

the Electoral Registrar. Though provided in the Electoral Act, there was no mandate in the Municipal Act for the town clerk to do so. It was essential, especially as to voters for the Legislative Council, that the names of all municipal ratepayers should be sent to the Electoral Registrar. A subclause provided that a list of all owners be compiled. This was not already provided for in the Electoral Act, which merely provided for a list of ratepayers being supplied, no mention being made of owners, and of course some ratepayers might be occupiers and not owners. It was also provided in this clause that the list should be furnished to the Electoral Registrar in December. At present the lists were frequently not sent in time to be printed on the rolls for Legislative Council elections in April or May. If a town clerk failed to furnish the list he would be subject to a penalty under the Act.

Question passed, the clause added to the Bill.

Schedule—New schedule No. 7 added consequentially.

Bill reported with farther amendments; the report adopted.

BILL—PERTH TOWN HALL (SITE).

ASSEMBLY'S MESSAGE.

A Message was received from the Legislative Assembly acquainting the Council that the Assembly was unable to consider the Council's Message in regard to the Perth Town Hall Bill, for the reason that Section 46 of the Constitution Act Amendment Act 1899 gave no power to the Council to insist upon a request, and that the request so insisted upon would assume the nature of a demand, and thus violate the principle of the procedure prescribed.

The consideration of the Message was made an order for the next sitting.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: Report of the Department of Agriculture for year ended June.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at two minutes past 8 o'clock, until the next Tuesday.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 21st November, 1906.

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THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 4-30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

QUESTION—LABOUR BUREAU, OFFICERS.

MR. BATH asked the Treasurer (in absence of the Premier): 1, Is he aware that prior to the Superintendent of the Government Labour Bureau going on leave in 1905, it was understood that on his return he would resign that title in favour of the clerk who had done the work since the Labour Bureau was started? 2, Why was that arrangement not carried out? 3, What extra pay did the acting-Superintendent get during Mr. Longmore's absence from the State? 4, What is the salary of the official who conducts the correspondence and acts as registrar? 5, Has this official made a claim for 10s. per diem, which is the recognised pay of temporary clerks according to the Public Service Commissioner? 6, Is he aware that both these gentlemen have worked overtime for many months continuously to carry on the work of the office? 7, What remuneration have these officers received for their overtime work? 8, How many other male clerks are employed in the Labour Bureau? 9, What portion of his time is the Superintendent of the Labour Bureau employed in the Labour Bureau office, and what duties does he carry out there?

THE TREASURER replied: 1, No. 2, Because no such arrangement was

made. 3, None. 4, The salary of the temporary clerk who assists the officer-in-charge is £110 per annum. 5, Yes. 6, No. 7, A claim for overtime was made, but disallowed by the Public Service Commissioner. 8, None. 9, The Superintendent exercises a general control over the Bureau, and is connected with it by a special telephone, which enables him to deal at once with all important matters requiring his attention.

QUESTION—TIMBER CUTTING ON PASTORAL LEASE.

MR. BATH asked the Treasurer (in absence of the Minister for Lands): 1, Has the Government given the Timber Combine the right to cut timber on the pastoral lease of Stewart Keenan, at Glenbourne, Margaret River? 2, Is he aware that this has resulted in serious disturbance of the lessee's rights and the destruction of his stock? 3, Has the lessee made any application for compensation for the injury received? 4, If so, what action has the Government taken in the matter? 5, Is it correct that the Government has refused to assist the pastoral lessee, and has invited him to institute legal proceedings? 6, If so, is such attitude consistent with their statement that the cancellation of proceedings against the Timber Combine for the shepherding of Timber Leases 256 and 257 was done on the grounds that it was unwise to involve the department in legal proceedings?

THE TREASURER replied: 1, If the question refers to a lease held by Messrs. Keenan and Abbey, yes. By Section 124 of the Land Act, 1898, a pastoral lease may be granted over any land held as a timber lease, and a timber lease may be granted over any land held as a pastoral lease. 2 and 3, Mr. Stewart Keenan has forwarded a letter of complaint to the Lands Department, asking for recompense. 4, Mr. Keenan has been advised to consult his own solicitor. 5, Answered by No. 4. 6, The two cases are in no way parallel.

QUESTION—CONSTABLE CASSERLY, GRATUITY.

MR. BATH asked the Treasurer (in absence of the Premier): 1, Have appli-

cations been received from ex-Police Constable Casserly for the gratuity to which he is entitled by reason of his 17 years' service? 2, Have these applications been refused? 3, If so, on what grounds?

THE TREASURER replied: 1, Yes. 2 and 3, When ex-Constable Casserley's claim first came before the Police Benefit Board in July 1902, Casserley then having had 12 years' continuous service (not 17 as stated), the board were of opinion that he was not entitled to any gratuity owing to the misconduct list recorded against him. Subsequently, however, Casserley was awarded £50 from the benefit fund in consideration of the amount contributed by him.

QUESTION—MINISTER'S SPEECH AT GERALDTON ELECTION.

MR. BATH asked the Minister for Works: What authority had he for stating in a political speech at Geraldton that the Loan Bill was certain to be opposed tooth-and-nail, every item, excepting perhaps the Black Range-Mount Magnet Railway; seeing that the Loan Bill had not then been under discussion in the House, and no opinions have yet been expressed thereon?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: The right which every citizen has to predict the future actions of any political party.

QUESTION—COTTESLOE RESERVE, FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

MR. BOLTON asked the Treasurer (in absence of the Minister for Lands): Has the Government granted permission to the friendly societies to sell their recreation reserve at Cottesloe for the purpose of purchasing a site and erecting a medical hall at Fremantle.

THE TREASURER replied: Yes.

QUESTION—WHARF APPROACHES, FREMANTLE.

MR. ANGWIN asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Does the Government intend providing additional approaches to the wharf at Fremantle for vehicular

traffic? 2, If so, at what locality? 3, When will same be available for traffic?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: The subject is receiving consideration.

QUESTION—ELECTION STATEMENTS AT GERALDTON, RAILWAY PROJECTS.

MR. ANGWIN asked the Minister for Railways: Has he seen the report of his speech given at Geraldton on Friday evening last, published in the *Morning Herald* newspaper on Monday, 20th November; and, if correctly reported, will he explain in what manner "It would be entirely the fault of Geraldton if it did not get the Railway, Mount Magnet-Black Range."

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: I may state that I was not foolish enough to insult the intelligence and independence of my audience by making any such statement which could bear any such construction. I said, however, when dealing with the question of decentralisation, "It would be entirely the fault of the Geraldton traders if they could not control the trade of the Murchison Goldfields." I may add that I have just received the following telegram:—

Johnson showing telegram that Chapman-Black Range Railways shelved. Wire if correct.—*Guardian*.

I must say I cannot believe anything so dishonourable has been circulated in that district.

QUESTION—CONDEMNED MAN SALA, AS TO HIS SANITY.

MR. ANGWIN asked the Attorney General: 1, Did the Government refuse to allow the friends of the late condemned man Antonio Sala to nominate a medical man to consult with the Government medical officer in regard to the sanity of the condemned man, giving the reason "It would be a reflection on the doctor's professional ability"? 2, Does the Minister intend to cause to be placed on the table of the House all papers dealing with the question?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL replied: 1, Leave was refused to the

Italian Consul to nominate a medical practitioner to report on the sanity of the condemned man Antonio Sala, not merely on the ground as stated in the question, but mainly because such an application was wholly irregular and could not be entertained. 2, No.

BILLS—(2) FIRST READING.

Criminal Code Amendment, introduced by the ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Constitution Act Amendment, No. 2, introduced by MR. HUDSON.

APPROPRIATION MESSAGE, LOAN.

Message from the Governor received and read, recommending appropriation from general loan funds for the service of the current financial year 1906-7.

BILL—PERTH TOWN HALL (SITE).

COUNCIL'S REQUEST INSISTED ON.

RULING ON PROCEDURE.

Order read for consideration in Committee of the Legislative Council's Message, stating that the Council "insists on the request contained in Message No. 26 for the reasons set out in the schedule."

Point of procedure having been raised by MR. ILLINGWORTH at the previous sitting—

MR. SPEAKER now ruled as follows:

At a former sitting of the House, my attention was called to the form of this message. Objection was then taken to the term "insists on the request" as being beyond the powers conferred upon the Council by Section 46 of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899, to request amendments in Bills which must by statute originate in the Assembly. The section reads as follows:—

46.—In the case of a proposed Bill which according to law must have originated in the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Council may at any stage return it to the Legislative Assembly with a message requesting the omission or amendment of any items or provisions therein; and the Legislative Assembly may, if it thinks fit, make such omissions or amendments, or any of them, with or without modifications.

It has been questioned whether the

right so given to request this House to make amendments implies the right to repeat a request; and the words of the section, perhaps intentionally, leave the question doubtful. On two previous occasions a second request has been made by the Legislative Council, though the cases were dissimilar from the present case and from each other. In 1903 this House refused to consider a request for farther amendments in the Audit Bill; but in the case of the Public Service Bill in 1904, a request for amendments was repeated with some modification, and acceded to. By the use, however, of the term "insists on the request" the Legislative Council has gone considerably farther than in either of these instances, and I am of opinion that the objection to the message should be upheld. I base my opinions on the following grounds:—

1. The term "insists" is not found in the section governing the case, and it would be unwise, in my opinion, where a certain procedure is laid down by statute, to vary the phraseology therein prescribed.

2. A request insisted upon, if indeed such a phrase may with any propriety be employed, becomes a demand, which is a matter of an entirely different character, and contrary both to the letter and to the spirit of the section.

3. The use of this term, even if otherwise unobjectionable, would approximate the procedure too closely to that obtaining with ordinary Bills, and would thus defeat the object of the section, which clearly establishes a marked difference between the two. The immediate effect would be to throw the responsibility of rejecting the Bill upon the Assembly instead of upon the Council.

I therefore rule that Message No. 27 cannot be considered by a Committee of this House.

MOTION.

THE TREASURER (Hon. F. Wilson): In view of Mr. Speaker's ruling, and in view of the very clear and concise reasons put forward for that ruling, I have no option but to move the following motion:—

That a message be transmitted to the Legislative Council, acquainting them that the Legislative Assembly is unable to consider Message No. 27, for the reason that Section 46

of the Constitution Act 1899 gives no power to the Legislative Council to insist upon a request, and that a request so insisted upon would assume the nature of a demand, and thus violate the principle of the procedure proscribed.

Question put and passed.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1906-7.

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Resumed from the previous day, Mr. ILLINGWORTH in the Chair.

PUBLIC WORKS ESTIMATES continued (Hon. J. Price, Minister).

Subdivision 3—Roads and Bridges,
£73,264.

Roads, £20,851; revotes, £3,921:

Item—Perth-Fremantle Road, reconstruction Point Lewis to Swan Brewery, £700:

MR. HOLMAN: Was the £700 additional to the unexpended balance, or was it to complete the work commenced last year?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was to complete the work authorised last year, before handing the road over to the Perth Council.

Item—Sussex Coast Road, Busselton-Yalingup Road, £1,090:

MR. HOLMAN: On this item we returned once more to the grants for the Caves, to which he had repeatedly called attention. To show that the item was not necessary, £500 was voted last year for this road but only £110 spent. Apparently this was in the Treasurer's electorate, and we were asked to spend £1,090 on a road where thousands had already been spent; yet the Minister could not grant assistance for roads on goldfields, where men were labouring under great difficulties without proper roads. How much more did the Minister expect to spend on the road to the Caves?

THE MINISTER: For this item he took the fullest responsibility. The 20-mile road from Busselton to the Caves was in thoroughly good order except for a gap of a mile and a quarter. He was asked whether it was or was not advisable to have the road in good order through-

out; and after thoroughly inquiring into the circumstances, he thought it would be well to construct this mile and a quarter, for if only to keep holiday-makers within our own State, we would be doing good work. In 1903 there were 1,400 visitors to the Caves, 2,463 in 1904, 2,863 in 1905, while for the first six months of this year 1,863 had visited the Caves.

MR. HOLMAN: It cost the Government 10s. to £1 per head to send them there.

THE MINISTER did not agree with the hon. member. In time we would establish this place as a permanent pleasure resort for the people of this State, and would induce our people not to go out of the State seeking pleasures of this description. He would not say that if the balance of the road had not been in good condition he would have placed this sum on the Estimates, but he did not desire to leave this one spot in a bad condition and so impair the whole road. He had realised that members at first sight would question this item, but he had believed that when the explanation was given they would be satisfied.

MR. HOLMAN: To spend £1,090 on a mile of road was outrageous. In the Murchison electorate, between Nannine and Lake Way there was 20 miles of sandpatch, and it took the teams two days to cover that bit because after the first day's journey they had to unharness their teams and drive them back nine miles to water. He had made a request to have a sum placed on the Estimates for a well in the middle of that sandpatch. It was a disgrace to any Government to spend money on the Caves when the people in the back country were in their present position. To show his disapproval of this money being spent in the South-West, he moved an amendment—

That the item be reduced by £500.

MR. McLARTY: The estimate for this road was nearly doubled this year. In the state of the finances, how we could afford to double the amount he did not know. We had already discussed an item of £800 for the Caves, and farther on there was a grant of £500 towards the Caves House. It was questionable whether the game was worth the candle. If a man saw the Caves once,

it was all he wanted. There were other spots as attractive, and none better than Mandurah, but one could not get sixpence on the Estimates for Mandurah, while money was thrown at the Caves. Half the amount should be sufficient for this road.

THE TREASURER: As representative of the district, it would not be out of place for him to say a few words on the matter. This was to construct a gap of one and a quarter miles between two well formed portions of the road. [**MR. HORAN:** We heard that last year.] Exactly. The member for Guildford (**Mr. Johnson**), when Minister in 1904, promised that the gap would be taken in hand and constructed, but it was not done. Now the Minister for Works realised that it was no use having 18½ miles of well-formed road for the visitors to our beautiful Caves if we had a gap of 1½ miles, and decided in the interests of Western Australia and of the visitors to that portion of the State that this mile and a quarter should be constructed. When constructed, the road would be completed right through. Members did him (**The Treasurer**) the honour two years ago to visit the locality in great numbers, and not one member who visited the Caves district on that occasion but thought that the money had been well expended, and expressed approval of the necessity for having the road constructed. What was the good of members constantly attacking and nagging at him because he represented the district? The expenditure on the Caves was commenced by the James Government, before he was in the House. The James Government spent about £15,000 or £16,000 on them, the Daughish Government recognised that it was a necessary work, and the Rason Government held the same view, while to-day the Minister for Works placed this item on the Estimates to complete the road. We had a beautiful pleasure resort at the Caves. They were pronounced to be not second to those of New South Wales. Some expressed the opinion that they were superior. Therefore it was right that we should develop the beauties of our State, not only to keep our citizens here as far as possible on their holidays, but also to attract others to the State. The records of the Caves Board showed

that visitors from outside the State made efforts by breaking their through journeys to visit the Caves, with which they expressed complete satisfaction. The money necessary for completing the road would be well expended, as it was not advisable to leave the road incomplete after expending nearly £16,000 on it.

MR. DAGLISH understood that money voted last year to complete this work was not all expended; and apparently the work had only become urgent since that time. The member for the district was keen on this question when he (Mr. Daglish) was in office, and on the urgent representations made by that member a promise was given that the road would be completed. Immediately the hon. member acquired office, the urgency of the work appeared to lapse, only to recur when the present Estimates were in preparation. There was considerable difference between agreeing to do this work at a time when a previous Government was spending 40 per cent. more on road construction than was being spent now, and less money being available, less work should be attempted. While agreeing that after a certain sum had been expended on a work it should be completed, he failed to recognise the present urgency of the work, seeing that the vote of last year had not been all expended.

MR. HOLMAN: The cost to the Government of visitors to the Caves last year was 10s. per head, while for the whole period since the Caves had been open the cost averaged over £2 per head. More "deadheads" than ordinary visitors travelled to the Caves. While goldfielders had to pay their way right through if they desired to visit the Caves, visitors travelling "on the nod" were taken there free of cost and treated as princes, and it appeared we could afford to provide £75 for a railway pass to Mr. Teesdale Smith, who was in receipt of a salary of £6,000 a year. If the Caves were the attraction claimed, visitors should pay the few pounds it would cost to visit them, and not expect the Government to pay for them. After the expenditure made on the Caves and in the erection of an accommodation-house, the Caves Board should be receiving sufficient revenue to make the Caves self-supporting and also to maintain the roads. Much had been made of the one

mile of sand; but if visitors were desirous of going to the Caves, that mile of sand would not deter them, and it should be remembered there were many stretches of road of 30 miles and over on the goldfields equally as bad as this mile of sand. This was a serious question in view of the fact that in the condition of the finances every other vote had been reduced, whilst this item was largely increased. The position should be reversed and money expended in the development of the country rather than in opening up pleasure resorts.

THE MINISTER: The work was now in progress; and members should remember that the road to the Caves had already cost at least £15,000 or £16,000. Had it been a question of starting the making of the road this year, he would not consent to it; but was not a road which had already cost such a large sum to be availed of? In the circumstances he had felt justified in placing the item on the Estimates, though he would be the last in a time like the present to advocate the construction of what might be called a work of luxury.

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

Ayes	...	...	11
Noes	...	...	21

Majority against 10

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Bath	Mr. Augwin
Mr. Bolton	Mr. Barnett
Mr. Butcher	Mr. Brebber
Mr. Collier	Mr. Coucher
Mr. Holman	Mr. Daglish
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Eddy
Mr. Scaddan	Mr. Ewing
Mr. Stuart	Mr. Gordon
Mr. Underwood	Mr. Gregory
Mr. Ware	Mr. Gull
Mr. Horan (Teller).	Mr. Hardwick
	Mr. Male
	Mr. Monger
	Mr. S. F. Moore
	Mr. Piesse
	Mr. Price
	Mr. Smith
	Mr. Stone
	Mr. A. J. Wilson
	Mr. F. Willson
	Mr. Layman (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

Item — Yalingup-Lake Cave Road, £481:

MR. HOLMAN: This was a similar item. Last year £300 was voted for this work, but only £69 expended; this year the amount of the vote had been increased by £412.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Of this amount, £250 was for current work and £231 a liability from last year. The road was between 25 and 30 miles in length, and must be maintained.

MR. HOLMAN: If we were to have this amount of maintenance for roads in the South-West year after year it would be serious. Three hundred pounds had been spent on this particular road last year, £200 in the previous year, and for the present year there was a liability of £231. He desired to leave sufficient of the item to cover liabilities, and therefore he moved an amendment—

That the item be reduced by £200.

Amendment negatived.

Item—Albany, Grassmere road, part cost, £100 :

MR. BATH: It was in the interests of the Committee, if any new cave vote even though for only £100 was proposed, to nip the epidemic in the bud, because the passing of the item would merely lead to an increased demand next year. He moved an amendment—

That the item be struck out.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: This item was justifiable, even in the present straitened circumstances. The money was to be spent, not in constructing a road, but in clearing a road to certain caves. Albany had been a considerable shipping centre, though its importance in that respect had to some extent diminished, and he thought the Committee would be glad to assist the people of Albany to maintain their prosperity. There was a big side to this question. Having been associated with the seaport of Fremantle for many years, he had been greatly struck by the immense number of people leaving for holidays in the Eastern States. It was only by opening up our country in the manner here proposed that we could retain holiday-makers in this State. There was a tendency to take too materialistic a view of things: regard should also be paid to the amenities of life, such as health resorts. Our effort should be to retain in our own State the very considerable amount of money which was now going elsewhere.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: It was surprising that the member for Murchison (Mr.

Holman) should find fault with the provision of funds in this direction. Such people as the constituents of the hon. member lived in places from which they were glad to come away as soon as possible to more pleasant localities, such as Albany, which was one of our many sea-coast resorts for recuperation. The town was now becoming known as one of the best health resorts in Australia, its equable climate being unexcelled. There was considerable loss to the country through residents going East for their holidays; of course many were drawn there by old home associations, but as they became more closely associated with Western Australia they would look for a holiday resort within our borders.

MR. COLLIER: The argument of the member for Katanning (Hon. F. H. Piesse) was used every time an endeavour was made to reduce votes, that goldfields residents visited the places in which the money was to be spent; but the Committee could be assured that after being buried in the back country for a number of years people were not desirous of going to a quiet out-of-the-way place, much preferring a little city life. The number of goldfields visitors to the caves was infinitesimal. The caves were usually visited by well-to-do people, many of them travelling free, at the expense of the general taxpayer as distinguished visitors. The Minister for Works had defended the previous item on the ground that it was absolutely necessary to complete the work; but that argument could not be adduced in the present instance, because the work was absolutely new. Let us provide the necessities of life before giving consideration to luxuries. There were reductions in many directions where money was absolutely needed, and yet the Estimates contained items for pleasure resorts. We were going to the English money-lender every time we wanted to widen a bridge or erect a lamppost, and yet such items as this appeared. He supported the motion of the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. GORDON endorsed the utterances of the last speaker. In the present financial position it was not desirable to start more caves. We already had caves galore. This amount of £100 might be better spent elsewhere. There were already the

Wanneroo caves and the South-Western caves; if we started more caves yet, the travelling public would become confused, and the whole thing would cave in.

MR. BARNETT: The member for Boulder (Mr. Collier) was very much out in stating that the greater proportion of the people likely to make use of this road would be distinguished visitors. Between 16,000 and 17,000 persons visited Albany during the three months of last summer, and there was every probability of a much larger influx during the coming summer. One complaint of visitors to Albany was that there was not a sufficient number of drives about the town. The municipal council had arranged with the owners of steam launches to run to a point within about two and a-half miles of the caves. When the present Treasurer, then Minister for Works, was in Albany last February he recognised the disadvantage the people of Albany laboured under and the added attraction it would be to Albany as a pleasure resort if more drives were provided. The Minister promised that if he (Mr. Barnett) could arrange that the owners of the steam launches would land passengers at a point sufficiently near to the caves, he would place a sum on the Estimates to construct a track to the caves. Seeing that there was only £200 on the Estimates for Albany, opposition to this item came with bad grace from hon. members.

MR. HOLMAN: No one would be more pleased to grant money for these pleasure resorts than himself if at the same time facilities were given to those engaged in gold-mining and agriculture. Assistance from the Government could not be obtained for the opening up of tracks in the outlying goldfields, and sometimes the existing tracks were almost impossible to travel over during the winter on account of the mud, and during the summer on account of the thick dust, while in places there was heavy sand. If the Government spent money on cutting a straight track to Peak Hill, the journey from Nannine to Peak Hill could be reduced by 25 miles; but though the Peak Hill mines had returned over a million pounds worth of gold the Government would not grant any assistance for that purpose. There were many new mining centres on the

Murchison, but none of them could get any grants for roads. He would be lacking in his duty to his constituents if he did not draw attention to these facts. Until money was spent in opening up the outlying districts he would do all he could to see that no more money was spent on opening up roads to caves.

MR. UNDERWOOD supported the amendment, but not from force of habit, as the member for Katanning said the member for Murchison did.

HON. F. H. PIESSE had not said "from force of habit," but that the member for Murchison had the right to criticise and took advantage of it.

MR. UNDERWOOD: Seeing the trouble there was to get a small land tax through the Legislature, the people must fully recognise that they would not get many roads made in the future. He protested against money being spent on luxuries while there was no money provided for opening up places where people could earn a living. That should be the first aim. The people could get the pleasure afterwards. If we did not give better facilities for out-back districts, the people would be leaving the State altogether, not only going for a holiday.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	12
Noes	...	...	...	26

Majority against ... 14

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Bath	Mr. Angwin
Mr. Butcher	Mr. Barnett
Mr. Collier	Mr. Bolton
Mr. Foulkes	Mr. Brebber
Mr. Gordon	Mr. Brown
Mr. Holman	Mr. Cowcher
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Daglish
Mr. Scaddan	Mr. Davies
Mr. Stuart	Mr. Eddy
Mr. Underwood	Mr. Ewing
Mr. Ware	Mr. Gregory
Mr. Walker (Teller).	Mr. Gull
	Mr. Keenan
	Mr. Layman
	Mr. McLarty
	Mr. Male
	Mr. Monger
	Mr. S. F. Moore
	Mr. Piesse
	Mr. Price
	Mr. Smith
	Mr. Stone
	Mr. Veryard
	Mr. A. J. Wilson
	Mr. F. Wilson
	Mr. Hardwick (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

MR. HOLMAN: The member for Beverley should explain the items for roads in the Beverley district.

MR. FOULKES: There were two items relating to roads in the Bunbury suburban road district. Were these sums for repairing roads or for constructing new works? These roads commenced within the municipality of Bunbury.

THE MINISTER: These were grants for repairs for the Picton-Dardanup road, and for the Busselton-Capel road. Both these roads were main roads, and were used by the settlers in bringing produce to Bunbury. The work was absolutely necessary. It was to be done outside the municipality.

Item—Coolgardie Road District, cemetery road, £240—amended verbally, the word “cemetery” struck out and “sanitary” inserted in lieu.

Item—Cue Road District, Anstey Street, £200—amended verbally, the words “Cue Road District” struck out, and “Day Dawn Municipality” inserted in lieu.

Item—Collie-Darkan Road, £100:

MR. HOLMAN: Since a railway had been constructed in this district, it should not be necessary to spend money on main roads there.

THE MINISTER: This road running north from the line was one of the feeders for the railway and served a large number of settlers. It was in a particularly bad state of repair, and this money would put it into decent order.

MR. EWING: This road was practically a new road, the outcome of building of the railway. If people were to be induced to settle in the district it was necessary that roads should be provided.

MR. HOLMAN: The member for Collie said this was a new road, while the Minister said it was an old road needing repair.

THE MINISTER: It was comparatively new.

Other Roads Items, revotes, agreed to.

New Works—Roads, £16,930:

Item—Beverley-Warriling Road, £100:

MR. HOLMAN: The Beverley Road District occurred several times in these items, over £1,100 being set down for roads in the district.

THE MINISTER: These items were required for repairs to various roads throughout the district.

Item—Blackett's-Clifton Towers Road, £50.

On motion by the MINISTER, the name of the road district was amended from “Greenbushes” to “Goomalling.”

Item—Kalgoorlie Road District, Salisbury Road, £150.

MR. ANGWIN asked for information of this and four succeeding items, in view of the statement made by a member that no money was provided for roads construction on goldfields. For what was this money required if not for road-making?

THE MINISTER: The statement that no money was to be expended in road construction on goldfields was one of those legitimate exaggerations which lent interest to an unconvincing statement. The items should be passed.

MR. HOLMAN: That statement, made by him, was not intended to apply to the Kalgoorlie district, which was represented by a Cabinet Minister, but he was referring to the out-back portions of the goldfields and to Pilbarra. All the roads mentioned in these items were encircled with railways, and his complaint had reference to parts of the State which were hundreds of miles from a railway and were also destitute of roads.

MR. EWING: Several items later for roads in the Lawlers and Mt. Magnet districts would come under the category of out-back portions of the goldfields.

Item—Maintenance of Main Roads, Claremont-Subiaco £200, and Perth-Midland Junction £550:

MR. BATH: When the money was voted for the construction of these roads years ago, an understanding was arrived at that the local bodies would provide necessary funds for maintenance in future, yet here were claims for maintenance.

MR. DAGLISH: The hon. member could not have received any such assurance so far as the Claremont-Subiaco road was concerned, for he was not in Parliament and probably was not in the State when that road was constructed. Apparently the hon. member was confusing this with some other road.

Item—Maintenance of Main Roads, Fremantle-Jandakot £300 :

MR. HOLMAN: As a railway had lately been built to this district, this large expenditure should not be required. The argument in favour of the railway had been that its cost would be saved in the lessened amount required for road construction.

THE MINISTER: At present the train service on the Jandakot railway was a limited one, while the traffic on the road was heavy. There were numerous struggling settlers in the district, and the item was justified.

MR. McLARTY: This item was for the maintenance of the section of road between Fremantle and the Forrest Agricultural Hall. There were no railway sidings on this section, with the result that the road had to be used extensively by settlers.

MR. DAVIES: The item was necessary, and the amount would have been justified if £600. The railway was a considerable distance from the portion of road for which this money was required.

Item—Canning-Armadale Road, £180:

MR. ANGWIN: Nothing was provided for maintenance, which should deserve the consideration of the Minister.

THE MINISTER: In view of the large expenditure already devoted to this road, the item was fair. He had recently been over this and several other main roads in the vicinity of Perth and Fremantle to see for himself, and it had to be admitted that many other roads were in a worse condition than the Canning to Armadale road.

MR. ANGWIN: The explanation was that the roads board had struck a high rate, and devoted nearly all its expenditure to maintaining this thoroughfare.

Item—Menzies to Davyhurst Road, £250—name of road amended to read "Davyhurst Road."

Items—Perth Road District: Curtis Road £250, and Hector Road £100:

MR. DAGLISH asked for information.

THE MINISTER: These roads served a large number of market gardeners, and the items had received the support of both the local road board and the Town

Properties Limited, the latter largely interested in the district.

MR. DAGLISH: The only growers served by these roads were Chinamen leasing land from the Town Properties Limited.

THE MINISTER: Could the hon. member explain why the road board agreed to this?

MR. DAGLISH: That was a point he could not explain; but this locality had two members on the road board, and one of them was the only other owner of land on the proposed line, which would help only Chinamen holding land under lease from the Town Properties Company, and that company's estate would be materially benefited by having a road constructed through the middle at only one-third the cost to the company. While the company was at present paying rates —[MR. H. BROWN: £500 a year]—on a basis of only £10 per acre, it was selling land as high as £80 per acre, and in no case at less than £10 per acre. Immediately an intending settler bought land, that piece was valued for rating at what he paid for it; yet the company continued to pay rates on the £10 basis. The extension of the North Beach road would assist white settlers. [MR. H. BROWN: Absolutely wrong.] To his knowledge, 17 white settlers would be benefited by the road he suggested, though not a Chinaman would be advantaged. There was a gap of a mile between the macadam on the North Beach road, so that settlers were compelled to use twice as much horse power to get their produce to market as would be required if that gap were bridged. If the desire was to advantage the Osborne Park swamp, then Hector-street should be extended.

MR. H. BROWN did not desire to lend notoriety to certain persons who had been actively trying to divert the money for this road. Towards the road which the last speaker favoured the Government gave £500 last year and the board gave £200; and this road would extend to the front door of a certain gentleman who was anxious to extend it farther. Anticipating this vote the district roads board only yesterday made a contract to the value of £250 for improving the road; the Town Properties Company, in order to open up the estate, voted £250;

and the roads board gave £250. The road would almost reach a little settlement of Seventh Day Adventists who were farming in the district. The roads board had already spent £200 in raising the road above the swamp-level. A Mr. Jones, who was cultivating 16 or 17 acres and who would be benefited by the road, employed no Chinamen whatever, all his employees being white. Lastly, the proposed road would eventually be a short cut into the Balkatta road, lessening the journey to the North Beach by three or four miles.

MR. VERYARD : If this item of £100 were passed, £300 would be allocated to the work by the roads board. The chief object of extending the road was to obtain easy transit for the carriage of stone from the quarries to the sea beach, the result of which would be that farther road construction could be done more cheaply. Another object of the road was to reach the sea beach. While many roads boards raised only a few shillings to the pound of Government subsidy, this roads board raised 40s. for every pound granted. The item should stand.

MR. DAGLISH : Every argument used in favour of Curtis road could be used more strongly in favour of the North Beach road. [MR. H. BROWN: The local authorities should be the better judges.] Not necessarily. This roads board had a large district, too large; and while he wished to cast no reflection on members of the board, he did not think they had opportunities of acquiring personal knowledge of every locality in their district. Stone was also to be got on the road he was advocating, and this road would also afford a more direct route to the North Beach. He denied that his action in the matter was influenced or instigated by any person, and he was prepared to bring before the Minister a deputation from those people to urge their claim. It was more desirable to encourage those white settlers than to assist a district largely given over to Chinese.

MR. H. BROWN : Some members would not allow the despised Chinese to live, if they had their way. Dozens of these Chinamen paid each from £15 to £20 a year in rates to the Perth Roads Board and were as deserving of consideration as white settlers, particularly

if they went in for agriculture or horticulture. It must be remembered that the company owning Osborne Park paid over £500 a year in rates to the local authority and that last year we granted £500 for a road for the people in whose interests the member for Subiaco was speaking. A gentleman residing in that locality was able to reach the ear of the Minister, because that gentleman wrote to the roads board and told them that if they asked for a grant of £100 to build a road to his house the Minister would grant their request. The board wrote for £100 and got it the next day. Yesterday the Perth Roads Board had let a contract for £700 on the assumption that this item would be passed.

THE MINISTER : These items in the Perth roads district now being discussed were obligations to which he was committed. It was arranged with the local authority that these sums should be placed on the Estimates, and that the owners of the land and the local authority should contribute towards the maintenance of the roads.

Item—Peppermint Grove Road District, Footpaths at Freshwater Bay, £100:

MR. SCADDAN : Where were these footpaths to be made? Were they to be in front of gentlemen's residences?

THE MINISTER : The name of the Peppermint Grove Roads Board seemed to rouse the ire of gentlemen opposite.

MR. BOLTON : The Minister should not make his remark general.

THE MINISTER : An hon. member need know nothing about the locality, but if the name was mentioned it was sufficient for the hon. member to jeer at it. These footpaths would not be in the interests of the roads board nor would they be near residences. It was intended to devote the money towards forming footpaths along the picnic spot among the cliffs on the river bank. Thousands of people used this spot on holidays, and the money would render some of the secluded spots among the cliffs more accessible. Footpaths would be made to the ledges, and protecting fences put up. Attention should be paid to the large revenue secured by the Railway Department from the holiday makers who visited Peppermint Grove. Where the State

benefited so much by having Peppermint Grove a picnic resort, especially for the masses, it was fair that something should be done in the making of footpaths.

MR. SCADDAN resented the Minister's attack on the Opposition.

THE MINISTER: The hon. member made reflections at the outset.

MR. SCADDAN: The Minister had a tender spot for this roads board. When he (Mr. Scaddan) saw that footpaths were to be constructed he wished to know where the work was to be done, and if it was to be for the public good he would support the expenditure.

MR. BOLTON: As one of the detested Opposition, he resented the sneer of the Minister at the Opposition. He supported the item; he probably knew more about the district than the Minister.

MR. FOULKES: There was no need for heat over this matter.

MR. BOLTON: Why should the Opposition be charged with obstruction?

THE CHAIRMAN: Order!

MR. FOULKES: The Minister suggested that there was in the minds of some members an objection to the construction of roads in the Peppermint Grove district, but there was no objection he (Mr. Foulkes) believed in the minds of many Opposition members to the construction of works for that district. Quite true many leaders of fashion visited the district, but one noticed with great pleasure that members of the Opposition could frequently be seen consorting with the leaders of fashion in the district. The construction of these footpaths was not an advantage to the residents of the district. Many landowners in the district did all they possibly could to stop the construction of roads there because they did not wish to have their privacy intruded on and did not wish so many people brought down on holidays. For some time there was considerable danger to the health of the people in the district owing to the fact that there was not sufficient space provided for the people to picnic properly.

Item — Upper Irwin Road District, Yadarino road, £100:

On motion by MR. S. F. MOORE the word "Upper" struck out.

Other New Works Items agreed to.

Bridges, £10,413; revotes, £3,566:

Item — Beverley, Reconstruction Town Bridge over Avon River, £79:

MR. BATH: Was this a new bridge?

THE MINISTER: This was to complete the payments on the contract for the reconstruction of the town bridge over the river Avon. The existing bridge was old and narrow and the traffic required a new bridge.

Item — Perth Causeway, Lighting and Maintenance, £700:

MR. DAGLISH: Did the tramway company or any municipality make any contribution to the lighting of the Perth Causeway? [THE MINISTER: No.] Then he objected to the Government maintaining the lighting of a bridge over which tram traffic was run. If we reduced the item by half it would cause the Tramway Company to contribute. He moved an amendment—

That the item be reduced by £350.

THE MINISTER: What if the Tramway Company refused to pay?

MR. DAGLISH: The company would refuse to pay, if it was suggested that they should refuse.

THE MINISTER would like the advice of the hon. member on the awkward position that would arise.

At 6:30, the CHAIRMAN left the Chair.

At 7:30, Chair resumed.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS failed to see why the Tramway Company should be expected to pay towards the lighting of the Causeway, any more than towards the lighting of other streets through which the trams ran. The company was mulct in a fair sum in lieu of rates, as was set out in the bond when the agreement was made. Lighting was provided by the Daglish Administration.

MR. DAGLISH: No.

MR. GORDON: Yes.

THE MINISTER believed there was such an item on the Daglish Estimates, and he could not see why the present was a reasonable time to initiate a new procedure now proposed.

MR. GORDON (member for the dis-

trict): With regard to maintenance, he believed the Tramway Company kept their road in order the same as on any other lines. As to the lighting, that had always been a charge upon the Government, not only this Government but previous Governments, including the Daglish Government. They paid not only lighting fees but a portion of the maintenance costs. This matter did not affect his constituents in any way; it was purely a Government matter. It was very essential the Causeway should be well lighted.

MR. BATH: What the Minister had to justify was not a question as between the Electric Lighting Company and the local governing bodies, but as to whether the Government should be called upon to pay the cost of lighting this Causeway.

MR. GORDON: The local governing bodies paid for lighting streets, and why should not the Government?

MR. BATH: If, as the member for Canning said, the local governing bodies paid for the lighting, why was it necessary to pass a vote for the purpose? Seeing that local governing bodies elsewhere lighted the streets where tramways ran, he failed to see why a different policy should be pursued with regard to this Causeway, and why the Government should be called upon to pay £700.

MR. GORDON: It was a Government road.

MR. BATH: There were Government roads elsewhere which local governing bodies lighted.

MR. BREBBER: This vote was not for lighting only but for lighting and maintenance. This road belonged to the Government, and was carrying a traffic which was one of the heaviest in the State. The item was perfectly justified.

MR. GORDON: The road was now controlled entirely by the Government, and on the same basis as that on which any local body paid the cost of lighting of its own streets, which the Tramway Company did not assist them to pay, the Government should pay for the lighting of their own road without asking anything from the Tramway Company. Trams carried their own light. This road was not lighted for the convenience of the tramway but for traffic generally.

MR. DAGLISH: The case of the Causeway being lighted by the Govern-

ment was not analogous to that of the streets being lighted by the municipality. The Tramway Company had running powers for which it paid three per cent. of its gross takings to the municipalities through which the trams ran. It had running rights over this Causeway.

MR. GORDON: Not the sole running rights.

MR. DAGLISH: The hon. member knew the company had received the sole running rights as to trams.

MR. GORDON: The company had not.

MR. DAGLISH: The Tramway Company should be required to pay the Government for these running rights just as it paid the municipalities with regard to rates. The company's contribution to a municipality went to pay for lighting, and any body which used the roads to such an extent as the Tramway Company should contribute, not for its own convenience as regarded lighting, but for the convenience of other persons who also used the road. In addition to paying three per cent. of the gross takings to a municipality the company was required to maintain in a good state of repair the part of the road over which it ran, and he thought a certain distance on each side of the line; so it should be required to contribute to the maintenance of the Causeway. Some arrangement should be entered into between the Tramway Company and the Minister, who must perceive the similarity of relations between the company and the Government and between the company and the municipality.

MR. GORDON: The Daglish Government passed the Tramways Bill under which the company had not the sole right of traffic over the bridge as stated; South Perth and Belmont having each a right to use the bridge for a tramway, if they cared to extend the system with branches. If it were shown that the company derived benefit from the lighting of the Causeway, he would support the amendment; but it was immaterial to the company whether or not the Causeway was lighted, as the trams carried their own lighting.

MR. BARNETT: Was the Tramway Company contributing toward the upkeep of the bridge?

THE MINISTER: The company maintained its own track.

MR. ANGWIN: In 1903-4 the cost of lighting and maintenance of the Causeway was £280 12s. 11d., and in 1905-6 it was £789, which clearly indicated that since the advent of the trams the Government had been put to increased expenditure in maintenance and lighting of the Causeway. Therefore the company should contribute towards the increased cost.

MR. FOULKES: In whom was the Causeway bridge vested, the municipality of Victoria Park, the City Council, or the Crown?

THE MINISTER: Some members took a wrong view of the position. He would be willing to adopt the suggestion of the member for Subiaco if he felt it would be equitable, but the users of a bridge were not usually called on to pay for lighting or maintenance. The bridge connecting North and East Fremantle was largely availed of by ratepayers, who were not called on to pay directly for lighting or maintenance. Why select one ratepayer or one limited-liability company and let others go free? The Tramway Company was a taxpayer; it also paid the dividend duty. The proposition was illogical and savoured of injustice.

MR. DAGLISH: Why was the Minister a special pleader for the company?

THE MINISTER was not.

MR. DAGLISH: The Tramway Company had a monopoly of the traffic over this bridge, and the community was entitled to some direct return. He could not understand the argument that private ratepayers should be put on the same footing as this Tramway Company.

MR. GORDON: The Causeway was lighted long before the trams crossed it.

MR. DAGLISH: The hon. member harped on lighting, while we were dealing with maintenance charges, which had increased enormously. The company was specifically relieved from maintaining the woodwork under its lines.

MR. GORDON: The reason for the high cost of maintenance this year was that the Government saw the necessity for metalling the bridge completely instead of re-planking worn portions at much cost.

MR. SCADDAN: Another item on the estimates brought the proposed expenditure for maintenance of this bridge up to

£1,218 this year. These two items were an object-lesson to Government supporters as to throwing away public money. The municipal authorities on either side of the bridge would reap the benefit of this work; therefore they should bear the cost. Besides, the Victoria Park municipality received 3 per cent. of the gross receipts in tramway fares within the municipality.

Amendment (reduction) negatived.

MR. HOLMAN: Did this work embrace the whole of the Causeway bridge, or only that breadth of it which should be maintained by some authority outside the Tramway Company?

THE MINISTER: The whole length of causeway and bridge was practically divided into three sections. Some time ago No. 2 section was tar-metalled, and it was now proposed to treat sections one and three similarly. By this means the cost of maintenance would be reduced considerably.

MR. HOLMAN: Would the Tramway Company have to bear a portion of the expense of tar-metalling, say for their strip along the bridge? The company should tar-metal their track and 18 inches on either side.

THE MINISTER: The obligation to maintain the tramway track rested on the company; therefore it made no difference to the Government whether the company tar-metalled their track or not.

Bridges—New Works, £6,847:

Item—York Road District, Hamersley-Wilberforce Bridge, £150; Mackie's Causeway over Avon, £150; Fraser Road, Bridge over Avon, £350:

MR. DAGLISH: Not knowing the exact locality, he would be glad of an assurance that these three works could be carried out without interference with existing bridges. In the town of York a number of bridges had been erected over the river, and he was afraid that these new works might interfere with the foundations of existing bridges.

MEMBER: Block the shipping.

THE MINISTER: These were not all new bridges. The first item was for redecking. As to the second, he learnt after careful investigation that its construction would save five or six miles of cartage to settlers who had cleared their

land and were producing wheat. The third item referred to a ford which was frequently impassable, and the erection of a bridge at that point would give access to about 18,000 acres of land. On item 217 he moved an amendment—

That the words "Green Hills Road District" be inserted at the beginning of the item.

Amendment passed.

MR. ANGWIN: Would the Minister cause inquiry to be made with a view to ensuring that the money would be spent on the proper work? In the past there had been complaint that this had not been done.

MR. MONGER: Would the hon. member indicate to what he was referring? Perhaps in the course of his honorary Ministerial career the hon. member had come across something which had not been made public. These three small items were worthy of every possible consideration, especially the last, the passing of which would result in the opening up of a big tract of country and place that tract within close proximity to railway communication.

MR. GULL: As to item 216, he had personal knowledge, and the item was for redecking. It was many years since the bridge was built, and not a sixpence had since been spent on it by the Government. It served one of the chief farms in the district, and the proprietor of that farm had been compelled at times to redeck portions. The item should be passed.

Subdivision 4—Harbours and Rivers
£14,449; revotes, £10,649:

Item 222—Cottesloe, Ocean Jetty (part cost) and accommodation for bathing, £250:

MR. HOLMAN asked for explanation.

THE MINISTER: The item provided for payment of the Government's share of the cost of construction, amounting to something under £900.

MR. SCADDAN: What body controlled the jetty—the Government or the roads board? [MINISTER: The roads board.] We had a recollection that the Minister for Works when making the arrangement stated definitely that no money would be granted for improvements at Cottesloe unless the Government retained

possession, so that the improvements would be held free to the public. No doubt the improvements were absolutely necessary. Did the Government intend to hand over the control of the jetty to the roads board, or to retain at least a controlling interest? There was a band rotunda on the jetty, and he hoped that music would be given there by the goldfields band. Would that band be debarred from using the rotunda if it desired?

MR. FOULKES: No.

THE MINISTER: The jetty was absolutely free, and would remain free. Not only that, but the roads board with their own funds had provided many other conveniences for visitors. If the goldfields band liked to come, the roads board would be only too glad to see them.

Item—Northam, river improvements, £1,049:

MR. SCADDAN wished to know what was done with the £1,000 voted last year.

MR. DAGLISH: During the time he had been in Parliament he did not remember any other instance in which members of the Ministry had treated their constituents so well as had members of the present Government. There was not a single Minister whose constituency did not figure very largely on the present Works Department Estimates. He had never seen it to anything like the same extent before; whilst at the same time there was a fair number of members, not Ministers, whose constituents did not fare too well.

MR. FOULKES did not agree with the member for Subiaco in regard to other Ministers, but as to the Treasurer, who was Minister for Works in the last Parliament, many had complained very strongly as to the undue favouritism shown to him.

THE MINISTER explained that in connection with the item there was an old-standing promise for the provision of £1,000 a year for he thought three or four years, towards river improvements at Northam.

MR. SCADDAN: It had been standing for more years than that.

THE MINISTER: The amount provided this year was in accordance with that promise. A dam of the river was washed away, and it was proposed to

reconstruct it. This was simply work to which we were pledged.

MR. HOLMAN: We had the same old yarn last year from the Minister for Works about a dam being washed away.

THE MINISTER thought the hon. member was in error.

MR. HOLMAN: The Minister quoted the same item last year, stating that the money was to be spent in connection with the Avon River, the weir having been washed away by a flood.

THE MINISTER: That was some time ago.

MR. HOLMAN: The Engineer-in-Chief was sent up there and was asked to make a report. If carried into effect that would have involved the Government to the extent of some thousands of pounds in the construction of weirs in the Avon river. There was no promise made that the work would be carried out, but an arrangement was made between the municipality and the then Government that if the municipality would spend a certain amount the Government would put up a certain amount.

THE MINISTER: The council had spent an amount.

MR. HOLMAN: If the arrangement had not been carried into effect, the item should be struck out.

MR. FOULKES: At a municipal meeting at Northam it was proposed to float a loan for carrying out certain municipal works, and one of the items was, he thought, £1,000 for the purpose of constructing this weir.

THE MINISTER: The municipality was calling for tenders for this work, and for each £1,000 contributed by the Government it would contribute a like sum.

Item—Point Sampson Jetty, strengthening spring piles at head, etc., £1,200:

MR. HORAN: The amount of £1,200 voted last year was not spent. Was it proposed to expend this amount?

THE MINISTER: Damage had been caused by vessels pivoting, as it were, on the jetty when they got round. This work was necessary to put the jetty in good order.

Item—Rottneast Jetty, £500:

MR. HORAN: Why was Rottneast singled out, when it was visited only by

a few "distinguished visitors" who came to the State from time to time? Why not Garden Island also?

THE MINISTER: Garden Island was private property. On Rottneast Island were some 25 adults living, in addition to some 30 prisoners; moreover there was a considerable tourist traffic. At present a vessel going there had to anchor at some distance from the jetty, and each passenger conveyed to shore in boats, which in rough weather was inconvenient.

Item—Wannerup Estuary opening, £50:

MR. HOLMAN: Would the Minister give some information as to why £500 was voted last year and only £1 spent? Through the Estimates we saw amounts set down for certain works, and when the following year came round it was proved that the items were not wanted, no money being spent on them, whereas in other places the expenditure of such money would have opened up the country. Who was responsible for the estimate of £500?

THE MINISTER: The permanent opening of the estuary was awaiting the drainage scheme for the Stirling Estate. He was informed that the estuary was a fishing ground of considerable value, which closed up at certain seasons. At present it was not thought desirable to do more than keep a free channel.

MR. McLARTY: The inlet opened itself, and any money spent on it would be wasted, like the money already spent, when for some time a man was paid £180 a year to watch the inlet.

THE MINISTER: It did not follow that the £500 would be spent. The maximum amount was provided.

Item—Wyndham, Repairs to Jetty, £1,000:

MR. HORAN: Was it intended to connect the Roebourne and Cossack tramway with Point Sampson jetty? He had received wires from local residents urging that the work be done.

THE MINISTER: The question was under consideration; but personally he did not think the earnings of the tramway justified the large expenditure which the connection would involve. A long bridge would be needed, and Point Sampson

might then become practically the port, rendering useless the expensive Government buildings at Cossack. Additional information might lead him to change his opinion.

Other items agreed to.

Harbours and Rivers, £14,449; *New Works*, £3,800:

Item—Applecross Jetty Extension, £900:

MR. SCADDAN: Why the urgency of this work, and why had the money been spent without authority?

THE MINISTER: Members would recognise that some money must be spent without authority. This expenditure was urgent, as the silting-up made it difficult for excursion steamers to land passengers.

MR. ANGWIN: Local residents pointed out that the expenditure was unnecessary, and that the money might have been used to greater advantage in the same district. It was a pity that the Minister, who represented Fremantle, neglected his own while attending to neighbouring electorates. The item was evidently a sop to the member for Canning (Mr. Gordon), who said recently there were too many Premiers. The expenditure was intended to placate that member.

THE MINISTER: The hon. member's statement was incorrect and most offensive. It should be withdrawn.

MR. ANGWIN withdrew the statement; but it was his duty to call attention to unwarrantable expenditure.

MR. HOLMAN: The Minister urged that it was inadvisable to spend money on Garden Island, though a pleasure resort, because it was private property. Applecross was also private property, and there was a hotel there owned by certain individuals who benefited by the visits of holiday seekers.

THE MINISTER: The cases were not parallel.

MR. GORDON: The item was necessary for the progress of the district. The desire was to extend the jetty so that boats using it would be enabled to turn round in deep water. This was the only item he had got for his electorate.

Item—Buckland Hill, Jetty on river foreshore, £500:

MR. HORAN asked for information. He had never heard of a jetty being built on a hill.

THE MINISTER: Extensive public reserves adjoined the site of the proposed jetty, and as they were largely availed of by tourists from Perth, strong representations had been made to him in favour of providing facilities for landing passengers from the river steamers at this spot, which was a considerable distance from the railway, and comprised one of the best stretches of beach on the river for children's bathing.

Items — Bunbury Municipal Baths, £150; and Fremantle Public Baths, £550:

MR. DAGLISH: Would the Government assist in providing baths for other districts? Many districts in the State away from the sea-coast and from rivers found the making of baths and the providing of water very expensive.

THE MINISTER: In seaboard towns it was desirable that the children should learn to swim. Large sums had been expended by the councils of the municipalities of Bunbury and Fremantle in providing municipal baths, the former having spent £1,000 and the latter £4,000. Having ascertained that special facilities were to be given for children to use these baths, he thought it fair that Government assistance should be given.

MR. A. J. WILSON: The past expenditure by the Bunbury council on baths had been nullified by harbour improvements causing the sand to silt up to such an extent that the baths had to be removed from their original site. In the circumstances an obligation rested upon the Government to pay even a larger sum than appeared on the Estimates.

Other items agreed to.

Subdivision 5—Water Supply, Drainage, etc., £20,586:

MR. BATH: Provision was made on last year's Estimates of £1,000 for a stock route from Peak Hill to Leonora, but no money whatever was expended, and no provision was made this year in connection with that item. Why had the Government altered their intentions in regard to this item?

THE MINISTER: Stock routes were under the control of the Mines Department. The Peak Hill-Leonora stock route was old and was being kept in good order.

MR. HOLMAN: He had made many requests previously for this stock-route to be put in order, and if it were now in order it was so for the first time for years. Information which reached him a couple of months since showed it was not then in good order. Did the item, "Maintenance and minor improvements, including Mines Department's requirements, £3,000," refer to all stock routes not specified on the Estimates?

THE MINISTER: Yes.

Subdivision 6—Miscellaneous, £2,890 :

MR. HOLMAN: How were the Perth Markets paying? The management had not been too satisfactory, judging by the number of stalls now vacant. A better system of control should be devised for the control of the markets. They had been badly kept. A fair sum should be spent to give the people clean markets.

THE MINISTER: The markets had recently been handed over to the control of the Agricultural Department, and the estimated gross revenue for the year was £2,130. The markets were now in excellent order, having recently been entirely renovated.

Items agreed to.

Subdivision 7—Buildings, £91,222 :

Item—Furniture, etc., for Government Buildings :

MR. BOLTON: Was the furniture to be supplied to the Claremont and Fremantle asylums Chinese-made?

THE MINISTER: The furniture was being supplied through contractors, and to the best of his belief none was Chinese-made. The contractors were reputable manufacturing firms in the city, such as Sandover's.

Item—W.A. Museum fittings (revote) :

MR. SCADDAN: The vote of £1,730 passed last year for the James Street wing of the Museum had apparently not been expended. How then was the liability of £1,724 arrived at?

THE MINISTER: A contract was let on the 7th March, 1906, and not completed; no payments had been yet made.

Item—Port Hedland School Building :

MR. HORAN: Was the work on the Port Hedland school and quarters, £492, being carried out as promptly as was desirable? There were many children in the town emphatically in need of education.

THE MINISTER: The item covered a balance on the contract outstanding this year.

Item : Kalgoorlie Gaol Additions :

MR. ANGWIN: Was anything being done to make the Kalgoorlie Gaol secure? Many escapes had taken place from this gaol.

THE MINISTER: In regard to gaols the Works Department merely carried out the works requested by the Colonial Secretary's Department. Details were not supplied.

Item — Kalgoorlie Hospital X-rays Apparatus :

MR. SCADDAN: Why was an X-rays apparatus not obtained for the Kalgoorlie hospital last year, as promised for many years past? It was much needed in the Kalgoorlie hospital, where so many cases of accident were treated.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: It was in the hospital now.

THE MINISTER: The description of the vote was scarcely accurate. The amount was required to cover a contract for the erection of a room to house the X-rays apparatus.

Item—Kalgoorlie, laying out and planting hospital grounds, £145 :

MR. SCADDAN: Why was the amount voted last year not expended?

THE MINISTER: As to this work, a contract had now been let to improve the grounds.

Item—Cue, padded cell for lunatics, and fencing, £362 :

MR. BOLTON: What was the meaning of this item?

THE MINISTER explained that two requirements were provided for, a padded cell and certain fencing.

Item—Marble Bar, quarters for a single constable, and verandah, £218 :

MR. HORAN : The Architectural Branch should be condemned for the absurd way in which they had carried out the construction of the building. The verandah consisted of iron posts with an iron roof and iron walls, which was most unsuitable for that part of the country where the heat was intense. The type of building which was adapted for Albany, Perth, and Fremantle was not suitable for the North-West. It was to be hoped this stupid blunder would not be repeated.

Item — West Perth Police Station, £970 :

MR. BOLTON : Why was it necessary to have an additional police station in West Perth ?

THE MINISTER explained that this item had not been put on the Estimates without careful consideration. The Police Department had intimated that this was a growing neighbourhood, and that the present police quarters were in a dilapidated state.

MR. A. J. WILSON : It was in works such as this that economy could be carried out. It ought to be possible to control the whole of the city of Perth from one central police station. Was it proposed to erect new premises on the present site ? Still there was no necessity for the work when the country required opening up.

Item—Mundaring Weir Shelter Shed, £100 :

MR. HOLMAN : Had this shed been erected ? We encouraged people to go to Mundaring, and a shed ought to have been erected there some time ago.

THE MINISTER : The work was completed.

Item—North Fremantle Institute, special grant, £250 :

MR. HOLMAN : Last year £250 was voted for the North Fremantle Institute but not spent. Why was it necessary to provide the amount this year ?

THE MINISTER : The work was completed.

Item—Kalgoorlie Mechanics' Institute, special grant to make provision for a free and circulating library, £1,000 :

MR. COLLIER : This opened up a rather big question, which had been dealt with pretty fully already on the Estimates of the Treasurer's Department. The item was misleading, because the Kalgoorlie mechanics' institute was not a free library at all. It was somewhat in the nature of a club, for there were billiard tables, card rooms, and all the adjuncts usually found in a social club there. On more than one occasion he had approached the Government for assistance for the Boulder mechanics' institute and library, but had been met with a blank refusal, which was scandalous when such large sums were set down for districts represented by members of the Government. The Kalgoorlie mechanics' institute had a membership of 700. It was a paying concern and could provide funds for supplying books, whereas the Boulder mechanics' institute had only 250 members and was not able to pay its way. The institute was short of books and was unable to get a membership that would enable it to pay its way. Only £2,000 was provided for mechanics' institutes throughout the State, and it was scandalous that £1,000 should be set down for one institute. This was a legacy left by the late Premier the present Agent General. The deputation that asked for this grant were surprised at receiving the £1,000. He did not say Kalgoorlie got too much money, or that the institutions on the goldfields were treated too liberally, but it was unfair for one constituency to get such a large amount when other constituencies received nothing at all. A few weeks ago when he preferred a request to the Treasurer for assistance for the Boulder institute he was told he had Buckley's chance. The men could spend their evenings only in the hotels or mechanics' institutes, and they were frequently driven into the hotels by the inadequacy of the facilities at the institutes. As a protest against the unfair and unjust tactics adopted by the Government, he moved an amendment—

That the item be reduced by £500.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL : The duty of defending the item, which the Minister for Works would otherwise discharge, he would take upon himself. He regretted that the hon. member had

made a charge of special favouritism to Kalgoorlie on the Estimates, because if the Estimates were examined right through it would be seen that Kalgoorlie had not been dealt with in anything like a generous spirit. Some considerable time before this Ministry came into power, a deputation waited on the Premier of the late Government with a request to have included in the present Estimates provision for additions to the Kalgoorlie Mechanics' Institute. [MEMBER: The item did not say that.] No; but he had intended to move an amendment making that clear. The request was favourably received by the then Premier, who gave an unconditional promise of the money. It must be regretted that instead of examining the item from the point of view whether it was worthy to be passed, the hon. member had examined it from the point of view of comparison. Did this mechanics' institute deserve to receive this money? [MR. SCADDAN: Did other institutes deserve to get a refusal every time?] Was the fact that some other just claim was not recognised a reason for refusing this item? [MR. SCADDAN: This was the only opportunity of protesting.] If that was the only reason for opposing the item he would not waste time in debating. The Kalgoorlie Mechanics' Institute had a debt of £7,000, representing money borrowed on mortgage by those who put up the building and who had subscribed their own money towards the establishment of a library—undoubtedly the second-best library in the State. [MR. SCADDAN: Who used the library?] Every man in Kalgoorlie and in the surrounding districts who had any taste for literary pursuits. Moreover, the institute provided an absolutely free reading room. [MR. SCADDAN: Containing only scrubby newspapers.] The free reading room contained books as well as newspapers, because when any book was renewed in the members' library the old volume was placed in the other library, from which it could be borrowed free of cost. The institute had nothing like sufficient room for all those who wanted to visit it. It had exhausted all its resources, and this item would only go to supply a want which had long been felt of additional space. He would have been prepared to accord the member for

Boulder (Mr. Collier) sympathy in the fact that money was not available for the Boulder institute, which discharged useful functions. The figures of the circulation of the Kalgoorlie institute were colossal, ranking immediately after those of the Perth Public Library; and by far the greater number of subscribers were residents not of Kalgoorlie but of the mines and townships round Kalgoorlie. The promise of the late Government had not been fully carried out, because £1,200 had been promised and only £1,000 appeared on the Estimates. No one from the goldfields could say that the item was not fully justified, and he greatly regretted that objection to it should have come from a goldfields member.

MR. A. J. WILSON: The member for Boulder (Mr. Collier), in moving the amendment, was defeating his own end. [MR. WARE: The hon. member was a good judge of that.] The hon. member, if he would be a little more patient, would perhaps conclude that he (Mr. Wilson) was the better judge of the attainment of the end in view. A considerable sum was provided for the upkeep of the principal library of the State, and an important goldfields centre was entitled to some special consideration over and above that given to localities contiguous to Perth. The correct line of action here would be, not to reduce the total amount of the vote, but, if it were possible, to insert after "Kalgoorlie" the words "and Boulder." [MR. MONGER: And others.] If the member for Boulder would withdraw his amendment, then the amendment now suggested might be moved.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment would be out of order.

MR. A. J. WILSON: Were we not at liberty to alter the wording of the item, though we could not alter the amount?

THE CHAIRMAN: Members could not alter the destination of a vote.

MR. SCADDAN: We had altered them already this evening.

MR. A. J. WILSON: We had altered the destination of one vote from a cemetery to a sanitary dépôt.

MR. MONGER: Though seldom disposed to support a motion emanating from a member on the other side, he stated with feelings of pleasure that he

was in accord with the line of argument adduced by the member for Boulder (Mr. Collier). When little country towns were deprived of their £12 and £20 votes and had to submit to ignominious refusals of appeals for those amounts while a Minister of the Crown quietly placed on the Estimates for the locality he represented the big sum of £1,000, it was time to say that we disapproved of such action. While perhaps not in accord with the very heavy reduction proposed by the amendment, he thought the vote should be reduced materially and the amount of the reduction distributed amongst places as important as even Kalgoorlie.

MR. HORAN: When representatives of other portions of the country sent in applications to a department, they were reminded that grants were only given under certain specified conditions. It was stated that this was a free circulating library. He was pretty well acquainted with the place, and was not aware that it was a free library. In the last Parliament, the then Treasurer gave an assurance that he would make provision regarding a workers' hall and other places; but he did not carry out that promise. The Minister should take into consideration the advisability of seeing that grants were not recklessly made, as had been done in this case.

MR. HOLMAN was sorry to hear the attack by the member for York on the Attorney General, in which he imputed motives suggesting that he took advantage of his position as Minister to place £1,000 on the Estimates for a library in his own constituency. That was a grave charge, which the Attorney General should not allow to stand over his head very long. One believed that with all his faults the Attorney General had not worked the cards well enough at the time this promise was made to be in the Ministry. It was time to protest against the departure from all the regulations in connection with grants to bodies like mechanics' institutes. This thousand pounds, instead of being granted to one institute, should have been split up amongst all the various small institutes of the State. We had some 120 of these institutes, and if they required £10 or £12 to assist them to get a few periodicals during the year, it

was almost impossible to obtain help. Last year several institutes were refused any grant at all. Members who had been in the Kalgoorlie institute could bear him out in the statement that the free reading matter given to persons there was not up to date. The Attorney General led him to believe that the amount was not for a free library, but for increasing the building.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: They were going to build.

MR. HOLMAN: There was a proper way, according to the regulations, of obtaining a grant for increasing buildings. People in the district had to subscribe a certain amount and then they would be provided with a subsidy from the Government. This institute at Kalgoorlie was mainly used by business people, and although the Attorney General stated that outside workers could use it, they had to pay a guinea a year for the use of the books obtained from the institute. He would support the amendment, but would have preferred to support one to allow £500 to be given to the Boulder Mechanics' Institute. The Chairman, however, had ruled such suggestion out of order. The system under which this vote was granted was totally unfair to the other 120 institutes in Western Australia. Ministers on other occasions had succeeded in getting large grants for their own districts, to the detriment of other portions of the State.

MR. STUART (Leonora): The Attorney General had not put the case clearly or correctly in his advocacy for passing this amount. He (Mr. Stuart) had been a member of the institute for a considerable number of years, and did not know of any corporation in the State which had been more spoon-fed or had made worse use of money given to it. For a start it received a grant of land worth about £6,000; and starting with an asset such as that, the institute, with proper management and correct supervision of its finances, should not have needed to come begging for more money at this juncture, when other institutes perhaps equally deserving were more modest in their requests. He would not oppose this grant if he could feel sure it would be devoted to the purpose of a free and circulating library.

The people conducting the institute had approached the Kalgoorlie municipality time after time in the same manner, promising to have a free library, but had not made it free. He had it as a fact that the institute in the adjoining town of Boulder was refused a grant. [MR. SCADDAN: Would not receive a deputation.] This was a reckless way of allocating public funds; and he must support the amendment as a protest. No one was more capable of estimating the value of a free library than himself, and he had used this institute as much as anyone. The dead-house set apart as a free reading room was the resort of boys in their apprenticeship or shop-boys who perhaps had a taste for literature, and whose only chance was to go there in meal hours and times of recreation. Yet the only mental food provided for them consisted of last week's newspapers, or perhaps last month's. The institute had a splendid library and a very up-to-date reading room; but he regretted to say it was not available to the people most in need of it. He was afraid the Attorney General was wrong in saying they were about to build. He believed they had built to the full extent of their holding. He felt somewhat sorry to oppose a vote for educational purposes, but he was satisfied he was right in doing so. The institute was very expensively officered. The officers were not overworked, they were highly paid, and as compared with the work done say by the institute at Bulong, which was satisfied with a modest subsidy, the work done in this institute did not stand high for commendation.

MR. WARE would not support the amendment, although he knew it had been moved as a protest and not with a view of having any portion of the amount struck off. Two wrongs did not make a right. If it were possible to insert "Boulder" after "Kalgoorlie," he would be prepared to do it; but the Chairman had ruled that it would be out of order to change the purpose. He supported the item as it stood.

THE CHAIRMAN: The destiny of a vote could not be altered by a private member moving to do so.

MR. WARE: The Treasurer had refused to receive a deputation of Boulder representatives from both Houses, who wanted an amount for the institute of

that town. He should in future extend some slight consideration to the constituents of Oppositionists.

MR. SCADDAN: As the representative of a neighbouring constituency he protested against providing money for a purpose not shown on the Estimates. He would support the item if satisfied the money would be used for a free circulating library. He shared the disgust of other members at the Treasurer's refusal to receive a deputation from Boulder, where the mechanics' institute was in a deplorable state. The population of Boulder and its immediate environs was considerably larger than that of Kalgoorlie.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Quite the contrary.

MR. SCADDAN: The Attorney General considered Boulder a portion of Kalgoorlie, and was always trying to centralise everything in the latter town. An amendment should be moved to strike out "and," thus making the item a grant for a free circulating library.

THE CHAIRMAN: That amendment could not be accepted till the other was disposed of.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS regretted that he must oppose the original amendment. This item was the result of a promise by the ex-Premier (Mr. Rason) to a Kalgoorlie deputation. He (the Minister) supported the item, as he supported the grant to the Perth public library, because we must have decent reference libraries in big centres. The subscription to the Kalgoorlie institute was nominal.

MR. WARE: It was 5s. a quarter, in advance.

THE MINISTER: The institute was the outcome of the efforts of local people, who shouldered considerable liabilities. It contained the second-best reference library in the State. Such institutions were highly beneficial. The member for Leonora (Mr. Stuart) rose to curse the concern and finished by blessing it, admitting that he had used the library more than any other subscriber.

MR. ANGWIN: Throughout the Estimates goldfields members had complained of want of consideration. Now £1,000 was provided for a free and circulating library, and the local represen-

tatives said the money would be wrongly applied. Coastal members must therefore vote against the item to prevent waste.

THE TREASURER had been accused of discourtesy in refusing to receive a deputation. The member for Boulder (Mr. Collier) had asked him to receive a deputation from Boulder with a request for a sum equal to that promised to the Kalgoorlie library, £1,200. The reply was that the ex-Premier (Mr. Rason) had definitely promised assistance to the Kalgoorlie library, and that there was not the slightest chance of providing a like sum for the Boulder library. If the expression "Buckley's chance" had been used in private, the hon. member need not repeat it so often. This showed how careful one must be in talking with such members. He explained to the hon. member that the grant to the Kalgoorlie library was intended for additions to the building, to provide a circulating library; and the hon. member agreed that if there was no chance of a like provision for Boulder, the deputation would be useless. As Treasurer, he was happy to receive deputations; but it was equally his duty to save the time and expense of deputationists when there was no chance of granting their request. In fact he had treated the committee of the institute most courteously in considering them in regard to wasting their time. He certainly thought he had left the hon. member thoroughly satisfied that there should be no deputation at that time. The member for Leonora (Mr. Stuart) was to be congratulated on his maiden effort in the House in regard to this matter, but it was regrettable that the hon. member, as a member of the Kalgoorlie Institute, thought it necessary to condemn the management. That should not affect the justifiableness of this grant. The hon. member should use his undoubted influence and ability to improve the management of the institution. No doubt the library was of great utility to the people on the goldfields as was the library in Perth, but because Kalgoorlie received a grant, Boulder should not immediately ask for a similar grant and feel hurt at not getting it.

MR. SCADDAN: There was no reason why Boulder should be overlooked.

THE TREASURER: The item was simply carrying out the promise made to Kalgoorlie by the ex-Premier.

MR. COLLIER: The Treasurer had misrepresented his attitude entirely or had misunderstood what he said. He (Mr. Collier) did not charge the Treasurer with discourtesy. It was the member for Hannans and the member for Ivanhoe who had made reference to the fact that the Treasurer had refused to receive a deputation. When the Treasurer informed him that he could not see his way to grant assistance, he (Mr. Collier) agreed that it would be a waste of time to receive a deputation, and he said now that if a Minister decided that he was unable to grant any assistance required it was an unnecessary waste of time to bring a deputation down from the goldfields upon the matter. The Treasurer at the interview referred to asked him (Mr. Collier) if it was the intention of the Boulder Institute to enlarge the buildings, and he informed the Treasurer that the Boulder Institute required money to bring their library up to date by the purchase of books. He did not know that the money for the Kalgoorlie Institute was to be used entirely for buildings. It was safe to say that a considerable portion would be spent on the purchase of books.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Not only this amount but a considerable sum in addition must be raised by the Kalgoorlie Mechanics Institute, and it would be entirely spent on additional buildings.

MR. COLLIER: It was not a matter of great importance whether the money was spent in the purchase of books or in the erection of buildings so long as it gave facilities to the people. The Treasurer took offence at the reference to "Buckley's chance." That, perhaps, was just as appropriate a way of couching a refusal as any other. He did not take it as discourteous. The Minister for Works considered it desirable to have one centre on the goldfields; but we had first to decide whether that centre should be Kalgoorlie or Boulder. There was a larger population in the Boulder municipality than in the Kalgoorlie municipality, and there was a larger population in the vicinity of Boulder than in the vicinity of Kalgoorlie. The Minister might well consider at this late stage giving to

Boulder £250 out of this item of £1,000. The argument of the Attorney General that his (Mr. Collier's) attitude on this question was illogical was not correct. He appreciated to the fullest extent the good work done by the mechanics' institute at Kalgoorlie, and regretted there were not more institutions of its kind in the State. But the position was that because Kalgoorlie received £1,000, Boulder could not receive any grant at all, and he protested against any town or any portion of the State receiving undue assistance.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	13
Noes	...	...	...	20

Majority against ... 7

AYES.

Mr. Angwin
Mr. Bolton
Mr. Collier
Mr. English
Mr. Holman
Mr. Horan
Mr. Hudson
Mr. Monger
Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Stuart
Mr. Underwood
Mr. A. J. Wilson
Mr. Bath (Teller).

NOES.

Mr. Barnett
Mr. Brebber
Mr. Brown
Mr. Cowcher
Mr. Davies
Mr. Eddy
Mr. Ewing
Mr. Gordon
Mr. Gregory
Mr. Keenan
Mr. Layman
Mr. McLarty
Mr. Male
Mr. Piesse
Mr. Price
Mr. Smith
Mr. Stone
Mr. Ware
Mr. F. Wilson
Mr. Hardwick (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

Mr. MONGER: As a strong supporter of the Government, he trusted the Minister would bear in mind the emphatic protest entered against this vote.

Other items agreed to, and the vote for the department put and passed.

This completed the Works Estimates.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT
(HON. J. D. CONNOLLY the Minister, the Treasurer now in charge of these Estimates).

Vote—Colonial Secretary, £350,583:

GENERAL STATEMENT.

THE TREASURER: In introducing the Estimates of the Colonial Secretary's Department, I wish to point out to new members of the House that this is a department which controls many sub-departments. There are no fewer than

12 subdepartments under the control of this Minister; and the department is responsible for a considerable expenditure, namely £350,000 on the present Estimates. The alterations in the salaries in the whole of the department and branches are in accordance with the Public Service Commissioner's classification, as is the case with the other departments. Wherever the classification has shown an increase, these increases have been given, and if of large amount have been extended over two or three years—if of small amount, they have been given at once. The decreases, however, have in every instance been spread over five years, in order not to bear too hardly on those suffering them. Both increases and decreases take effect, as in the case of the other departments, from the 1st January next. I wish to claim for the Colonial Secretary that he, in common with his colleagues, has endeavoured right through, as will be shown by the Estimates, to exercise the strictest economy; and I think he has been fairly successful, considering the different classes of departments which he has to control. Bearing in mind that the Police Department is responsible for an expenditure of £126,000, and that Medical and Public Health is responsible for £83,000—huge departments, which must of necessity grow with the population of the State, no matter who is in charge—I think he is to be congratulated on the fact that he has effected some saving in his general estimates. The net increase of all departments under his control in respect of salaries amounts to only £105. There has been, I must admit, an actual increase on the total of his department of £4,472; but that is more than accounted for by two items, namely, a new institution, the consumptive hospital at Coolgardie, which is responsible for an expenditure of £2,500, and the staff controlling the same, responsible for an expenditure of £400; also Harbours and Lights, which has increased by £2,053 owing to the taking over of various wharves along our coast line, which wharves will produce an increase in revenue of over £3,400. Hon. members will see at once that these two increases more than account for the total increase for the whole of the departments under the Minister's control, notwithstanding the fact, as I

have pointed out, that medical and police must of necessity increase with the population. So that really there is a saving, a departmental saving, in nearly every item. This will become obvious if hon. members will give their attention to the Estimates as we go through. Now, notwithstanding the fact that there is an increase in connection with the Police Department and the Harbours and Lights, also the Lunacy, still the working expenses of these institutions have been decreased, and decreased very considerably. I refer more especially to the items of Lunacy and Police, and I have only to draw attention to the figures. Police, for instance, has decreased from 9s. 10d. per head of our population in the year 1904-5 to 9s. 6d. per head in the year 1905-6. The cost of the hospital for insane, which in 1904 was 15s. per head, has been reduced, under the energetic management of Dr. Montgomery, to 12s. 4d. in 1906. For the three months ended on 30th September last—July, August, and September—there has been a reduction to 12s. 4d. from 15s. 9d. in 1904. The cost during the whole of the previous financial year 1905-6 was 13s. 5d. per head; so that hon. members will at once see that there has been a very pronounced effort, and I may add a successful effort, in both these large departments to economise. In connection with Harbours and Lights, as I have previously explained, although there is this increase of £2,000, yet the taking over of the wharves at Hopetoun, Broome, Carnarvon, and Port Hedland will result, it is estimated, in an increase of the revenue by £3,492; so that we must consider this satisfactory also. As regards the department which will perhaps call for more attention than any other at the hands of hon. members—I refer to the Medical and Health Departments and their amalgamation with the Factories Department—let me say at once that the Minister has been concerned only to see that he should exercise economy by amalgamating these several subdepartments, at the same time taking care that there shall be no decrease of efficiency. I have before me a brief summary of what the Colonial Secretary proposes and is carrying out, and also of what he expects as the result. His conclusions, in coming to the decision to

amalgamate these subdepartments, were based on the fact that he found the work to be overlapping—indeed a considerable amount of overlapping took place, more particularly between the inspectors. That is to say, the health inspectors and the factory inspectors were doing practically the same work. In connection with the Health Department we have a staff of inspectors consisting of a chief inspector drawing a salary of £250 per annum, and eight inspectors at £200 each, and of course that is not the usual graded staff. For the administration of the Factories Act there was a separate staff of inspectors doing as I said practically the same work, with the addition of inspection under the Early Closing Act. This staff consisted of a chief inspector drawing £250 per annum, and two sub-inspectors at £200 each, also a female inspector at £150, and a clerk at £100. It is found that by the amalgamation the Colonial Secretary can have all the inspection done by the health inspectors, with the assistance of the present Chief Inspector of Factories. It is found that this staff can efficiently carry out the whole of the duties previously performed by the two staffs of inspectors. It is proposed farther to transfer the clerk from the factories department to the amalgamated department, where he will assist in the general clerical work of the staff. There will be a considerable saving from this reform, though of course not so apparent now as it will be later. We shall save at least the salaries of two inspectors; moreover, requests for additional staff in the two departments will be obviated. The economy, I say again, will be effected without any lessening of efficiency or effectiveness. Besides, the reform will do one very good thing: it will allay the irritation which owners of factories felt at so many inspectors coming one after the other to inspect their factories and suggest where improvements and alterations could be made in respect of the health of employees and other matters. It must of course be remembered that even the factory inspectors' duties are fairly similar to those of the health inspectors, the main point to keep in view being the health provisions. The machinery inspection, I need hardly mention, is in charge of the Chief Inspector of Boilers and his staff,

under the Inspection of Machinery Act; so it will be readily realised that not only will economies be effected as I have indicated, but that whereas in the past factory inspectors often had to travel considerable distances up to the gold-fields and elsewhere in connection with the registration of factories, now the health inspectors being stationed in these different centres, all the expenses attending such travelling will be done away with, because the inspector is on the spot and will be able to carry out the duties efficiently and well. The Medical Vote, as I mentioned, includes the consumptive hospital at Coolgardie, and it will be seen that considerable reductions have been made and must of necessity have been made in the Medical Department, because there is a decrease even after including these items of £2,500 and £322. This has been made, I venture to assert, without decreasing the effectiveness of that department. We all agree with the Minister that we must be careful not to do away with any of the facilities in connection with our hospitals and medical officers; any facilities required to keep up the general healthfulness of the people. It would be false economy if we were to cut down the vote to any very large extent and neglect the health of our people. That has not been done, but a very large decrease has been made, wisely made I believe; a decrease which really amounts to some £3,000, when you take into consideration the sums I have mentioned which have been expended on this hospital at Coolgardie. These decreases have been wisely made and with no detriment to the medical provision of the hospital. With regard to another large department, the gaols of the State, I had the pleasure of pointing out to this House when delivering my Budget Speech that crime had decreased somewhat in Western Australia as compared with previous years, and I think we may pay this tribute to those who are in charge of our gaols in Western Australia, that those who are unfortunate enough to be incarcerated in those institutions are humanely treated, and they are given suitable employment wherever that employment can be advantageously utilised; and that employment, notably the printing which is done in our gaol at Fremantle, is not, at any rate at the present

time, allowed to compete with outside traders. The prisoners employed in the establishment there performed work to the value of £3,000 last year, and all that work was done for different public departments, and did not come into competition with any of the outside institutions. It is not proposed, so far as the Minister is concerned, to enter into competition with outside work, if it can possibly be avoided. I think we can utilise at present all the labour appertaining to the department in connection with our government, which is in addition to the printing office we have in Perth.

MR. BATH: Are you going to extend that prison labour for planting pine trees, as mentioned by the Premier?

THE TREASURER: That matter has not yet been discussed in Cabinet. I think the Minister has some idea of doing work of that description by prison labour. For my part, I would certainly endorse any movement in that direction. I mentioned when delivering my Budget Speech that there was an opening for extending our operations in the planting of soft woods in Western Australia. Passing through from Bunbury the other day I noticed that trees planted in the nursery showed great advancement and promised that very good commercial results would accrue if we could extend our operations. There is no doubt there are large tracts of country in Western Australia which may be utilised in this direction, and if prison labour can be economically employed in that work I do not know that we could direct it into any better channel. Again let me say that members in examining the items of this department will realise, I think, that every economy has been attempted; that the Minister has scrutinised personally every item in connection with his Estimates on the general request I sent out that economies should be practised as far as possible without decreasing the efficiency of the departments. I have much pleasure in commending this vote to the acceptance of members.

Before dealing with votes and items—

Progress was reported, and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10-37 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 22nd November, 1906.

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Questions: Dock at Fremantle	3044
Harbour Workshops, Fremantle	3044
Bill: Land Tax Assessment, Council's suggested Amendments, considered	3044
Estimates: Colonial Secretary's Department resumed, concluded at midnight	3050

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4-30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

QUESTION—DOCK AT FREMANTLE.

MR. ANGWIN asked the Minister for Works: 1, Does the Government intend this session introducing a Bill for the construction of a graving dock at Fremantle? 2, If not, why not?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: The Government intends to immediately put in hand farther investigations to settle the question of site. It is believed that this can be determined during the recess. Any legislation which may be necessary will be introduced next session.

QUESTION—HARBOUR WORKSHOPS AT FREMANTLE.

MR. ANGWIN asked the Minister for Works: 1, Does the Government intend closing the Harbour Workshops, particularly the Pipe Works, at Fremantle? 2, If not, why are the men being dismissed?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, No, but the number of men may be expected to vary from time to time according to the Government demand for pipes. 2, Men belonging to the ordinary

workshop staff and pipe-foundry staff are not being dismissed, but some 30 men employed on repairs to the dredge "Premier," and on some heavy castings for the Goldfields Water Supply and Metropolitan Waterworks Board, both of which works are finished, have been recently dispensed with.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the TREASURER: 1, Report on the Agricultural Bank to 30th June, 1906. 2, Report of the Department of Agriculture to 30th June, 1906. 3, Report of the Central Board of Health to 30th June, 1906.

BILL—LAND TAX ASSESSMENT.

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS.

Order read for consideration of the Legislative Council's Message No. 31 (dissenting from the Assembly's proposal for a free conference on amendments requested by the Council).

THE TREASURER moved that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the purpose of farther considering in Committee the Legislative Council's Message No. 25 [namely, schedule of amendments returned by the Council with request that they be made in the Bill by the Assembly].

Question passed.

IN COMMITTEE.

No. 1—Clause 2, line 7, after the word "planting" insert the words "roads made or macadamised by the owner," and after the words "wells" insert "pumps, windmills, and other apparatus for raising water":

THE TREASURER saw no objection to this amendment, and moved that it be agreed to.

Question passed, the amendment made as requested.

No. 2—Clause 9, Subclause 3, add at the end the following: "Provided that this subsection shall not apply to any person absent from Australia on the public service":

Amendment agreed to.

No. 3—Clause 11, paragraph (d), "strike out all the words after "the Mines Act 1904":