out could not be completed within a reasonable time. The present astronomer was engaged on the work of cataloguing the stars, and it was estimated that this work would take over 100 years to complete. It was an impossible task we were facing. It was true that to interfere with this work would mean a loss; the loss, however, would not be to the State, but to the scientific world. He failed to grasp the fact that there was a duty on our part to provide expenditure for scientific work which would be of no value to us, but which would be of value only to the outside world. This might be understood if there were some reciprocity, but there was nothing of the kind. If expenditure of this nature had to be incurred it should be incurred by the Commonwealth. With regard to the grounds of the observatory; we would, of course, be under an obligation to hand over to the Commonwealth the whole of these grounds if the Commonwealth undertook to take over this department. We should, however, mark out the grounds which were essentially observatory property so as to obviate the whole of the ground being taken over as transferred property. It was obvious that the ground that was necessary for observatory purposes was of a limited character, and the State should see that such was marked out. The remainder would prove a unique block for public buildings. It was his intention when the total was being discussed to move in the direction of reducing the vote by a sufficient sum so as to convey to the Government the expression of opinion of the part of the Committee that the vote should be large.

ly reduced or even wholly eliminated from the Estimates.

**Mr. BATH:** When this vote was under discussion last year he urged, in view of the reduction in the amount received from the Commonwealth, that this was one of the departments which should be transferred. At that time the Premier made a promise that during the recess he would communicate with the Commonwealth authorities and on the strength of that promise the vote was passed. We should know from the Premier now what had been the result of the negotiations he promised to carry out during the recess. This branch should have been taken over by the Commonwealth, and if that had been done we would only have to contribute our per capita proportion to the expense. Another matter in connection with the observatory was that the Government astronomer had taken upon himself to close the thoroughfare through the grounds leading from King's Park to Havelock-street. The plea upon which he had done this was that someone was destroying the flowers. There was no park or reserve where it was possible to entirely do away with some inconvenience, but, generally speaking, as far as our reserves were concerned the public seemed to recognise that they were the proprietors of them, and very little vandalism seemed to be going on. The step of closing this thoroughfare should not be countenanced by the public. He objected to this path being closed, for after all the observatory was a public institution, and the public could do no harm in utilising that pathway which went through the grounds.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** It would not be possible to reduce the vote to any great extent, because it was made up largely of salaries for the astronomer and his assistants. There was hardly an item, excepting incidentals, which could be interfered with. As far as he was personally concerned he had not much use for the observatory, and he thought that the whole institution should have been taken over by the Federal Government. The Premier entered into negotiations with the Federal Government on the

question, but it was to be regretted that the Federal authorities absolutely refused to take over the astronomical branch of the observatory. What further action could the Government take? Could we give the Federal Government notice that we could not see our way clear, after a reasonable period, say a year or two, to continue to maintain this institution? That might be the proper course to pursue, and he would bring it before the Premier and his colleagues. Western Australia should not be asked to maintain this observatory and carry out work which was in the interests of the whole of the civilised world, at the expense of this State.

**Mr. SCADDAN:** At the present time the astronomer permitted the public to visit the observatory on five nights a month, and it was understood that he was booked right up to March next. Every resident of the State should have an opportunity of visiting this institution, and, of course, those who resided on the coast had greater facilities than the people on the goldfields. Under existing conditions it was impossible for goldfields people to visit the institution. The Minister might arrange with the astronomer that during the summer months he would set apart, say two evenings a week, for goldfields residents.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** The representations of the hon. member would be conveyed to the Colonial Secretary. Mr. Cooke was doing his best to facilitate the inspection of the instruments by visitors. Every Tuesday afternoon the Observatory was open, and people were shown everything that was to be seen. At night time Mr. Cooke was booked ahead for a long time, and accommodated on an average 20 people each night for five nights in the month.

**Mr. SCADDAN:** The Minister was apparently treating the matter as being of no importance. Surely the Minister would see that visitors from the goldfields could not book three months ahead for a visit of inspection to the Observatory. If this request for setting aside two nights per month for goldfields visitors were



conveyed to Mr. Cooke no doubt it would be complied with.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It would be duly represented to Mr. Cooke.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Police*, £117,033—agreed to.

Vote—*Public Gardens*, £1,729—agreed to.

Vote—*Registry*, £6,638—agreed to.

Vote—*Rollnest*, £280—agreed to.

Attorney General's and Minister for Education's Departments (Hon. J. L. Nanson, Minister).

Vote—*Crown Law Offices*, £7,354—agreed to.

Vote—*Electoral*, £7,247—agreed to.

Vote—*Land Titles*, £8,599—agreed to.

Vote—*Stipendiary Magistracy*, £28,176: Item, Clerks of Courts, £8,773:

Mr. COLLIER: Would the Attorney General give some information as to the intention of the Government in regard to the Boulder court?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Some time ago the Public Service Commissioner and the special Commissioner appointed to assist the Public Service Commissioner, had visited Boulder with the view to obtaining further information as to whether the court at that place should be closed. The report of these Commissioners had not yet reached him, and until he knew what it was proposed by them to do, it was not possible to say what the decision of the Government would be. He might say that the matter had already been gone into very carefully even before the Public Service Commissioner and his colleague had gone up to Boulder, and it was evidence of the anxiety of the Government not to act hastily that these officers had been sent up to make further investigation. Whatever might be done would only be done after the fullest inquiry into all surrounding circumstances.

Mr. COLLIER: Without any desire to discuss the matter at length, it seemed to him that the Minister's explanation was scarcely satisfactory. This was a very important matter as far as the residents of Boulder were concerned. It had been under consideration for nearly three months, and he would like to know what

action the Government was likely to take in the matter. Surely it would not depend entirely upon the report of the Public Service Commissioner. The people of Boulder who had been held in a state of suspense so long should be given some idea as to what was going to be done. He thought it would not be too much to ask the Attorney General to say that no action would be taken until next session of Parliament.

Mr. WALKER: Had the Government yet received a report affecting the courts at Broad Arrow and Kanowna? What was going to be the policy of the Government in regard to the administration of justice in respect to outlying inferior courts? Surely it would not be left to the discretion of an officer not responsible to the House. It seemed an extraordinary course to say that Mr. Jull was to go around the country seeing what he could suggest and to come back and report as to what should be done. It seemed like shirking responsibility on the part of the Government. Some definite opinion as to the intention of the Government with regard to these courts at Broad Arrow and Kanowna should be given to the Committee.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: There was no desire whatever on the part of the Government to shirk responsibility. The officers had been sent up, not with the idea of enabling the Government to shirk responsibility but merely to obtain information. In regard to Broad Arrow no report had yet been received, and, therefore, the matter had not been considered. In regard to the Boulder Court it was difficult to give to the hon. member the assurance required, because the facts in favour of closing the court were very strong. The business done at that court was now very small, the total number of cases being only 300 or 400, the great bulk of which were undefended small debt cases. The resident magistrate of the district had reported strongly in favour of closing the court.

Mr. Scaddan: Where does he live?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The resident magistrate lived at Kalgoorlie. It was difficult to realise the intense feeling

that existed between places practically no further apart than Perth and Subiaco. The sending up of Mr. Jull and Mr. McGibbon had been undertaken, not to build up a case against the Boulder court, but with the view to turning unbiased minds upon the question.

2 o'clock, a.m.

[Mr. Jacoby took the Chair.]

Mr. SCADDAN: The explanation given was most unsatisfactory. The request made by the member for Boulder was very reasonable. It was not asking too much to ask the Government to stay their hands until Parliament had an opportunity of discussing the matter. The convenience of the residents of Boulder must be considered, in fact it should be the first principle considered. Boulder was the third municipality in the State and there was a large settlement adjoining the municipality. Probably 17,000 people would be affected if the court was closed. Holding the court at Kalgoorlie might cause a man to lose several days' work. Fremantle people might just as well be taken to Perth. The claim that there was a sufficient train service between Boulder and Kalgoorlie was not a strong argument. If it were, we might as well abolish all the suburban courts around Perth, and compel the people to travel to Perth to transact their legal business. There was no justification for closing the Boulder court on the score that money was being lost. The volume of business transacted showed a profit. Evidently the Minister had made up his mind, because when the deputation waited on him the Minister read his reply from a type-written document.

The Attorney General: I deny it.

Mr. SCADDAN: The Minister did not reply except on matters on which he was prepared, or had made up his mind. Parliament should be consulted next session before any step was taken to decide on the issue.

Mr. BATH: The request was a fair one. The deputation had shown the Attorney General that the interests of the residents would be affected by the change. The member for Boulder was now in a position to get some satisfactory statement or pro-

mise, but once we were in recess the hon. member was powerless to do anything. Frequently consideration was given to requests put forward by private members in the House, but little consideration was given in recess. Provision was made on the Estimates to carry on the court until the end of the financial year. The postponement of dealing with the matter until Parliament next met would enable the member for Boulder to put his case before Parliament.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The matter had been hung up for a considerable time and he was averse to giving the assurance asked for. If the Government decided to close the court they would do so with a full sense of their responsibility to Parliament, and with the knowledge that they were liable to be called to task if they were wrong. In a purely administrative act of this nature the Government should not shirk their responsibility. There was something to be said as to the big population to whom the court was a convenience, but the business transacted in the Boulder court was exceedingly small for the population. There were only 349 local court cases in the year as against 907 in Fremantle, and 3,916 in Perth. The court was only 2½ miles away from the Kalgoorlie court. If a local court was established at Subiaco the number of cases would be considerably in excess of the number at present being dealt with at Boulder; and if we were to decide this matter on the ground of public convenience, no doubt the convenience of a large number of people would be served in having a local court at Subiaco. He was not losing sight of the fact that the Boulder court was an established court, and he was loth to close it unless the case for closing it was an unanswerable one. In regard to the deputation, the facts brought forward were not of a strong nature. One could understand the annoyance of the member for Ivanhoe at his (the Attorney General's) reply to that deputation, because the reply was based on facts to which there was no answer as far as the business was concerned. This matter, however, would be decided by Cabinet. There was no wish on the part of the Go-

vernment to make out a special case against Boulder; if anything it would be the other way.

Mr. ANGWIN: The number of courts should be increased instead of diminished. If the Court at Boulder was closed the Boulder municipality would lose money, because the Government had decided to take all the fines in court cases tried in districts where the offences were not committed. If an offence were committed in Boulder and tried in Kalgoorlie, the Government would get the fine; whereas if an offence were committed in Kalgoorlie and tried in Kalgoorlie the Kalgoorlie municipality would get the fine.

The PREMIER: The point raised by the hon. member that the municipalities might receive the fines, should not be put forward as an argument for establishing local courts. Boulder deserved special consideration from the fact that the court was already established. If it were not already established there was not the least likelihood of a court being established there because of the close communication between Boulder and Kalgoorlie. This matter would be dealt with in Cabinet, and it would not be considered so much in the light of saving £200 or £300, as it would be from the point of view of the convenience to the people whose businesses were affected by the continuation of the court or otherwise. It was to be hoped the hon. member would not insist on having a definite promise. The hon. member could rely that, unless there were some very strong reasons adduced, it was not likely that the Government would neglect to recognise the claims of such an important centre as Boulder.

Mr. COLLIER: It was unfair to have to discuss this matter at half-past two o'clock in the morning, and so close to the end of the session. If this discussion had taken place at a reasonable hour, and earlier in the session, he had no doubt that, notwithstanding the statement of the Attorney General that a strong case was made out for closing the court, he (Mr. Collier) could convince

any body of reasonable men as to the injustice of the proposal.

The Premier: Are not the Government reasonable men?

Mr. COLLIER: Certainly. It was a waste of time to go into the matter now when members were not prepared to listen or to vote on the merits of the case. The second deputation had put forward some additional facts. There could be no comparison between Subiaco and Boulder. Boulder was a separate business centre entirely distinct from Kalgoorlie, whereas Subiaco was mostly a residential suburb closely attached to Perth. Had the Attorney General taken into consideration the matter of registration?

The Attorney General: Provision will be made in any case for registration.

Mr. COLLIER: Three hundred pounds would be saved by the closing of the court, but there must be an allowance for the registration work, so that the figure must be considerably reduced. However, putting it at £300, for the sake of £300 were we to submit the Boulder people to all this inconvenience? The people of Boulder had offered to recoup the Government for the proposed saving, so that the court might remain open. As to the business transacted, it took two officers to do it at present. If the Attorney General went into the matter with all the latest information, justice would be done to Boulder, and the court would not be closed.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Supreme Court*, £15,152:

Item, Official Receiver in Bankruptcy, £450:

Mr. ANGWIN: A good deal of dissatisfaction had been expressed as to the way in which the Bankruptcy Department was administered, and owing to the high charges that were made. It had been shown clearly that in some small estates almost the full amount received by the Official Receiver had been swamped in costs. It was necessary that the Minister should make an inquiry into this question, for it was most unsatisfactory for creditors when they found that so much of the money realised

in an estate was eaten up in costs that practically nothing was left for a dividend.

Mr. GILL: Very serious complaints had been made as to the Official Receiver and concerning the administrative charges in connection with estates. There had also been very severe comments on that officer's attitude in dealing with those having business with the department, it being said that a great want of courtesy was shown. In fact, he had been told that it was impossible to obtain replies to letters sent to the department seeking information as to cases coming before the Bankruptcy Court. On one occasion three letters had to be sent to the Official Receiver in connection with a case before a reply was received, and when the reply did arrive it was couched in terms by no means civil. Personally, he knew of no ground for complaint, but the information he had obtained was from a very reliable source. An elector of his district had complained that although he had endeavoured on several occasions he had been unable to get any information as to the sale of a certain mine in the Yalgoo district. That was the Royal Standard Mine which had got into the hands of the Official Receiver. There was another gentleman mixed up with the mine named Lloyd, who had an option on it for some time. Eventually the property got into the hands of Lloyd. His (Mr. Gill's) informant had a mortgage over the mine, and when the property reached the hands of the Official Receiver the latter said that the assets would be sufficient to pay a dividend of 10s. in the pound on the estate. Lloyd, however, got hold of the property, and there was a doubt in the mind of his informant as to the method by which it got into Lloyd's hands and as to whether it was by legitimate means or not. The correct method in cases of this kind was to advertise the property and put it up for auction. He had been given to understand that no information was supplied to the public with regard to the transaction and no information could be obtained from the Official Receiver as to the transaction between him and Lloyd. There was a doubt in

the minds of several people interested as to everything being straight and above board. If there were anything wrong the Attorney General would know what action to take. For the sake of all concerned, including the Official Receiver, it was only right that the matter should be cleared up. He (Mr. Gill) always recognised that there were two sides to every case. In the present one he had only heard one side and he would like to know the other. If the Official Receiver were right in the matter it was only proper that the whole thing should be cleared up as speedily as possible.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: In regard to the remarks made by the member for Balkatta, while he had every confidence in the Official Receiver, he realised that if parties felt aggrieved there should be an inquiry made. This was necessary as much for the sake of the Official Receiver as for the other parties. With regard to the alleged incivility, there was nothing more open to censure in a public officer than inattention to the wants of the public. He had taken a note of what Mr. Gill had said and would have the matter cleared up. One was always glad to have these matters brought under notice so that inquiries could be made, and if a wrong had been done to have it righted. There was always a difficulty in bankruptcy matters in keeping the charges down in small estates. A perfect system had not been devised to secure light costs in small estates in bankruptcy. If there had been an increase in the charges as compared with what used to be the rule, he would see what could be done in the matter.

Mr. WALKER: What struck one forcibly with regard to bankruptcy proceedings was that there was no discrimination made between small and large estates. There was a fixed scale of charges in bankruptcy proceedings, and there was a hard and fast rule in summing up costs. For instance, so much was allowed on the scale for correspondence in connection with various steps that had to be taken in winding up an estate. The same charge was made for the correspondence

whether the work was light or heavy, or whether anything at all was done. The Crown should adopt just the opposite course, and should do all they could to set a good example. In connection with these cases, however, the Crown seemed always to assume the position of the plunderer, trying to get every penny that was allowed by the scale, rule, or precedent. A good many of the complaints made as to the conduct of the Official Receiver might possibly arise from that fact. That officer might be conforming strictly with the rule, but the practice of the Official Receiver was to keep in his mind all the time the necessity of clutching all he could for the Crown out of the transactions that came his way. There were just grounds for complaint in that respect. An estate went into the hands of the Official Receiver, and all the available money was swept up in costs. This was sure to bring about discontent on both sides, for the creditor did not get what he should receive and the debtor was penalised. In some cases a debtor might be able to pay 10s. in the pound and so get a clearance were it not for the fact that the heavy charges made a big hole in his assets. It was quite clear that steps should be taken to remedy the existing state of affairs, and the relief no longer be a sham but a reality.

Item, Curator of Intestate Estates, £275:

Mr. BATH: What had been said about the previous case applied to this one also. Great delays had occurred in connection with the fixing up of estates. Some time ago he received a complaint from the secretary of the Kalgoorlie and Boulder Miners' Union, who had a considerable amount to do with estates, stating that there was a good deal of delay and too much expense involved in these matters. One case in particular was cited, and he had brought the matter under the notice of the Attorney General, who said that the matter was being fixed up. In that case over 12 months elapsed before the money was paid over to the mother of the deceased man. More expedition should be used and the fees should be reduced. In some

instances the whole of the estate was eaten up in fees. A similar condition of affairs existed in other States. In New South Wales a man died with a fairly large sum of money, and the State took this sum as costs and buried him as a pauper. The residents of the place were so indignant that they placed a monument over the grave of the man, and had an inscription put on it recording the meanness of the Government. The State existed for the purpose of giving the greatest amount of service at the least possible expense, and only such costs should be charged as would compensate the department for the time and trouble involved.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Difficulty arose in connection with some of the intestate estates owing to the fact that the man had probably died away in the back country, and there was very often a difficulty in realising on the estate and collecting the money. In the Administration Act a certain time had to elapse before an estate could be distributed; therefore, some delay was inevitable. In the case the leader of the Opposition had mentioned the period might have been shortened but there had been difficulties in collecting the assets. He would look into the question and see if anything could be done.

Item, Witnesses' and jurors' payments, £4,000:

Mr. HEITMANN: The Act under which juries were struck was most inadequate and the oldest in Australia. The provisions were altogether unfair. In obtaining a jury the litigants could, if they liked, apply for a special jury. If a man could afford to pay for such a jury the judge could not prevent him doing so. In one case he was in, the party opposing him asked for a special jury. There were men on that jury who, to some extent, were biassed, and the chances were that in many other cases these special juries were anxious to ensure that the labour man did not win the case. The qualification for a special jury was not what it should be. A man of property worth £500, the director of a bank, or a merchant not dealing in retail business were entitled to be on the

roll. The man with money could get a jury which possibly would be biased in his favour. With regard to the striking of a jury, the men in the case he referred to were struck eight days before the case came on, and all knew that attempts had been made in the past to "get at" jurors. These juries should not be struck until just before the case came on.

Vote put and passed.

[*Mr. Daglish resumed the Chair.*]

Vote—*Education*, £187,044:

Mr. BATH: There were one or two items in regard to the Education Department he desired to make a few remarks upon. A statement had been made to him to the effect that in the different primary and normal schools the work did not fit in as it should. So far as those going in for the teaching profession were concerned, they could not go naturally from one school to another until they finally got through to the training college. It was to be hoped that some day the Government would have time to look through the schools and see exactly what was being done. He would like the Minister to say whether the increases set down were only for this year, or whether they provided for last year as well. The amount seemed to be insufficient to provide for increments for one year. Then there was the question of payment to women teachers. Lately he had found the exact circumstances in which women teachers were working in the country districts, and he was convinced that the women working there particularly, should receive the same payment as male teachers holding the same certificates. There was no reason why, because they happened to be women, they should be forced to work for a lower salary than the male teachers. They were doing the same work, and although in some cases an effort was made to place them in a more advantageous position, so far as the situation of the district was concerned, than the male teachers, in order to avoid isolation, many of them had to endure a fair amount of discomfort. In these circumstances they should receive consideration and the same payment as the men.

3 o'clock a.m.

Mr. JACOBY: There was a good deal that he would say if we were discussing the vote earlier in the sitting. He would call attention to the difficulty which was still being experienced in the country of getting reforms made there as far as the schools were concerned. There was a growing disproportion between the standard of education open to the school children in the cities as compared with that which was open to children in the country. We should recognise the economic importance, while encouraging settlement in the State, of providing the people who went into the country with, at least, as good an education as those who lived in the City. We were in the unfortunate position that the wealth-earners were worse off than those who handled the wealth they created. The first consideration should be to the man who was creating the wealth. In the district that he represented there was a school which was crowded to suffocation; it was a small building, the major cost of which was borne by the residents, and it was a building which required patching up. Requests had been made to provide proper conveniences, but so far no attention had been paid to them. On the other hand, the Government had been spending large sums of money for the provision of secondary education in the State. While he was not prepared to take strong exception to the intention of the Government, he would say that we should first of all see that fair opportunities were given to the children of the people who were earning and producing the wealth of Western Australia. We were forced to remain silent because there was no time at our disposal for discussion. He regretted that so much time had been spent over matters of trivial importance, while here, at the end of the session, we were doing an enormous amount of work practically without discussion, and almost without consideration at all. He hoped that in future the Government would be able to get to work earlier in the year, and at a more temperate time of the year, and that such a big programme would not be brought down for

consideration. With regard to the representation which had been made in connection with the increments to the teachers, he sincerely hoped that this would receive consideration. There was another class of teacher who required some attention at the hands of the Government. It was recognised we could not give those sums which most of us felt were really due to those who had the care of our children. We should, however, be in the position to do more than we were doing. He would bring under notice the case of the teachers who had charge of half-time schools. These teachers were labouring under a great disadvantage, and had double work to perform. One of them, writing to him stated that it was only with the greatest difficulty that he was able to make ends meet. What this teacher said was required was not so much an extra allowance as an increase in salary.

Mr. HEITMANN: What is he getting?

Mr. JACOBY: He was getting £110 per year and he had to look after two schools. If the Minister felt that he could still further help these people that help should certainly be given.

Mr. ANGWIN: With the proposal that teachers salaries should be increased he was in entire accord. We had 152 teachers in charge of schools who were receiving salaries less than £2 2s. per week.

The Attorney General: They receive quarters and allowance.

Mr. ANGWIN: They must have quarters and an allowance when they were sent into the bush. When the department sent into the country any man or woman to educate children it was our duty to see that a proper salary was paid to them. It was a matter of impossibility for those teachers to take an interest in their work while receiving such a starvation salary and it was impossible for them to be able to take the interest in their own studies that they would do if they had an adequate salary paid them, and which the people of the State believed that they should receive.

Mr. WALKER: This was a very old grievance, and he had hoped that when

we got an Attorney General with a reputation for love of learning in charge of the department that we would have some change. It was humiliating to find that those who were responsible for the intellectual life should be so poorly paid. Artisans were better paid than those who had charge of the mentality and morality of our young, two elements which could not be dissociated. He could talk at length on this theme, which to him was so congenial. We had recognised that our teachers were sadly neglected, and not only in our State but throughout the Commonwealth.

Mr. W. PRICE: We had an assurance that it was the intention of the Government to pay teachers the increments which were rightly and justly theirs. He could not understand how the Government, even with their extraordinary methods of finance, would be able to pay the increments due to the teachers out of the sum of £1,300, which had been made available for the purpose, seeing that it would take between £2,000 and £3,000 if the reply given by the Minister to a question asked the other day by Mr. Angwin could be relied upon. In what way and by what method was the £1,300 to be distributed amongst the teachers. Speaking personally, he had a grievance against the Minister with regard to this department. Soon after his return to Parliament he asked a question of the Minister, and the crushing reply that he received was a plain negative answer. He asked the Minister if any application had been made for permission to open a night school at Albany, what was the nature of the application, whether any guarantee had been forthcoming, whether the application had been considered, and what was the result? The Minister, by his plain answer, "no," indicated that he knew nothing whatever about the matter. Was it intended to squelch him so as to make him realise his insignificance before the power of the Minister? He had a copy of the correspondence dealing with the subject which had passed between the Director of Technical Education and a gentleman in Albany, who desired to start evening classes

there. An application was made for permission, the letter was sent on to the Director of Technical Education pointing out that the necessary guarantee would be forthcoming, and that the proposal would result in profit to the State, and certainly of benefit to the district. Lo and behold, on the 8th July, three months before the Minister gave his crushing answer "no," the Director of Technical Education wrote to the teacher at Albany stating that the Minister had issued instructions that owing to the shrinkage in revenue he could not permit the school at Albany to be opened, and the matter would, therefore, have to remain in abeyance. There must be a lack of system somewhere when the Minister could give an answer which was so diametrically opposed to actual facts.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: With the member for Swan he joined in regretting that it had not been possible to devote a larger amount of time to the discussion of the Education Estimates. He would have liked to make an introductory statement, but while he regretted that lack of time prevented him following that course he could not admit that the Government was responsible for the circumstances. Until we had some system in the House by which a certain amount of time would be allotted to speeches, in proportion to their actual importance instead of their importance in the eyes of members, it would always happen that subjects like this would have to be discussed briefly, while others, which in the opinion of a majority of members were really of smaller importance, occupied a greater amount of time.

Mr. Bath: There was no earthly reason for stopping discussion on the Estimates.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL was not referring to the Estimates, he was referring to other matters which had been discussed earlier in the session. With regard to the increases to teachers, he had not with him the details as to how the amount was made up, but he would ask members to accept his assurance that as far as this year was concerned the teachers were to be paid their incre-

ments. He regretted that last year the finances would not allow this to be done. If the amount on the Estimates seemed small there would be some explanation for it, which, for the moment, he was not able to give. Whatever that explanation might be it was not that the increases were not to be given in every case where teachers were entitled to them under the regulations. The leader of the Opposition had referred to the payment of women teachers, and he (the Attorney General) admitted that there did seem to be a considerable amount of force in it, that where a lady held the same certificate as a male teacher she should receive the same salary. The matter was one that he would look into, and he would ascertain why this discrepancy existed, and he would promise to consider whether it would be possible to put the matter on a more satisfactory basis. We were not singular in this respect; throughout the world women were paid less than men, but probably in Western Australia where they enjoyed the franchise that disability might be regarded as a diminishing one. In respect to educational facilities in the country districts to which the member for Swan had referred, he (the Minister) was conscious that those facilities were capable of improvement. As a matter of fact, they had been very materially improved within recent years. It would be a regrettable circumstance if we were ever to feel that we had reached a stage at which we could say we were absolutely satisfied with our educational system. As compared with the educational systems in the Eastern States he believed that, having regard to her conditions, Western Australia more than held her own. But it was also to be admitted that the system was capable of improvement, and each year saw some effort made to meet the growing educational requirements of a great State. We had only to take the figures on these Estimates to see that while in some departments considerable reductions in expenditure had been made, in the Educational Department the increases amounted, in round figures, to £10,000. That was very largely repre-



sented by what the department was doing in pushing out schools in every portion of the State where there was the smallest amount of settlement, and where children required to be taught. But while the Government recognised the necessity of doing everything possible to make these country schools efficient they could not, of course, neglect the large schools in the towns where there was a large number of children to be catered for. It would be gratifying if precisely the same class of school could be provided in the small centres as in the large. That, of course, was impracticable, but the department was doing all that was possible to make the country schools especially suitable for the country conditions of life. Nothing had given him more pleasure than to see the way in which the teachers had brought their teaching into accord with conditions surrounding the children, and had made the education one that would stimulate the mind of the child and induce the child to think out problems for itself. Whatever might be said as to the subjects taught to children, there could be no doubt that, far beyond the actual subject in importance was this method of so training the mind of a child as to develop itself in individuality and powers of thought. The only other matter to which he needed to refer was the complaint made by the member for Albany in regard to a reply given to a question asked in the House. In the first place, when answering that question with a monosyllabic "no," he (the Minister) had had no intention of crushing the hon. member. Indeed, any such attempt could only have ended in failure. Neither had there been any desire to mislead. The fact was that, in asking the question the hon. member himself had been unintentionally guilty of inexactitude. He had referred to night classes at Albany, and it appeared that what the department understood as night classes was the kind of class for teaching elementary subjects to those persons who, having been unfortunate enough to live far away in the bush, where educational facilities were not provided, had not acquired the simplest rudiments of education. So, when the hon. member had asked his question in regard to night

classes at Albany, it had been innocently assumed by the department that he was referring to that particular kind of class and not to the technical class. Had the hon. member used the term, "technical class," the reply would have been different although, it was to be feared, not much more satisfactory to the hon. member. He (the Minister) hoped that, next year, the hon. member would not have cause for complaint on this score; because the importance of extending these technical schools was fully realised and, surely, a town like Albany should be regarded as entitled to consideration in this respect. The difficulty was one of finance, and while the department was increasing the expenditure on education at the present rate it could not be said that the department was altogether indifferent to the educational requirements. Yet as Minister controlling that department, he, at any rate, was always hoping that in the next succeeding year it would be possible to make even more liberal provision for extending the facilities given. In regard to the matter brought forward by the member for Swan as to the grievance of half-time teachers, he (the Minister) would be obliged if the hon. member would let him have the letter referred to, for it would be useful as crystallising the reasons by which these people regarded themselves as aggrieved.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Sale of Government Property Trust Account, £39,696:*

Mr. BATH: Attention should be drawn to the paragraph in the Auditor-General's report in regard to this Sale of Government Property Trust Account. Considering the time given to have this matter adjusted on a proper basis, he was astonished that the representations of the Auditor-General had not been attended to. This was only a part of what might be termed the regular story pervading the annual report of the Auditor-General, and he (Mr. Bath) was going to take an opportunity very early in the next session of having the matter of the Auditor-General's report brought up with a view to hon. members themselves adopting somewhat more satisfactory basis for availing themselves of the report which

the Auditor General submitted through the Speaker each year. It was unsatisfactory to have an officer of the Auditor General's importance making reports that were absolutely ignored.

**THE MINISTER FOR WORKS:** This was the first opportunity he had had of reading this particular section of the Auditor-General's report. He admitted that there was some difficulty in getting the different departments to comply strictly with this Act in connection with this action. The regulations referred to in the paragraph were not drafted—certainly some objection had been taken, but he forgot exactly what it was. This was probably the reason why the regulations had not been adopted. He would make a note of what the leader of the Opposition had said, and see if finality could not be reached in connection with this matter.

Item, Bridges throughout the State, £3,000:

**MR. BATH:** Some information was necessary in regard to this vote. It was a general one providing for bridges throughout the State. His desire was to get on the track of a proposed new bridge for the Canning River, near Cannington, in reference to which a deputation had waited on a previous Minister for Works some time ago. The Minister at that time had said that he would note the matter for the Estimates, and had stated that it was a bridge for which there was a fair amount of justification. He (Mr. Bath) was in receipt of some information which he would give to the Minister, the purport of which was to show that the bridge was a necessary work.

**THE HONORARY MINISTER:** What date was that deputation?

**MR. BATH:** On June 30th, 1909. As he had stated, he had received a long letter from a resident of the district complaining that the bridge was not necessary, that a tentative promise had been given to construct the bridge while other works of greater importance were lying neglected, that the construction of the bridge would be a waste and misuse of public money, that it was a piece of land jobbing brought about by certain individuals, that the roads in the district were extremely bad,

and that in consequence it was annoying to see money about to be wasted on this bridge, that the bridge would serve merely to open up a private estate, and that Mr. Kingsmill and Mr. Gordon, who had supported the deputation, had stated a number of inaccuracies to the Minister with a view to inducing him to construct the bridge. He (Mr. Bath) was anxious to know whether this proposed bridge was included in the amount set down on the Estimates for bridges, and if so, whether the fullest inquiries had been made as to the necessity for constructing this bridge.

**THE MINISTER FOR WORKS:** Perhaps the hon. member would let him have the letter in order that he might go fully into the matter. He would strongly deprecate the growing practice under which an individual who felt himself aggrieved, or who was in the minority, straightway wrote to the leader of the Opposition with a plea to have certain works stopped, notwithstanding that the work had been approved by two local bodies, in this case the Jandakot roads board and the Queen's Park municipality. He had himself received a deputation on this very work, and a previous deputation had waited on his predecessor. What appealed to him more than anything else was the fact that the settlers of the district had put their hands in their pockets and subscribed a large sum of money towards the work, about half the cost of the bridge. He had visited the district himself, and had come to the conclusion that the bridge was a good project. The settlers in the district had gone in there some years ago and had struggled along to their present position, a position in which they could afford to pay their share towards the cost of public works for the district. The settlers were already constructing a road to the bridge. It seemed to him to be a capital example which other settlers should follow, this determination to help themselves. The bridge, if constructed, would probably be a charge against this item, but up to the present nothing had been decided with respect to it. The £3,000 had to be placed in this way on the Estimates because there were a number of bridges through-

out the State upon which sufficient information upon which to come to a decision had not yet been received. The letter read by the hon. member was rather insulting to Mr. Kingsmill and the member for the district, in accusing them of inaccuracy in putting the matter before the Minister. It was a dog-in-the-manger policy to attack one work because a man could not get another past his door. These people were prepared to put their hands into their pockets to help to build the bridge.

4 o'clock a.m.

The HONORARY MINISTER: On any occasion a deputation came before him, when he was Minister for Works, putting forward a matter of this description, where it was a new work, any promise given was always subject to confirmation by the data given to him by officers of the department. The letter read by the hon. member evidently came from a biased and disappointed party. It would have been wiser for the hon. member to have seen the Minister and ascertained the departmental side of the case. No specific promise was made that the bridge would be constructed. It all depended on the verification given by the departmental officers.

Mr. GORDON: If there was such a thing as Parliamentary etiquette, the member for Brown Hill, before using an hon. member's name so freely in any matter, might have gone to the hon. member and asked whether the statement contained in the letter was true.

Mr. BATH: The amount to be contributed by the private persons was a small proportion of the estimated cost of the bridge. It was estimated that the bridge would cost £1,059, while the approaches were estimated to cost £2,500. It was altogether too big a proposition for the Government to contemplate. Evidently, the Minister gave a promise, and found out later it was going to cost more than he thought.

The Minister for Works: It will only cost about £600.

Mr. BATH: When an item of this nature was to be found in a general item for bridges throughout the State

it was necessary that the information should be gleaned from the Minister, and he had taken the open course of reading the letter so that the two Ministers concerned and the member for Canning might have an opportunity of explaining. It was undesirable these items should be included in a general vote. Had the Minister any particulars of the items of the vote?

The Minister for Works: No; I have explained that already.

Mr. BATH: There was nothing dog-in-the-manger about this. A promise had been given some time ago and was not fulfilled, but another work was being carried out in preference. Was not a promise given?

The Honorary Minister: There may have been in Sir John Forrest's time, but not of recent years.

Mr. BATH: People were very tenacious in regard to promises made by Sir John Forrest.

The Honorary Minister: I do not think there is any departmental record of a promise.

Vote put and passed.

Railway Department (Hon. H. Gregory, Minister):

Postponed Vote—*Railways*, £1,029,967:

Mr. BATH: The permission granted to the Kurrawang Wood Company to run their trucks over the Government lines was a most undesirable step to take, and was not conducive to the advancement of the principle of State ownership of railways. Since the Government railways were constructed in Western Australia and run by the State, it has been found desirable in several instances to bring other railways under the control of the State; and convert them from private railways into the general system of the State, but when we gave the right to private companies to run rolling stock over the Government railways we departed from that principle. The history of the negotiations went back for some considerable time. In the rate book in existence prior to July, 1905, the private firewood companies had the right to run their

rolling stock over the Government lines, but in 1905 the amended rate book took away this power, except in regard to trucks then in existence, and those trucks were subject to certain conditions and restrictions which were embodied in an agreement to be signed by the companies. The Kurrawang Company evidently regarded these restrictions as being altogether too strong, and the right to run the trucks previously in existence over the Government lines was not availed of. Later on negotiations were continued, but there was no outcome until the strike took place among the woodcutters and others employed on the firewood lines last year.

*[Mr. Jacoby took the Chair.]*

Mr. BATH: At that time certain increases were granted by the companies to the men employed, and the request was renewed by the companies to the Government, as a sort of solatium for the increased wages and better conditions granted to the men, that the Government should give them the right to run their trucks over the Government lines; and now, within the past month that right had been conceded to the Kurrawang Company, and the company's rolling stock was running over the Government lines. This would not only entail a loss so far as the Government were concerned, but it certainly seemed to be giving these people rights and privileges they should not enjoy. We had gone too far already in granting them the concessions they now enjoyed in opposition to the Government railways, and which in the future would still further compete with the railway system of the State. The men were entitled to have their grievances redressed, but the companies were getting sufficiently remunerative returns from the exploitation of the State's firewood resources as a balance against the increased rates they were paying their men. Was the Minister of opinion that the company was entitled to this concession. Or did he think the matter should be further considered and that the position of the State railways should be fully conserved and this concession taken away? If we granted it to one or two, we must grant it in every

case; and it would mean that we would have the rolling stock of other private companies running over Government lines. Of course it might be argued we had not abundant rolling stock; but if we had not abundant rolling stock we had every provision for making it. All regretted the disaster which overtook the State in regard to the fire at the Midland Junction workshops. People commented on the fact that the insurance on the buildings had been permitted to run out. The disaster should lead us to take wider action than the Minister said was to be taken to make provision for carrying our own insurance. The Government insurance of their buildings was not sufficient. We all knew the reason why the Government could not renew the insurance. It was because the rates asked were not justified; but this was because the insurance companies had formed a ring for the purpose. The Government should do as was done in New Zealand. The State should not only undertake the insurance of Government buildings and machinery, so far as the railways were concerned, but should go in for a State insurance scheme, and that would mean the railways risk would only be a part of the risk which would be borne by a State insurance department on behalf of the community generally, and any loss incurred would not be so severe. As it was now, a considerable time would have to elapse before the Government would have any reserve for the purpose. What was the Minister's intention in regard to the proposal for running passenger trains on the line from Golden Gate to Boulder Block or further on to the proposed site on the Great Boulder lease? The deputation which waited on the Minister put forward a good case. It was a great shame, however, that the Government allowed a track to be put down to run in opposition to the Government railways and practically nullify the advantage of the expenditure of £140,000 on the duplication of the railway to Boulder and the island platforms and subways. The proposal put forward by the deputation to the Minister if adopted, might enable the Government to get back some of the trade which rightfully belonged to them. It

was indeed pleasing an amicable settlement had been arrived at in the case of the railway officers and the traffic branch, and that a long and perhaps acrimonious discussion of these Estimates had been avoided by that settlement being arrived at.

Mr. ANGWIN: The Minister some three years ago had promised to construct an overhead footbridge at Edward-street. Fremantle, in order to allow people to get more readily to their work on the wharf, but that promise had not been fulfilled. The work could be done at small cost. The timbers that could be used for the purpose were there now. Members should not be called upon after two all-night sittings to deal with a department like this. They could not do justice to themselves, their constituents, or the department. It was a scandal that more time was not devoted to the vote at a reasonable hour in connection with a big department like this.

Mr. GILL: There had been a good deal of railway talk lately, and it would be undesirable, especially at this hour of the morning, for him to attempt to deal with the railway question now. There were a good many matters that might be ventilated with advantage to the State, but it was just as well to leave them alone. One question, however, he was anxious to get a little information upon, and that was in relation to what he termed the annual picnics by the heads of the department. He referred to the conferences in the Eastern States. The expenses of the trips were not very great, if all the items were included in the return which the Minister had given him in reply to a question in the House. Anyhow, if the expenses were only one-half the total mentioned they would be too great for the results achieved. One of the great objections he had to the conferences was that the Parliament of the State did not receive reports as to what was done there. He had been unable to get information about them, and no one knew what business was transacted there. Perhaps if the information were made available it might be shown that there was some reason for the conferences. Recently the

saw in a newspaper something about the business transacted last year. There were two conferences last year, at one of which the Railway Commissioner was present, and the other was attended by four or five officials. The report he saw about the conference was published in the *Australasian Commercial Travellers' Journal*, and it stated that in the business dealt with were questions relating to uniform regulation speed, uniform consignment notes, compilation and publication of uniform statistical information, statistics as to accidents, coupon tickets for inter-State traffic, and regulations of all descriptions. Surely that did not appear to be a sufficiently important programme to warrant the attendance of the Commissioner and the heads of the department in Melbourne. Clerks in most of the offices would be quite competent to deal with those matters. If he were in the House next year when the Railway Estimates were brought forward, and there was not more information provided about the conferences than there was this year, he would take action in order to test the feeling of the House in the matter. The conferences were nothing more or less than picnic jaunts. One other matter he wished to refer to. The other night he had said that a certain number of persons were employed in the department to act as pimps. It was most degrading that any man should be subjected to treatment such as that, thereby this low class of person went round spying on every occasion, and setting traps for the employees. The pimps reported the workers, who were then taken before their superior officers and were grossly insulted by being told that the officers believed the informers were telling the truth and that the men were telling lies. The informers were not worthy of the name of men, and belonged to the most despicable class imaginable. Similar tactics were employed a few years ago, and it was proved that those men were jail birds. The same sort of men were employed now. The Chief Traffic Manager would say in this connection that some officers of the department were doing necessary

work in trying to prevent mistakes and irregularities. It was nothing of the kind, for several men were employed who adopted all kinds of underhand methods to try and get guards and ticket collectors in particular to commit offences and then reported them. The railway men here were as fine a body as could be found in Australasia, and there was no necessity for the adoption of the method to which he had referred. The informers, however, did not succeed in trapping the men. Cases had been reported, but the information did not warrant the officers in punishing the men in a manner such as to enable them to go to the appeal board. That was the most unsatisfactory part of the proceeding. The men were taken before their officers and were threatened with all kinds of punishment, but the men could not go to the appeal board with that. It was to be hoped the Commissioner would inquire into this most degrading state of affairs. He was very pleased that a good many of the reasons apparent a few days ago for dealing with these Estimates on a more complete scale had been removed. It was very good news that the greatest of the difficulties of the men had been removed, and that there was a reasonable prospect of many of the troubles that had been worrying the railway men considerably for years would be set aside in the near future. He was voicing the opinion of all railway men when he said that their only desire was to work in peace, and to see the railways and the whole of the State prosper. None of them desired to have trouble in the railway system, for all knew the great injury that such a trouble would inflict.

Mr. WALKER: With regard to the matter opened up by the leader of the Opposition, as to the running of trucks of private companies on the Government railway lines, although he was not in a position by virtue of the possession of knowledge to pursue that question far, still he hoped the Minister, when he replied, would give somewhat of the history of the affair, so that members might grasp the whole question and

ascertain whether or not this was a new departure. What had been done was to run the railway lines of the State for the purpose of private enterprise.

The Minister for Mines: It is nothing in the nature of a new departure.

Mr. WALKER: It was a new departure so far as the principle was concerned. If he were correctly informed, when Mr. George was Commissioner of Railways, a direct rule was laid down in this respect and the system was absolutely condemned. It was pointed out that the practice of those holding interests adjoining our railway lines in running their trucks over the Government lines resulted in robbing the department to a considerable extent. Since Mr. George left the position, however, his successor had made this departure. He desired to offer his strongest protest against the continuance of a course of this kind. It only meant a slight extension of the system of allowing one or two companies to run their trucks upon Government property, and we would be using our lines purely in the interests of private companies. What was to prevent a firm building a lot of trucks, getting them on our lines, and using our locomotives to drag the trucks from here to Kalgoorlie, and run in opposition to the railways on the permanent way the State had laid down. The people's property should not be utilised to extend private competition.

Mr. SCADDAN: When discussing the Railway Estimates in 1906 he had referred to a matter which was of considerable interest to the residents of the goldfields. He would bring it up again now. That was in connection with the necessity for cheap excursion fares from the goldfields towns. The charge made was ridiculous when it was compared with the fares between the metropolitan area and Albany, Bunbury and Busselton. On the previous occasion he had pointed out that while the goldfields people were entitled to more consideration than those in the coastal areas in the direction of obtaining facilities to go to the watering places, the department, by fixing very low fares, offered inducements to the people on the coast to travel to the water-

ing places, but they made the goldfields residents pay very much higher fares. He understood the only argument of the department was that in connection with the traffic from the metropolitan area they had to compete with boats travelling from Fremantle to Albany, and Fremantle to Bunbury. If they did compete with those boats they did not desire to run at a loss, and, therefore, the fares fixed to Albany and Bunbury paid the department. There was no reason why the department should not run special excursion trips from the goldfields at the same rate per mile as was charged from the metropolitan area to Busselton and Albany. From all stations East of Southern Cross special trains should be run at the same rate per mile as between the City and the ports. By a return published by the department it appeared that last year the number of passengers that travelled between Kalgoorlie and Fremantle at special excursion rates was 1,270, while from Kalgoorlie to Perth the number was 4,204, making a total of 5,674. The fare was 60s. first class, and 42s. second class, working out at 1·064d. per mile first class, and ·696d. per mile second. The distance between the metropolitan area and Albany was about 704 miles, and between Kalgoorlie and Perth 750 miles, that was taking the double journey, so that there was not much difference. The fare between the metropolitan and Albany was 30s. first, and 20s. second, which meant ·511d. per mile first class, and ·340d. per mile second class. Members would see at once that at that rate per mile the second-class passenger from the goldfields, desiring to come to the coast, had to pay considerably more than the first-class passengers between the metropolis and Albany. The fact that there were coastal boats running did not provide sufficient argument to make out a good case why the goldfields people, who, owing to climatic conditions, should particularly be given facilities to come to the coast annually, should be forced to pay such a great amount more per mile than the City people who wanted to go to the watering place. Then there was no comparison as regards the number of passengers from the

metropolitan area to Albany, Bunbury and Busselton as compared with the number who travelled from the goldfields to the metropolitan area. In the year previous to 1906 there was 15,642 passengers from the Kalgoorlie district to the metropolis, 290 from there to Bunbury, and 486 to Busselton and Albany. In the same period 1018 travelled from the metropolitan area to Busselton, 4,066 to Bunbury, 2,684 to Albany, or a total of 7,768. There were thus twice as many from Kalgoorlie to the coast as from the metropolitan area to the Albany district and Busselton. He had urged repeatedly that the department should run excursion trains from the fields at special rates on the same lines as those charged from the metropolitan area to Albany, in order to give the people up there the opportunity to go to the seaside each year to recuperate. If this were done the Railway Department would not be the losers. It would not be asking the department too much to run, say, one or two trains at the start at special excursion rates.

*5 o'clock a.m.*

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The first matter mentioned was in connection with the proposal to allow the Kurrawang Firewood Company to convey their timber on their trucks from Kurrawang to the mines that they were supplying with firewood. There was nothing new in that proposal. The member for Kanowna seemed to think that the suggestion with reference to permits which might be granted was something new. Certain private companies ever since the Government had been running the railways in Western Australia had obtained the right to use their trucks on the Government railways. As had been stated, the rate book was altered in 1905, and a notification was given to the public that after that date no new trucks would be allowed to run upon the Government railways. The Kurrawang company, however, had given an order for the construction of trucks, and the matter was dealt with by another Government and even then the question was considered as

to whether the Kurrawang company should be allowed to use their trucks for the purpose of taking their timbers right to the mines instead of taking the firewood into Kurrawang, and then employing labour for the purpose of moving it and then conveying it to the mines. Recently the company asked that they should be allowed to run the timber direct to the mines and the department agreed to allow them to do so subject to their trucks passing the test prescribed by the officer in charge of the workshops. A test had been made of about 100 out of 200 trucks which had been ordered by the Kurrawang company, and the department had approved of a number of the trucks running there. The department were not going to lose anything by granting this permission. It seemed wasteful, if those trucks were sufficiently good to run on Government lines, that the Company should take them to the Government depot and then be compelled to transfer their loading there on to the Government trucks. Some time ago he (the Minister) urged that care should be taken so that no loss would accrue to the Government by demurrage.

Mr. Johnson: Are they limited to 100 trucks at present?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: They had manufactured 200 trucks but the department had so far passed only 100. This would mean a bigger revenue because the department would have to lend them trucks for the purpose of haulage.

Mr. Scaddan: What arrangements have been made with regard to responsibility?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Instructions were given that a definite agreement should be entered into between the company and the department.

Mr. Johnson: On similar lines to the proposed agreement which the company refused?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That agreement was never made out. With regard to the question of fire insurance and the unfortunate loss the department had sustained only a little while ago he would like to mention in connection with this loss that it was approximately, according to the return given to the department, £42,672. This

was a most unfortunate occurrence especially just after the department had started a system of self insurance. A few weeks ago the Commissioner of Railways waited on him (the Minister) and it was agreed between the Premier, the Commissioner, and himself that owing to the high rates which were being charged by the Insurance Companies we should start a system of self insurance. There was nothing new in what we were doing. In South Australia the Government there carried out their own insurance. Buildings, plant, and stores of the South Australian railways were not insured, but where the buildings were leased the lessee had to insure. Generally in the railway system the Government or the Commissioner had to provide their own insurance. In Tasmania the procedure was similar; there was no Government insurance. In Queensland it was not the practice to insure the buildings, plant, or stores. In Victoria it was not the practice because they had State insurance in connection with their rolling stock. In New South Wales there was no insurance excepting at the large timber sheds at Eveleigh and certain other buildings. Usually the department took their own risk. In 1900 Mr. John Davies, who was then general manager of the railways in Western Australia, recommended the Government to have its own insurance. This was followed in 1902 by Mr. Short who recommended that the Government should start a fund and provide their own insurance. Then when Mr. George was Commissioner of Railways in 1904 to the end of 1906 there was no insurance whatever upon our railways, buildings, and stock owing to the high rates; in fact, at that time the companies demanded £3,000 a year, and Mr. George decided that he would carry his own risk. It would have cost £9,000 for the three years and during that period the loss amounted to £2,785. Mr. George made a profit by not insuring of not less than £7,215 in that period. It had been decided in connection with the public buildings that the Government should adopt a system of self insurance, and for the past three months there had been



no insurances on our public buildings. He would like to mention what we had been paying and what our losses had been since 1897. From 1897 to 1899—a three years' period—the annual premium was £1,103, and the annual loss £1,836; from 1900 to 1903—a four years' period—the annual premium was £1,580, and the annual loss averaged £685; from 1904 to 1906—a three years' period—they asked for a £3,000 premium, and this was refused by the Government, while the annual loss in that period was £928; from 1907 to 1909—a three years' period—owing to the low rates asked by the insurance companies the premium was £743 a year and the loss only amounted to an average of £65 a year. Even with the small premium of £743 our annual losses were only £65 per annum. Taking the whole period from 1897 to 1909—13 years—if we insured, and even if we paid £3,000 from 1904 to 1906 the aggregate premiums would have been £20,862, and the losses £11,228. On the same basis our average premium would have been £1,505 and the annual losses £864. This year the insurance companies asked that the department should pay £4,022 16s. 7d. upon the same risk as the department had in the previous year, an increase from £743 to £4,022. Our losses from 1897 had only been £864 a year while our premiums paid between 1897 to 1899 averaged £1,103; while from 1900 to 1903 they were £1,580; and from 1903 to 1906 they asked the department for £3,000. In that period, however, the Government took the risk itself. Then when the insurance companies gave the cheap rates the Government took advantage of them. Now the insurance companies wanted £4,022 per annum. The fire which occurred was a most extraordinary one. If it had occurred at any other time it would not have resulted in such a disastrous loss to the State. Under ordinary circumstances, it was hardly conceived that a fire should result so disastrously as that one did. It came just at the Christmas period when such a large quantity of our best stock was in the place. Under any circumstances, al-

though that loss amounted to £42,000 our insurance would not have covered more than £20,000 on that building. The insurance companies refused to take the risk over £20,000 on a wood and iron building. Even if we had paid £4,000 insurance it would then have meant a loss of £22,000 in connection with the fire. We decided, when the Commissioner advised that the companies wanted this high premium, to follow a similar course to that adopted by the Public Works Department, and that the Railway Department should take its own risk. Of course it was exceedingly unfortunate we should do that just at that moment. This proposition with regard to the department was that we should provide 10s. for every £100 of revenue, and provide £1,875 per annum as a fund for the department's own insurance. Provision would be made in the future to cover this, but the exact method which would be adopted had not been decided. With regard to the excursion trains reference to which had been made by the member for Ivanhoe, if the hon. member would look into the matter he would find that the rates between Perth and Albany and from the goldfields to Perth and Albany were almost similar. He did not quite know what the member for Balkatta referred to when he spoke of detectives travelling around the Railway Department. It had been the custom to employ detectives to see that the various officials carried out their duties properly. The same principle was followed in the Government departments generally with regard to audit. The Railway Department had also employed detectives to see whether the public were travelling without passes or tickets.

Mr. Gill: It is a different thing altogether I complained about.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No other practice would be approved of such as that of one employee laying himself out to induce another to commit an offence.

Mr. Gill: That was my complaint.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If that was so the Commissioner would be consulted, and a promise would be

given to the hon. member that every endeavour would be made to prevent it. There was no desire to get rid of the detectives or a proper system of audit in connection with the department, but any practice which would result in the commission of an offence by an officer was quite wrong and both persons would be equally guilty. With reference to the conferences which were held every two years, the object had been to bring about a uniform rate, together with uniform instructions and regulations in connection with the whole of the railway systems. These conferences must help to a great extent, but there was no need for the heads of the branches to be always running away to attend these conferences. Probably it would be well in connection with future conferences if a certain section of the railway staff attended one year, and at the next conference another section. These conferences had been particularly successful with regard to water supplies. We had now got to a degree of uniformity in connection with all matters dealing with the railway staff and safe working which must conduce to good and efficient administration.

Item, Chief Traffic Manager, £800 :

Mr. JOHNSON : This officer for whom he had the greatest respect adopted unpleasant methods in dealing with other officers. Many complaints had been made against the Chief Traffic Manager and it was felt necessary to offer a few remarks in connection with his administration. From what could be gathered the Chief Traffic Manager was most vindictive. If he took a dislike to a man that man might just as well leave the service immediately because regardless of how long he might have to wait the Chief Traffic Manager would eventually get satisfaction. Any officer who had the temerity to face the Chief Traffic Manager and bring a grievance under his notice was never treated with that respect which was due from one employee to another. The Chief Traffic Manager should remember that the treatment he meted out to the employees would be meted out to him by members of Parliament who were the represen-

tatives of the people and, after all, were the employers of this officer. He could not expect to receive much respect from the Chamber unless he extended respect to those who were placed under his charge. In a *Weekly Notice* which was issued some time ago the Chief Traffic Manager complained about a certain return not having been sent in by the station-master, and he finished up by stating in words which in effect were "If you do not do this I will soon get someone who will" The officer spoke to the whole service in that way, so it was no wonder that strong exception was taken to this sort of thing by the employees, some of whom, indeed, had so resented his remarks that they had replied to him in a fashion that he did not like. Immediately one of those unfortunate employees openly showed resentment he was marked for the sacrifice. If this officer continued to irritate these employees in the way he had done, and to give special consideration to special favourites, he would have to expect the same severe handling from members of this Chamber.

Item, Chief Mechanical Engineer, £850:

Mr. JOHNSON : The member for North Perth had spoken of the good work done by the Chief Mechanical Engineer, and had pointed to the small remuneration he was receiving. We all rejoiced to know that we had at Midland Junction one of the best equipped and best managed workshops in Australia ; yet we found that the Chief Mechanical Engineer, who had vastly improved the shops from every point of view, was receiving a salary lower than that which Chief Mechanical Engineers received in other parts of Australia, where the recognised salary was £1,000 a year. Previously to Mr. Hume taking control the Chief Mechanical Engineer in Western Australia had been receiving £1,000 a year. It was only fair that our Chief Mechanical Engineer should be receiving more than his fellows in the Eastern States, for it was generally admitted that the conditions of life in Western Australia were such as necessitated an advance in salaries on those paid in the East. The work

being done at the Midland Junction shops was equal to anything in the world. It might also be said of the works manager at the Midland workshops that he, too, should be getting a higher salary than he was enjoying.

Item, Works Manager, £500 :

Mr. ANGWIN : It had been reported that the heavy loss sustained through the fire at the Midland Junction Workshops was in great degree owing to carelessness and neglect of duty on the part of somebody entrusted with the charge of affairs. A system had been in vogue by which, each night, all the rolling stock in the paint shop was coupled up together and a chain attached for the purpose of dragging the rolling stock out of the shed in the case of fire. But when the fire actually took place the theory failed for the reason that instead of the chain having been led out beyond the door it was found coiled up under one of the wagons. If, as had been suggested, the works manager was responsible for a loss to the State of between £30,000 and £40,000 it really seemed that the time had come when a change should be made.

The Minister for Railways : As the result of inquiries made it was found that the chain extended some 15 or 20 feet outside the door on the night of the fire.

Mr. ANGWIN : A case that had come under his notice was that of a man who had been working in the department for about 13 years and against whose work no complaint had ever been made, notwithstanding which, for some unaccountable reason, he was retrenched. Although this man had continually applied to be reinstated, and despite the fact that there was a scarcity of men able to do his work, he had been unable to again obtain employment at the shops. It was stated that he had been removed owing to some disagreement. Certainly this man should be given an equal chance with others of obtaining employment.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS : No objection would be offered to the making of official inquiries into this matter. So far as the fire was concerned, everything in connection with the

scheme for hauling out the rolling stock was as it should have been, but the fire had spread so rapidly that it was impossible for the men to get close enough to secure the chain.

Mr. SCADDAN : In connection with the matter referred to by the member for East Fremantle, it seemed that the chain was outside the building after all, yet the member for East Fremantle had hastily referred to the works manager as having been neglectful of his duty.

Mr. Angwin : I said "if."

Mr. SCADDAN : "If," was an unreliable word, and Mr. Angwin had been unwise in basing unpleasant suggestions upon it. Of the knowledge he (Mr. Scaddan) had of the works manager, he could say that no individual in the State was more attentive to his duties than was this officer, who went back to work night after night and was as regular as the sun in turning to in the morning. He (Mr. Scaddan) was convinced that it could not be urged against that officer that he was neglectful in any respect.

Item, Transportation, Loco., and Traffic Superintendents, £2,175 :

Mr. SCADDAN : Attention should be drawn to the condition of affairs on the Great Southern railway. Goldfields people bound to Albany had to break their journey at Northam, and subsequently go on by train to Spencer's Brook, where they caught the down train for Albany. Frequently these goldfields passengers were put into carriages at Spencer's Brook which were shunted again at Beverley, when these passengers stood a chance of being put into carriages that would be shunted at Wagin. To all this inconvenience and annoyance were they subjected simply because they had not joined the train at its starting point. Through passengers from Perth to Albany were placed in compartments which were not shunted. Again, there was not sufficient accommodation provided on the Great Southern for the number of passengers travelling at the present time. First-class passengers had to travel second-class and, indeed, had sometimes to be content with standing room on the platforms. Complaints were rife all along

the line in respect to the paucity of the accommodation provided.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Attention should be drawn also to the lack of facilities provided between Nannine and Geraldton. It was absolutely impossible on the Monday's train to get sleeping accommodation. This, of all, was the worst portion of the entire railway system. Persons travelling from Peak Hill and Meekatharra had to get into the train at Nannine in the best way they could, and arrive in Perth two nights later without having had a wink of sleep. Not only was the department losing revenue from want of sleeping accommodation, but the passengers were being put to a great deal of inconvenience. He himself had recently travelled down from Nannine, and by making personal inquiries he ascertained that there were on the train at least 12 passengers who would gladly have paid 10s. a piece for sleeping berths. Here alone was £6 begging to be collected by the department, and it was quite possible that the sum was even greater. Perhaps the Minister would explain why sleeping accommodation was not provided on this lengthy run. If the guard were to receive a little extra remuneration he could easily fix up bunks for the passengers. It was absolutely inhuman to ask women and children to travel hundreds of miles without sleeping accommodation.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: The complaint would be referred direct to the Commissioner with a view of seeing whether the cause could be obviated. The experience of Mr. Scaddan's friends in the train suggested that they had been fortunate at not finding themselves back in Kalgoorlie after so many changes. Both complaints would be referred to the Commissioner.

Item, Superintendent of Signals and Interlocking, £340:

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: During the last couple of weeks the department had been economising on the South-West system and had run great risks by the removal of signal men at various points. It was a cheese-paring policy, and he would like to hear the Minister's version of it. At any rate the guard now made responsible

for signals might fall into an error with disastrous results.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: Nothing was known to him of the matter complained of. Probably the automatic system had been introduced down there. Whatever was being done was a matter entirely for the Commissioner of Railways.

Mr. O'Loughlen: The guard had to stop the train and fix the signals himself at three different places.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: He could only think it was due to the introduction of the automatic signals.

Vote put and passed.

This concluded the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year.

Resolutions as passed in Committee of Supply granting supplies amounting to £2,289,612, and a further sum of £39,696 from the Sale of Government Property Trust Account were formally reported.

On motion by the Premier report from Committee of Supply adopted.

*In Committee of Ways and Means.*

The House having resolved into Committee of Ways and Means.

The PREMIER moved—

*That towards making good the supply to be granted to His Majesty, a sum not exceeding £2,289,612 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Western Australia, and a sum not exceeding £39,696 from the Sale of Government Property Trust Account.*

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

6 o'clock a.m.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1909-10.

Message from the Governor received and read transmitting Supplementary Estimates for the year ending 30th June, 1910, and recommending appropriation accordingly.

*In Committee of Supply.*

Mr. Daglish in the Chair.

Vote—Roads throughout the State, at pound for pound, £10,500:

Item, Cottesloe, Swanbourne-terrace, £500 :

Mr. O'LOGHLEN : While so many country districts were starved we should not spend this money at Cottesloe. In the Forrest electorate he was only able to get £25 for expenditure on two roads to go through the forests to some of the timber centres. He believed that it was not the duty of members to be asking for roads and bridges—they had other duties to perform—but seeing the local bodies were denied this assistance while this heavy expenditure was incurred at Cottesloe, unless the Minister could give some explanation he would move that the item be struck out.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS : This terrace would be used by a large number of people during the summer months. The municipality was spending an equal amount, if not more. In regard to the country districts, the Government had done more during the last few months in the matter of roads than had been done in the past few years. Striking out the item would do nothing for the roads the hon. member mentioned.

The PREMIER : Since this matter was previously before members he had taken the opportunity of seeing what was being done at Cottesloe. This terrace would run parallel with the coast, and would take a considerable sum of money. The municipality were carrying out considerable works there, and it did not appear that the residents of the municipality would reap any very great advantage. The expenditure really was in the interests of the people who visited the beach to enjoy their holidays.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN : Possibly the local residents did not derive any great advantage, but Cottesloe had received a great deal of support from the Government. Similar demands would be made on the Government by other watering places. These grants should not be given at the expense of the country districts. He moved an amendment—

*That the item be struck out.*

Mr. JACOBY : Money was taken from the roads grant and spent within the borders of municipalities. As much as £8,000 a year was diverted in this way. This £500 spent in country districts

would lead to the production of new wealth. It was more economical to spend the money in the country districts, because in doing that we immediately added to the wealth of the community.

Mr. JOHNSON : Cottesloe had not received sufficient encouragement from the Government. We spent a lot of money on the Caves and on other watering places which were only of advantage to a few people. Cottesloe on the other hand was available for thousands of people. It was now absolutely impossible to get along the beach with any degree of comfort, so that this expenditure was justified. The local people were spending £500 without getting any direct advantage from it. No doubt there were other works that demanded attention before luxuries, but at the same time it was necessary to attend to the health of the people and particularly the health of the children. It was pleasing the residents of the municipality of Cottesloe were taxing themselves for this purpose.

Mr. ANGWIN : The hon. member was inconsistent. The hon. member was continually crying out against granting money to municipalities to construct roads, and yet advocated a road that really was not required, though certainly it would make the place look better. If a work would be of advantage to a district, and was an urgent necessity, and the municipality had not the revenue to provide it, Government assistance should be given : but this road could at least wait a while, or half the amount might be provided this year and half the next year.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	16
Noes	..	..	..	19

Majority against .. 3

#### AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. W. Price
Mr. Bath	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Collier	Mr. Swan
Mr. Draper	Mr. Troy
Mr. Horan	Mr. Walker
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Ware
Mr. Jacoby	Mr. Gourley
Mr. McDowall	(Teller)
Mr. O'Loghlen	

## NOES.

Mr. Brown	Mr. N. J. Moore
Mr. Cowcher	Mr. S. F. Moore
Mr. Davies	Mr. Nanson
Mr. Gordon	Mr. Osborn
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Plesse
Mr. Hardwick	Mr. J. Price
Mr. Hayward	Mr. A. A. Willson
Mr. Johnson	Mr. F. Wilson
Mr. Male	Mr. Layman
Mr. Mitchell	

(Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

Item, Meckering, Cunderdin and Tammin Roads, £200 :

Mr. BATH : This was a humorous item providing £200 for roads in a district of 450 square miles.

The Minister for Works : There was an allocation out of the loan vote.

Mr. SCADDAN : Spending intermittent sums on long roads was a foolish policy. The sum of £200 would not provide half a mile of road. This policy led to the roads being kept in a bad state of repair. The Drakesbrook roads board kept their roads in good repair, and in their district the roads were the finest in the State ; but in other cases the boards shirked their work and allowed their roads to get out of repair before doing anything to them.

Item, Perth old North Beach road (one-third cost), £150 :

Mr. BATH asked for an explanation.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS : This was a continuation of the road to the North Beach. There were a good many settlers, along there, and for the construction of the road the property owners would contribute one-third of the cost, the roads board one-third, and the Government the balance.

Item, Subiaco Municipality, road to new sanitary site to serve Leederville and Subiaco (one-third cost), £150 :

Mr. SCADDAN : Was the road to run actually through the Municipality of Subiaco.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS : The road would run to the new sanitary site north of the railway line, and would serve both the Leederville and Subiaco municipalities. Those municipal councils would each bear one-third of the cost. The actual site was in the Claremont district.

Mr. SCADDAN : It appeared that the money would be spent outside the Subiaco municipal area, therefore, it should have been allocated to the Claremont district.

The PREMIER : The road would be solely for the benefit of the two municipalities named, and it would be merely run out to the sanitary site.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS : If there were any trouble he would see that the department made the roads and that each of the municipalities paid one-third of the cost.

Item, Swan, Gingin road, £50 :

Mr. JACOBY : The sum was voted for repairing one of the main highways of the State. There were many miles of the road which were now in an almost impassable condition, and it was assisted with the small sum of £50 only. That was useless. The whole system of road grants needed going into. Recently in Victoria a Minister of the Crown had said that the main roads should be put in order in the State. Something of the kind should be done here. If we spent £100,000 a year from Loan Fund on the public roads the work would be as re-productive as any of the agricultural railways. The Minister did not appear to appreciate the difficulties of the people in the country, as his tendency was to deal most liberally with the roads that were brought immediately under his notice. If decent roads were not made it would be better to cut these small special grants out and hand the money over to the roads boards to spend as they liked.

Mr. OSBORN : The member for Swan was always complaining about the votes for his district, but if one totted up the amounts of this Supplementary Estimates, it would be found that out of a total of £10,000 his district was getting about £1,000. It appeared therefore, that if a member wanted to help his district the best thing he could do would be always to growl at the Ministry.

Mr. JACOBY : The reference he had made with regard to roads did not apply particularly to his district, but to all parts of the State. If the hon. member counted up the items for his district he would

find that there was not as much as £1,000 voted.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** The proposals of the member for Swan would receive due consideration. He (the Minister) had lively recollections of attacks made on him every year because he had advocated the idea of putting a sum on the Loan Estimates for road construction throughout the State. It was, therefore, somewhat of a change to hear the contention supported. With regard to the consideration given to roads throughout the State, he might say that every effort was made in allocating the sum to treat all the country districts well, and to see that the money was distributed on a fair basis. If any member of the House had been criticised in the past for daring to advocate the spending of loan money for construction of roads, it was he.

**Mr. SCADDAN:** As the member for Swan seemed to think that it was useless to spend the £50 on the road proposed, it would be just as well to strike it off the Estimates. There were a large number of roads boards in the hon. member's electorate, and it would be a very good thing if some of them amalgamated. If this were done by many of the roads boards throughout the State the cost of administration would be reduced. It was an open question whether it would not be better for the Works Department themselves to spend money voted in this manner on the roads rather than to make the special grants to the different bodies, for in the latter case large sums of money were frittered away. When once roads were properly constructed the local authorities should be compelled to see to their maintenance.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Railways*, £7,000:

**Item.** Increments to officers whose salaries have been adjusted by the reclassification of the salaried staff, and increments to cadets (£100 to £150 per annum), whose increases for 1908-1909 were withheld, and provision for payment to officers for Sunday time, etcetera, £7,000:

**Mr. JOHNSON:** It was set out in the Supplementary Estimates that where-

as the total estimated expenditure for the year was £7,000 only £3,000 of this sum was for salaries.

**The PREMIER:** When the Supplementary Estimates were originally prepared salaries were fixed at £3,000, but since then a certain award had been given in connection with Sunday time, and although the Government had not been able to work out exactly what was required it was thought that an additional £4,000 would be needed.

**Mr. JOHNSON:** An assurance should be given that the wages staff would participate in this item. The Premier would know that the question of increments as to wages had been brought under his notice, and it was agreed that the matter should be left to the Commissioner to adjust. It could not be adjusted, however, unless money was available, and a portion of the sum now under discussion should be set apart for the purpose. For two years past the increments had been suspended, but in connection with the wages staff there had been no increments for six years. The men had been working on a minimum, and could not get off it. The present Commissioner promised in May last that he would review the wages staff with the view of paying the annual increments. Had that been done, and if so, would portion of this £7,000 go to pay the increments?

**The PREMIER:** The undertaking he had entered into would be carried out.

Vote put and passed.

This concluded the Supplementary Estimates of expenditure for the year. Resolutions as passed in Committee of Supply granting supplementary supplies amounting to £17,500 were formally reported.

On motion by the Premier report from Committee of Supply adopted.

*In Committee of Ways and Means.*

**The PREMIER** moved—

*That towards making good a further supply to be granted to His Majesty a further sum of £17,500 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Western Australia.*

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported; the report adopted.

#### ADJOURNMENT—DATE OF PRO-ROGATION.

The PREMIER moved—

*That the House at its rising do adjourn to 4.30 p.m. on Monday next.*

For the information of members he might state that he hoped with their assistance to be able to prorogue Parliament on Tuesday next.

Question passed.

*House adjourned at 4.55 a.m. (Saturday).*

#### MOTION—LIQUOR LAW ABUSE, COLONIAL WINE.

Hon. E. McLARTY (South-West): I would like to move, without notice, if I have your permission, Mr. President, on a matter which is I think of considerable importance at the present time. The motion I would submit without notice reads—

*That in the opinion of this House the law relating to the sale of colonial wine should be so amended as to permit of the sale taking place only upon premises where such wine is manufactured or upon licensed premises.*

The Colonial Secretary: What do you mean by licensed premises.

Hon. E. McLARTY: Licensed for the sale of this liquor. It will be within the recollection of hon. members that last session the law was amended, or liberalised, so as to allow manufacturers of colonial wine to sell this article by the single bottle. This has led to great abuse in the country. I anticipated that this would happen at the time the matter was brought forward, and I declared then that it was not a step in the right direction, and that it was not the intention or the wish of the hon. members of this House, or another place, to encourage drunkenness as it was declared that amendment would do. The result has been just what was predicted, and through the action of Parliament the people now are disposing of wine by carting it about and erecting a shanty of a few sheets of iron where public works or railways are being constructed, and selling this wine to the employees on these works. The effect is that the people in the place are kept in a state of drunkenness, and the police declare that they have neither control nor supervision. For instance, on the Pinjarra-Marradong railway a man has put up a place some five or six miles along the railway line, and he carts the wine to this place, sells it, and at this locality there have been some disgraceful scenes. Men are continually getting drunk and knocking each other about, and hon. members know that this is brought about, to a very large extent, by so-called wine, which is only a mixture of soapsuds and vinegar; it drives the people mad and has the most disastrous

## Legislative Council,

*Monday, 20th December, 1909.*

	PAGE
Papers presented .. .. .	2417
Motion: Liquor Law Abuse, Colonial Wine ..	2417
Questions: Public Service Investigation ..	2419
Agricultural Report, Norseman and Esperance ..	2419
Inspection of Machinery and Mines ..	2419
Bills: Permanent Reserves Rededication (No. 2), 2d., Corn., etc. ..	2419
Interpretation Act Amendment, All stages ..	2427
District Fire Brigades, Assembly's Message ..	2428
Agricultural Bank Act Amendment, Assembly's Message ..	2428
Roads Act Amendment, Corn., etc. ..	2429
Adjournment, Prorogation arrangements ..	2434

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Report of the Commissioner of Police for 1909. 2, Cattle Trespass Act, 1882; Scale of fines and poundage fees for Municipalities of Perth and Claremont. 3, Municipality of city of Perth, By-laws. 4, By-laws of Local Boards of Health of Greenbushes and Kundip.