

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 3rd October, 1894.

Coal-boring Plant for Albany—South-Western Railway: Returns showing cost of upkeep of—Colonial Prisoners Removal Bill: third reading—Hospitals Bill: committee—Busselton Street Closure Bill: first reading—Marriage Bill: second reading; committee—Friendly Societies Bill: second reading—Loan Bill: second reading—Scab Act: report of select committee—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

COAL-BORING PLANT FOR ALBANY.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES asked the Colonial Secretary whether it was the intention of the Government to send boring plant to Albany and its neighbourhood for the purpose of boring for coal, there being every indication of coal measures being in existence in those parts.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): The question will be considered by the Government. I am sorry I am unable to give the hon. member any more definite reply; but I may say that the Government Geologist has already been instructed to report, and as soon as it is available I will lay it on the table of the House.

SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY—RETURNS SHOWING COST AND UPKEEP OF.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES, in accordance with notice, moved that the following returns be laid on the table of this Honourable House:—

1. The cost price of the South-Western Railway.
2. The cost price of the rolling stock and plant in use, or belonging to the said railway.
3. The aggregate cost of all stations and buildings belonging to such railway now completed.
4. The contract price for all stations and buildings connected with such railway in course of completion.
5. The amount credited or allowed in the departmental accounts of such railway for the carriage of sleepers, plant, and materials for and on behalf of the Government, whether in respect of this

line or any of the other railway lines belonging to the colony.

6. The receipts of the said railway from its opening to the 1st October, 1894.

7. The expenditure in respect of the said railway during the said period.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Is it not usual for a member to give some reason for his motion?

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: My object is simply to ascertain whether the railway is paying. I think it is very important we should know, because if this line is paying it may influence us with respect to other lines which are about to be proposed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): The Government will be happy to furnish the information.

Question put and passed.

COLONIAL PRISONERS REMOVAL BILL.

THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time, and passed.

HOSPITALS BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2—"Governor may proclaim public hospitals."

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: On the second reading of this Bill, I called attention to the fact that no provision was made in regard to the Lunatic Asylum; and I wish now to refer to the state of affairs there. I believe I should not be in order in seeking to move that asylums be included in this Bill.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I have no desire to interrupt the hon. member, but I do not see how he can refer to this matter now.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I only propose to read the report. On the second reading the Colonial Secretary was most anxious to stop me, and I suppose now he does not wish to have the report read.

THE CHAIRMAN (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): If the hon. member wishes to refer to the question of the Lunatic Asylum, he can do so by giving notice of motion that it is advisable to bring in a Bill dealing with the subject. The hon. member cannot read the whole of the report now.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I do not think he can refer to the report at all.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: Then I will give copious notes from it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I really must raise the point of order, because it is obvious that if we are to go into the question of Lunatic Asylums we shall never get through. Such a question is quite foreign to this clause, and, by the rules of the House, hon. members must confine their remarks to each particular clause as it comes before them.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I wish to refer to a certain hospital—we will call it a hospital—which has been in existence for some time. In 1884 the Surgeon Superintendent recommended that some of his patients should be separated—the curable from the incurable—

THE CHAIRMAN (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): I think the hon. member is travelling outside the question before the committee. We have separate legislation for the Lunatic Asylum, and it is obvious that a lunatic asylum is not a hospital.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I must submit to your ruling, but I beg to call your attention to the fact that I am speaking to a clause which provides that the Governor may proclaim any place a public hospital. I am referring to a certain place at Fremantle which might, under this clause, be declared a public hospital. Still, I will only say that I am sorry that the Government has not seen fit to deal with this place as well as the hospitals, because a shocking state of affairs exists there.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 3.—“Voluntary contributions to public hospitals:”

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I move to strike out “twenty,” in the fifth line, and insert “ten” in lieu thereof. The Bill provides that the payment of £20 shall entitle a person to become a life contributor, and I propose to make it £10.

Question put and passed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I also propose to strike out the word “two” and insert “one.” This will make the annual subscription £1, instead of £2.

Question put and passed.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4.—“Appointment of members of board of management to hospitals maintained by Government funds:”

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): This clause reads: “At every such public hospital a book, to be called ‘The Contributors’ Book,’ shall be kept, in which shall be entered the names and addresses of such benevolent persons as may be desirous of contributing towards the funds for the support of such hospitals, and the payment of a sum of twenty pounds in one donation shall entitle the person paying the same, hereinafter called a ‘life contributor,’ to have and exercise during his life the rights and privileges hereinafter conferred upon contributors; and the payment of the sum of two pounds shall entitle the person paying the same to have and exercise the like rights and privileges until the second Friday in November next following the date of such payment.” I propose to strike out the words “duly qualified medical practitioner and other.” My object in moving this is so as not to limit the Governor as to the choice of gentlemen he may nominate.

Question put and passed.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I move that the words “but two-thirds of the members at least shall consist of persons who are not medical practitioners,” be inserted between the words “determine” and “and,” in the tenth line of the clause. I do so because I think it as well to fix a limit beyond which the Governor shall not go in regard to the nomination of medical practitioners. I am certain that the Governor, with most Executive Councils, would carry out the spirit of the Act, and see that the larger portion of the board of management did not consist of medical practitioners; but it is obvious that those who will be most eager to sit on the board will be members of the medical profession, and it is to save pressure being brought on the Governor and Executive Council that I propose the amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT moved to insert the word “Governor” before the word “may,” in the eleventh line.

Question put and passed.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 5, 6, and 7 agreed to.

Clause 8—"Number of members of board of management to be elected by contributors, and how regulated."

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER moved that the words "by ballot" be inserted after the word "elect," in the third line of sub-clause (3). As it stands, the clause does not state how the election is to be conducted.

Amendment put and passed.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER moved to add, at the end of the sub-clause, the words "and the hon. medical officers." This will give the contributors a voice in the election of the hon. medical staff.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I cannot agree to this amendment. The principle of the Bill is that the sole control of the hospital shall vest in the board of management, and, that being so, it is obvious that that body should appoint the medical officers. If it were not so, the board might come into conflict with the medical practitioners, and then there would be no one to decide upon the differences. There cannot be two bodies having equal powers.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I trust the hon. gentleman will not press his amendment. The experiment was tried, with most disastrous effects, in the case of the largest hospital in Australia—the Melbourne Hospital. There two or three members in the lowest rank of the medical profession purchased a sufficient number of votes to put them in. One of them, who would not be allowed into any drawing-room, has for many years been able to hold a seat on the board by means of his most flagitious liberality.

Amendment put and negatived.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER moved that the following words be added, to stand as sub-clause (4): "Every contributor shall have the right to nominate yearly three patients for admission to the hospital." If we are to ask the public to subscribe, we must give them something in return. The mere fact of a contributor being allowed to nominate does not mean that the patient shall necessarily be admitted. We should make the Act as liberal as possible, so as to induce people to subscribe.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): If the hon. member will

look at Clause 13, he will see that the board has full power to make rules and regulations for regulating the admission of patients on the nomination or recommendation of contributors or otherwise. It will be obvious that the board will promulgate such rules as will lead to the best results. Without the amendment suggested by the hon. member, this law has worked well in South Australia for many years; and I do not think there is any necessity to further hamper the board here.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: Clause 13 says "may" only, and we must remember that for the first two years the Governor will have the power of appointing the whole board. So long as that is done the public will never come forward. Clause 13 says "may"; but the board may not. I want to make it definite.

The committee divided on the amendment.

Ayes	8
Noes	9

Majority against .. 1

AYES.	NOES.
The Hon. R. G. Burges	The Hon. Ernest Henty
The Hon. C. E. Dempster	The Hon. H. McKernan
The Hon. J. C. G. Foulkes	The Hon. E. McLarty
The Hon. J. W. Hackett	The Hon. C. A. Piesse
The Hon. R. W. Hardy	The Hon. J. E. Richardson
The Hon. S. J. Haynes	The Hon. E. Robinson
The Hon. T. H. Marshall	The Hon. F. M. Stone
The Hon. F. T. Crowder	The Hon. E. H. Wittenoom
(Teller).	The Hon. S. H. Parker
	(Teller).

Amendment negatived.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER moved to add the words "every contributor shall have the right to nominate yearly two patients for admission to the hospital."

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I do not think the hon. member should press this, because, after the expression of opinion which has just been given, I am sure the board will give the right to contributors to nominate at least three patients.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: The mere fact of these words being inserted will not prevent the board from giving the right to nominate three. I only propose to say that the number shall, at least, be two.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: It is always a difficult thing to collect subscriptions; and, unless some inducement is held out, I do not think a single guinea will be forthcoming.

THE HON. E. H. WITTENOOM: It seems to me that the amendment is superfluous after what the Colonial Secretary has pointed out, besides which it is not likely the contributors will elect a board which will not give effect to their wishes. If these boards have the interests of the hospitals at heart they will do all they can to induce people to subscribe, and, if the right of nomination of three, or even more, patients will have the desired effect, we may be sure the necessary regulations will be made.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: Immediately after the passing of this Act the board will consist of nominees of the Governor, and people will not subscribe unless some inducement is held out to them, and, if this be continued, it is obvious that a sufficient amount will not be collected to secure to the public a voice in the management. We never know what nominees may do. They are not always so extraordinarily good, and are really creatures of the Government. If they were, we might have expected to see the whole of the twenty-one members of the late nominee Legislative Council returned here again.

THE HON. E. H. WITTENOOM: The Government are men selected by the people to represent us, and I do not think they are any bigger fools than the rest of us. Why then should they nominate persons who are unsuitable, or who will not carry out the wishes of the people, or who will make regulations which are so unpopular that the people will not subscribe? I think we may safely leave the matter in the hands of the board of management of the hospital.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I am sorry to hear anyone say anything against the old Legislative Council, because, although some of them had a conservative tendency, they were a highly respectable and independent body of men—men who were in no way the creatures, even if they were the nominees, of the Government. Hon. members will see that as soon as the board of the hospital is nominated by the Governor they will be independent of the Government, and they can make any rules they please, which will have to be laid on the tables of the Houses of Parliament, and these will become law without the Government having anything to

do with them. The Government will not be able to interfere or direct how the regulations are to be framed. This Bill has worked admirably in South Australia for the last thirty years, and I do not see why it should not work well here. The board may make regulations respecting the admission of patients on the nomination of contributors to the hospital; and the object the hon. member seeks to obtain, in specifying the number of patients any contributor may nominate, will be attained as soon as these rules are promulgated. It is said that the Bill only puts it that the board "may" make rules; but although this "may" does not legally, it virtually amounts to "shall," and it is obvious that one of the first duties of the board will be to make regulations, otherwise they will not be able to conduct their proceedings. These regulations will necessarily show what positions the life governors and subscribers will be in as regards the nomination of patients; and we may be sure that the board will make them as liberal as they can, in order to induce people to subscribe. And I feel sure that even if the members of the board were creatures of the Government, as my hon. friend supposes, they will naturally do their utmost to get in subscriptions. They will, as the representatives of the Government, do all they can to relieve the public funds of the maintenance of these hospitals, and they will consequently offer every inducement to people to subscribe. I regret to find that my hon. and learned friend has such a low opinion of the late nominee members of this House. It was not long ago that a certain member of this House—the junior member for the South-Western district—was desirous of posing as the nominee of the Government; and I am certainly astonished, after all the endeavours he made to obtain every single member of the Government to advocate his candidature and give him recommendations to the people of the district, he comes here and talks about nominees being creatures of the Government.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I must reply to this.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: Keep cool. I do not see why there should be so much discussion on this subject, be-

cause it seems to me that even the Colonial Secretary agrees that the clause should be put in. It is said that the board will make a regulation, but why should we not make a certainty about it? It can do no harm to the Bill.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I have taken the advice of the Hon. Mr. Crowder, and I hope I shall deal with the remarks of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary as coolly as possible. I must say I am exceedingly astonished at the remarks he has made. They were quite uncalled for. It is only right, however, that I should explain, as I have been attacked in this way.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I did not attack you.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: You did, and your accusation is not true. With regard to my coming forward as the nominee of the Government, I may say that I did not intend to be the nominee of any man, and especially not the nominee of the gentleman who temporarily holds the position of Colonial Secretary. As regards seeking the influence of the Government, I may say that two members of the present Cabinet are voters in my constituency, and they are two deservedly respected men. Both of them have great influence in the district, and I consider I was perfectly justified in asking them for their support. I dealt with them in the same way that the Colonial Secretary dealt with his constituents, when he walked up and down Barrack Street for three weeks before the election. You could see the hon. gentleman for days before the election, at the Club corner, meeting every voter, and I do not know whether he came out as a Government nominee.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): As an Opposition nominee.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I am sure he would not come out as an Opposition nominee, because it does not carry with it a salary. He has been in opposition, but he found the shades far cooler than the shades of the Government. I have not had the honour of having been in the Government, but I am sure it must be far more pleasant to be drawing £800 a year than being in the Opposition. I am not in opposition to the Government, and I am surprised and pained to hear the Colonial Secretary

bring a matter of this kind before the House. I was never a nominee of the Government, and if the two gentlemen in question had not votes I should not have troubled them.

THE HON. H. McKERNAN: I am afraid if my hon. friend persists in his motion he will defeat the object he has in view, because attention will be called to the opinion expressed here that we wish contributors to have the right to nominate two patients.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: That is what I want.

THE HON. H. McKERNAN: But if we fix two as the number, the board will not allow more, where otherwise they might make it six. I think we had better let the matter rest with the board of management.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause, as amended, passed.

Clause 9—"Proceedings at meetings:"

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: If the Hon. the Colonial Secretary will refer to Clause 8 he will see that the contributors are entitled to a certain number of votes, in proportion to the expenditure. But the Government may expend a large sum of money on a particular hospital in one year, and it would then be impossible to collect sufficient subscriptions to give the contributors a fair proportion of votes. I should like to know whether such expenditure as I have referred to would carry with it votes against the contributors.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): It seems to me that money spent on buildings will be considered as part of the annual expenditure. It is the average annual expenditure of the hospital that will be considered—not the expenditure on the hospital.

Clause passed.

Clauses 10 to 12 passed.

Clause 13—"Board to make rules and regulations:"

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Is the Colonial Secretary satisfied that this clause enables the board to make regulations prohibiting the admission of patients?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I imagine they could, but I have no objection to the insertion of such a provision.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Then I move to insert the words "prohibit-

ing or," in the first line of sub-clause (1).

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 14 to 20 agreed to.

New clause:

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I propose to add the following new clause to the Bill:—"Any person who is able to pay "for his medical attendance, maintenance, and relief in any hospital, but "who, either before or after his admission "into any hospital, makes a statement "that he is unable to pay for his medical "attendance, maintenance, or relief, and "who in consequence of having made "such statement is admitted or maintained by, or who receives medical "attendance or relief from any hospital, "shall be liable to pay or contribute "towards the same, according to his "means, any sum that may be due for "such medical attendance, maintenance, "and relief, and such sum shall, on "demand thereof, be a debt due from "such person, and may be recovered from "him, or from his executors or administrators after his death, by the said "board: Provided that the said board "shall have absolute discretionary power "to remit or postpone payment of all or "any sums of money due to them under "the provisions of this Act, and such "board, or any person authorised by them "in that behalf, are hereby authorised to "sue, and may recover in any Court of "competent jurisdiction such sum as the "Court shall think reasonable, as a debt "due to the said board from the person "so maintained in such hospital." The object of this is to make people who can afford to pay, contribute something to the funds of the hospital. Power is also given to the board to remit or postpone payment if necessary.

Clause passed.

Bill reported.

BUSSELTON STREET CLOSURE BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

MARRIAGE BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): This is a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to marriage. The law on this subject is at

present contained in three Acts, which will now be repealed, and the whole question is dealt comprehensively with in the measure before hon. members. Churches are defined, and ministers of religion are defined, and there is provision for the registration of ministers of religion who are authorised to solemnise marriages. Marriages may also be solemnised by Registrars, and the time for the celebration is extended to 6 o'clock in the evening. As far as the major part of hon. members of this House is concerned, the Bill will have very little attraction, but there are some members who will, no doubt, welcome it. Part III. contains the general provisions as to the celebration of marriages, and they are virtually those which now exist. Marriages may be celebrated in various ways, either after notice or by special license. At the present time a great many marriages are celebrated by special license. Such a license is granted almost to anyone; and the Government are of opinion that they should not interfere with this, or place any obstacle in the way of either men or women entering into the bonds of matrimony. Special licenses may be given by Resident Magistrates, under certain conditions. Part IV. deals with offences which may be committed by ministers or Registrars. I do not think I need refer further to the Bill, and now move it be read a second time.

THE HON. E. H. WITTENOOM: I think it is very satisfactory that this Bill has been brought forward, because I have heard from several clergymen that it is very difficult to follow the proper course from the Acts now in force. I see that the Bill provides that so long as notice is given in one district the marriage may take place, which is a good thing; for it has been found very difficult in the past, where one of the parties has arrived from England, to carry out the marriage at once. The Bill also legalises marriage with the deceased wife's sister, a provision which will be hailed with satisfaction by a good many. I, therefore, congratulate the hon. member who represents the Government on bringing forward this Bill.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): That has been the law for some time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3—"Repeal of Acts:"

THE HON. E. H. WITTENOOM moved that progress be reported.

Question put and passed.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): This is also a Bill to consolidate the existing law. The two Ordinances in force, I admit, are very meagre, although they have been very useful for some time past, and have done something to promote and regulate friendly societies. The time has arrived, however, when they should be amended. Hon. members will observe that this is a lengthy measure, and it provides for a great number of matters. It has been prepared on lines similar to the Acts of other colonies. It has been submitted to the friendly societies, and they have generally approved of it. In fact this Bill is brought in principally at the request of these bodies, and, when it becomes law, these societies will necessarily be placed on much better and sounder footings. It will be necessary for the Government to appoint a Registrar, whose duty it will be to advise the Government and the societies as to their rules, and he will see that the contributions from members will be ample to provide for the necessary payments in case of sickness or death. I believe it has happened in this colony that men have subscribed to friendly societies for some years with the idea of obtaining assistance in the case of sickness, and it has been discovered afterwards that the contributions have been so small that the societies have come to grief. The Registrar will so regulate matters that nothing of this kind will happen in the future. Clause 11 provides what provisions shall be incorporated in the rules of societies, and Clause 12 sets out what are the duties and obligations of societies. I have no doubt hon. members have perused this Bill, and are aware that it deals as comprehensively as possible with these societies, and brings the law up to date. I do not think I need say any more, except that when in committee I shall be happy

to give the fullest explanation that may be required by hon. members on any point. I now move that the Bill be read a second time.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: It is very evident that this is an important Bill and one which contains material alterations in the present law. I have been communicated with by representatives of lodges in the country, whose membership is at least four hundred strong, and they inform me that they have had no opportunity of perusing this Bill. Under these circumstances, I do not think we should consent to pass it at once; and, in view of this, I do not think I am seeking anything unreasonable in moving it be read a second time this day six months.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Adjourn its consideration for ten days.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: That is not sufficient, because there will be no time for the lodges to be called together.

THE HON. C. A. PIESSE: I beg to second the amendment, and for the reasons stated by the hon. member, that many societies have not had an opportunity of perusing the Bill.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I am unable to go with the hon. member who moves this amendment. When the Bill was first brought forward, there was considerable discussion over it, but I have lately discussed the matter carefully with those who are at the head of most of the lodges in Perth, and they seem to be perfectly satisfied with the Bill. I think it would meet the case put forward by the hon. member if we adjourned its further consideration for two or three weeks.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I hope my hon. friends will not press this amendment. Although some of the country societies may not have considered the Bill, they have had ample opportunity to do so, inasmuch as it has been before the Lower House for six weeks. I was under the impression that this Bill had received the full assent of the societies generally, and I cannot but think that it would be most unwise to postpone its coming into operation for twelve months.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) left the chair until 7:30 o'clock p.m.

On resuming,

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT said: I trust that this Bill will be allowed to proceed to its second reading, and then be taken into committee and finally sanctioned. It has been very well considered, and is a transcript of one of the best Acts of the sister colonies. It has not only been submitted to, but approved by, the leading Friendly Societies in this part of the colony. I can assure my hon. friend who wishes to have it read a second time this day six months, that not only has the Bill been submitted to the Friendly Societies of Perth and Fremantle, but it contains many of the amendments suggested by them. It seems to me, therefore, that it would be a real misfortune if the Bill is allowed to drop, especially when we consider the position in which many of these Friendly Societies are placed at the present moment. The Bill may not be perfect, but I strongly urge it is better to have it even imperfect than to drop it altogether. We must remember that these Societies hold the funds of men and women who are looking forward to relief from them in time of sickness or old age, and these funds, I say, are in jeopardy at the present moment. I do trust, therefore, the Bill will be allowed to pass into law.

THE HON. E. H. WITTENOOM: In spite of what has fallen from the hon. member, I shall be inclined to support the amendment, knowing as I do that a great many people are interested in this Bill, and how difficult it is to acquire a grasp of it in the short time that has been afforded. The hon member's remarks seem to imply that there are no Societies except in Perth and Fremantle. I believe there are some in the town I come from, and some time will be required for them to consider the Bill.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: They have had for six weeks.

THE HON. E. H. WITTENOOM: It takes more than six weeks for them to grasp it. They will require, at least, six months. I am not questioning the Bill. It may be a perfect one, but I think that Bills such as this should be before the country for some little time before they are finally passed. Under these circumstances I think the amendment is reasonable, although, if any amendment can be

brought in to reduce the time of postponement to less than six months, I may be inclined to support it.

THE HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: I should have supported the motion of the hon member for Albany, which is brought forward with the best intention; but, in consideration of the Bill having been well thrashed out by the Assembly and by the Societies referred to, I must support the motion of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. We have heard the Hon. Mr. Hackett's statement.

THE HON. T. H. MARSHALL: It is not true.

THE HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: At all events I consider the Bill has been well thrashed out, and we shall only make it worse if we attempt to better it.

THE HON. T. H. MARSHALL: I entirely disagree with what the Hon. Mr. Hackett has said. The Friendly Societies in Fremantle have not been consulted. In fact, it has been put to me that the Attorney General promised to lay before them all the clauses of the Bill, and that he did not do so until it had really passed the Lower House. Some members of these Societies waited on me and asked me to protest against its passing until they could discuss it. Therefore, I think the Hon. Mr. Haynes is quite right in getting an adjournment.

THE HON. H. McKERNAN: I have listened with some attention to hon. members who support the amendment, and have failed to discover that they have pointed out a single objectionable clause in the Bill. It has been before the country for eight or ten weeks, and having been urged on the Government previously to that, I think the Societies must know more or less the effect the Bill will have. I think it would be a great mistake to lose the Bill, and if the amendment is withdrawn I shall be disposed to move that the debate be adjourned for two or three weeks.

Question—That the words proposed to be put stand part of the question—put.

The Council divided with the following result:—

Ayes	10
Noes	6
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Majority against ...			4

AYES.

The Hon. F. T. Crowder
 The Hon. C. E. Dempster
 The Hon. J. C. G. Foulkes
 The Hon. J. W. Hackett
 The Hon. Ernest Henty
 The Hon. H. McKernan
 The Hon. E. McLarty
 The Hon. J. E. Richardson
 The Hon. F. M. Stone
 The Hon. S. H. Parker
 (Teller).

NOES.

The Hon. R. G. Burges
 The Hon. R. W. Hardey
 The Hon. T. H. Marshall
 The Hon. C. A. Piesse
 The Hon. E. H. Wittenoom
 The Hon. S. J. Haynes
 (Teller).

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) moved that the consideration of the Bill in committee be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 11th October. He said: I do this so that the hon. members may have an opportunity of consulting with their constituents. Afterwards, if we find the time is not sufficient, I shall be quite willing to postpone it for another week.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: I think the time proposed is somewhat short, but I will endeavour to communicate with some of the lodges on the subject.

Question—put and passed.

LOAN BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I have now the pleasure of asking hon. members to read a second time a Bill authorising the Government to raise a million and a half of money for the construction of public works within the colony. I take it that it is within the peculiar province of this House to guard against hasty legislation or the reckless expenditure of public funds; but we must ever bear in mind that it is the Lower House which has peculiarly entrusted to it the monetary affairs of the community. It is the Lower House in which all money Bills are introduced, and it is that House which is more particularly looked upon as representing all classes of the community, and which is considered as the especial guardian of the public purse. At the same time this Council has also a special duty in relation to these matters, which is to see that the popular Assembly is not indulging in reckless expenditure or reckless borrowing. Although I do not pose as an authority on constitutional law, it seems to me that while this House has the power to pass or not, as it may think fit, such a measure as this—

still, unless it is satisfied that the Lower Chamber, which peculiarly represents the people, upon whom the burden of taxation falls, is recklessly authorising the Government to borrow moneys for expenditure on public works from which there is no chance of any good being derived by the State, I doubt very much whether this House ought to go very closely into the matter, with a view of curtailing what the popular Assembly has authorised. I say this in all deference because hon. members will find it quite competent for them to exercise all the privileges they enjoy without too closely going into details. What we have to consider at the present time is, firstly, whether we are in a position to borrow this money? It seems a large sum when first looked at; but if we can afford to pay the interest and sinking fund without increased taxation, and if it can be shown that the works upon which it is proposed to spend the money will be reproductive, I think we may say we shall be perfectly justified in getting the money. When I say reproductive, I don't mean that they will pay the interest on the Loan, but will be reproductive in that they will conduce to the prosperity and settlement of the community in such a marked degree that no extra taxation will be required to pay the interest and sinking fund. When the Government, of which I was not then a member, raised in 1891 a loan of one million three hundred and thirty-six thousand pounds, it was thought by a great many persons we were indulging too largely in borrowing, and that there was no prospect of the colony being able to pay the interest without additional taxation. When that measure was introduced into the Assembly I confess I had doubts as to whether we were justified in raising the money, but, I am happy to say, my doubts have been completely removed. The railway I objected to was that to Bunbury, but we now find that it has paid more than working expenses during the first twelve months of its existence, by a sum of over £4,000. So far, therefore, the policy of the Government has been justified in respect to this particular railway, and as regards the Southern Cross and Mullewa railways, no hon. member will question the wisdom of the expenditure of public moneys on them. The Fremantle harbour works, which

have been commenced, is also a work in the interest of the colony at large. It is gratifying to find that the whole of the works under the last Loan Act are being carried out without any extra taxation. Our population has increased from 46,000—when Responsible Government was introduced—to 78,000 now; our revenue has increased from £440,000 to £681,000. The expenditure has also increased, but still there was a balance at the end of the financial year ending June 30th, 1894, to the credit of the colony of £88,000. The revenue for the current year is estimated at £934,581, and the expenditure at £961,000, which will leave a balance of £20,000 to credit at the end of the current financial year. Bearing in mind the revenue already received during the portion of the year which has already gone, there seems to be very little doubt as to the estimate being realised. If such be the case, it is obvious that we shall have ample means to provide interest and sinking funds, not only upon existing loans, but also on the further sum of £1,500,000 which we propose to raise, and that without additional taxation. I take it hon. members will agree in the proposition that it is the duty of the Parliament and the Government to develop and foster the industries of the colony as far as possible—that it is the duty of the Government to establish means of communication with all parts of the colony, to provide safe and commodious harbours at the various ports, to develop the goldfields and provide the necessary water supply, and to do all in its power to increase the comfort and prosperity of the community in general. It is obvious that we cannot do the works I have suggested out of current revenue, and we must, therefore, resort to loan moneys. If we see that we are in a position to pay the interest and provide the sinking fund, and if it be shown that the works are required, then it is our bounden duty, in this House, to support the action of the Assembly and allow this Bill to become law. If we take the Schedule to the Bill we will find that the two principal works are the railways from the Mullewa to the Murchison, and from Southern Cross to Coolgardie, involving an expenditure of £63,700, irrespective of rolling stock, which will probably take £100,000 more.

The railway towards the Murchison fields has already been commenced, and will shortly be open for traffic. When that line was undertaken it is obvious that it was never intended that it should stop on the fringe of the pastoral country and be of so little use to either the settlers or the miners. It is therefore proposed to continue it so that it will run through good pastoral country, which, at the present time, contains thousands of sheep and cattle, to the goldfields, on which a large number of people are employed. As to the line to Coolgardie: we have already constructed and are working a railway to Southern Cross, which we propose to continue 110 miles further until it reaches the centre of the Coolgardie fields. Both these lines are demanded in the interests of the colony. During the last few years our export of gold has increased to a considerable extent. I believe, up to the 30th June, 1894, we had exported gold to the value of nearly £1,250,000, and, if these lines are constructed, the fields will be developed even more rapidly than they have been. Then we come to the railway from Donnybrook towards Bridgetown.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: Where is that?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): As an Irishman, the hon. member ought to know, but if he needs telling, I may say it is the present terminus of the line which runs out from Bunbury towards Bridgetown.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: There is nothing there.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): There is Donnybrook.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: It is only a name.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): At any rate it is intended to connect Bunbury with the rich agricultural valley of the Blackwood. We know that agricultural settlement is always a very slow process, and I think hon. members will agree in the view taken by the Government that every inducement should be afforded to agriculturists to embark in that pursuit. Although a goldmining population may conduce to our temporary population through the Customs, and provide a market for our supplies, yet if we desire to see the country permanently progressive and

prosperous, we must induce a very much increased settlement of the soil beyond what it is at the present time. We know that in the Blackwood district we have land second to none in the colony, which is especially adapted to dairying purposes. In Victoria, for instance, the export of butter has really saved the colony from financial disaster.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: They get 6d. per lb. for it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Granted that the price is reduced there, if we can establish the industry here it will be more profitable than confining ourselves to the production of wheat, which can hardly be grown at a profit. I have been told that in Victoria and New Zealand the butter industry is one of the most profitable things agriculturists can embark upon. At any rate I take it no one will dispute the fact that the Blackwood district is far more suitable for dairying purposes and for the cultivation and production of fruit than any other portion of the colony. That being so, the Government propose to make this railway, and by so doing prevent to a great extent the large imports of produce from the neighbouring colonies which are now taking place. At this stage I do not propose to say anything further on this line; but I have no doubt, when hon. members consider it on its merits, they will come to the conclusion that the Assembly, in passing it, has not been guilty of any reckless extravagance. The next item is the line to the Collie coalfield. From the reports of the Government Geologist and Dr. Robertson, who is an expert on the subject, there can be no question that a true coal measure exists. We must, I think, look at the matter as a purely commercial venture; and if hon. members will look at the report of the Engineer-in-Chief, they will see that it is in the true interests of the colony to build this railway. I see one professional gentleman has reported that there are 800,000,000 tons of coal available, worth 10s. per ton. I do not place much reliance on these figures, if only because the Engineer-in-Chief calculates the coal in the trucks at 7s. 6d. per ton, whereas the other gentleman calculates it at 10s. per ton at the pit's mouth. Even if the coal is not as good as

that which comes from Newcastle, it is our duty to open up the field, because we shall be employing our own workmen, and the money spent in wages will be circulated in the colony, which will be much more to our advantage than if it were spent among the workmen of Newcastle. Another item on the Schedule is rolling stock for these railways, and additional stock for existing lines—£174,000. But I need not refer to this item now. £200,000 is provided for the harbour works at Fremantle. These works, I have no doubt, are a matter of great interest, especially to members who come from the country and find how much has been done during the last twelve months. The Northern Mole has been constructed for a considerable distance, and it is now proposed to extend it further, so as to enclose a sufficient depth of water to enable the large ocean steamers to call at Fremantle. I trust, when I say this, that I am giving utterance to nothing derogatory to that magnificent port at King George's Sound; but it is obvious that, in the interests of the country, we should try to induce mail steamers to call at our chief port. This work is being carried on at a cost of about £100,000 a year, and it is anticipated that the sum provided in this Schedule will tide us over for the next two years. At the end of that time, if the work goes on satisfactorily, and proves as beneficial as I hope it will, we shall then be able to ask for a further loan to complete what will be, I believe, a splendid harbour for Fremantle. I know that many persons are still doubtful as to the advisability of this work, but, even if the mail steamers cannot be induced to call, we shall have, at least, upon this coast, one safe harbour of refuge. I notice that on the New Zealand coast harbours have been constructed capable of receiving almost the largest steamers afloat, and I see no reason why Western Australia should not be similarly provided. We can well imagine that if we can only induce these steamers to call, it will greatly tend to increase the commercial interests of the colony. Then there is another item of £70,000, which it is proposed to spend on the development of the goldfields and mineral resources, including £10,000 for Pilbarra, and £5,000 for Kimberley. Then

there is Item 9, which is one of £40,000 for the development of agriculture, including the clearing of land, drainage, a market in Perth, and cold storage. All I can say is, that if all these works can be performed for the money, it will be spent in a good way. Geraldton has always been an important port, and it will be more so in the future, as it is the terminus of what will be a long line of railway to the Murchison, as well as the terminus of the line from Perth. Item 11 is "Improvements to harbours and rivers, including jetties and dredging, £40,000." When executed, these works will be of great benefit to the shipping interests and the colony. The harbours at Carnarvon, Cossack, and Broome require dredging, and the work will be undertaken out of this item. Item 12 is £25,000 for lighthouses, and it is proposed to place them, as far as our money will go, wherever necessary, for the safety of our ships. Item 13, £25,000 for telegraphs, is so fully enumerated in the Schedule that I need say nothing further about it. Item 14, £15,000 for roads and bridges, is one which, I am sure, all honourable members will be glad to see, and one which I am sure no one will object to. Item 15 is £30,000 for "Miscellaneous, including charges and expense of raising the loan." I have now mentioned all the items in this Loan Schedule, and I think I have dilated sufficiently on the principal ones. I need now only commend the Bill to honourable members, and I ask them to bear in mind what I have already said, that the credit of the colony is very good indeed. It is equal to that of any other portion of Her Majesty's dominions, and, therefore, this is the proper time to borrow, as in all probability we shall obtain it on cheaper terms than any other previously raised. I trust hon. members will bear in mind that considerable responsibility attaches to this House in dealing with this measure, and still greater responsibility if we take upon us to reject the measure which the Lower House—the House which peculiarly represents the people—has passed. I now move that the Bill be read a second time.

THE HON. E. HENTY: I rise to second the motion, and I do so with a sense of the grave responsibility which attaches to my action, because in authorising this

loan we may be laying on our shoulders and the shoulders of posterity what we or they cannot bear. I do not agree with the Colonial Secretary when he says it will be hardly right for us to differ from the popular Assembly. We have a right to criticise, and I hope we shall be able to do so impartially. Political economists have held that in regard to loan legislation we must be careful to consider not only ourselves but those who come after us. And, notwithstanding this, I have noted that in dealing generally with Loan Bills hon. members in another place have not been too careful. Nor have they been as impartial as they might have been. They have not debated each item coolly and calmly in the best interests of the whole colony. They have considered them from the point of view of some particular locality. As to the expenditure of most of the money provided by the Bill, I do not think many hon. members will object, because if it had not been for the stimulus given to us by the goldfields we should not now be in the position to borrow at all. For many years this colony has been languishing for population. It has been a one-horse colony, but now we have developed our resources to some extent, and if we can still further develop them, we shall place ourselves second to none of the Australian colonies. We must, however, have soundness in our legislation. The principal question now is whether the colony can afford to bear the burden which this loan will place upon it. I think it can, and if the money is properly expended we shall have no cause to regret borrowing it. I do not intend to speak further now, because I think we are all in favour of affirming the principle of the Bill, however much we may object to some of the details.

THE HON. E. H. WITTENOOM: I rise to make a few remarks with regard to this Bill, and I do so because I consider it one of the most important measures that can be introduced into this House, not only now, but during the next four years, and because on the result of it will greatly depend the future of the colony, whether it be ill or good. I must admit that I was surprised when I first heard that the Government intended to introduce a Bill of this magnitude, because I considered the colony was not in a position to stand

the further raising of money to so great an extent. Hon. members are aware that at the present moment our indebtedness amounts to three-and-a-quarter millions, and with this loan we shall owe nearly five millions, without taking into consideration the amount guaranteed to the Midland Railway Company. The interest on this will be somewhere about £200,000, and the people that will have to pay that, about 78,000. We should, perhaps, admit that, by the time this money is raised and spent, we might have a population of 150,000, but even that will be a small number to bear so large a burden. We must also remember that very many of the people who come here are birds of passage. Many of them come owing to the reports as to finds of gold, and even if they are among the lucky ones, they will sell out their interest and take the money to spend in the lands whence they came. Then there is just the probability of the goldfields not turning out as we expect them, in which case there will be great disaster in the colony, especially as we are not able to settle population on the soil as we would like, or to induce them to permanently remain amongst us. Should such a disaster as I have mentioned come upon us, the permanent settlers of the colony will have to bear the whole burden of the borrowed money. I ask hon. members, therefore, to proceed with this Bill with great caution, and to be careful that no money is spent unless it is upon necessary and reproductive works. We have the terrible experience of the other colonies before us, and we should take a lesson from them. I am sorry to think the Government has not accepted the offer of syndicates to build some of the lines provided for in this Bill. I do not see why we should not make use of their wisdom and capital, and save ourselves the interest we shall have to pay. When I was before my constituents I was very careful not to pledge myself to any particular railway, so that I might have the opportunity of ascertaining for myself whether the expenditure of such large sums was justifiable. After careful inquiry I find that this colony cannot reap the best advantage from the goldfields unless we have railway communication to them. There are so many small reefs that cannot be made payable without a railway, and

I am, therefore, forced to agree to the expenditure proposed. In doing so I think every member as well as myself should impress upon the Government the necessity of constructing the lines at as low a rate as possible, and also take particular pains to see that they pay not only working expenses, but interest and sinking fund as well. There is no knowing when these fields may cease to be remunerative, and when the population may go elsewhere, leaving the lines on the hands of the Government with little or no traffic for them. There is another question which should be considered carefully, and that is the one with regard to routes. This applies more particularly to the Murchison line than the one to Coolgardie. That line should be taken by the route by which it is most likely to assist the pastoral industry as well as the mining industry. Then, if the goldfields do not turn out as we expect them to, there will be other sources of revenue for the railway. I might also impress upon members not to be carried away by the fact that at the present time we are in the midst of a certain amount of prosperity. I must congratulate the Hon. Colonial Secretary with regard to what he has said as to some of the other items, particularly as to what he has said about the Blackwood district, for most of it was not only news to us, but also news to the people who live there. I quite agree that every inducement should be given to the people to settle on the land, because I think our real prosperity depends upon it, but I doubt whether anything in this direction is going to be accomplished in the way proposed. We have heard about the butter made in that district, but I have never seen any Blackwood butter. I quite agree that it is a fine country—

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: And they want a railway to it. You did not go there, and, therefore, you cannot say much about it.

THE HON. E. H. WITTENOOM: Well, as I do not like to speak about things I know nothing of, I will say no more about it. For the present I shall have much pleasure in agreeing to the principle of this Bill, although I trust that when we come into committee each item will be fully discussed on its merits.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I do not intend to object to the second reading of this Bill, but I leave myself open to take what steps I think fit when the Schedule comes before us in committee. I think the Government, by this Bill, are seriously discounting the future, and I regret that the experience of the other Australian colonies has not been taken advantage of by the Government. We have the glaring experience of Victoria before us. That colony, in her day, had as much gold as we are likely to have, and yet we find her to-day almost bankrupt. We must remember that gold does not make prosperity, but the settlement and the products of the land, and in this respect this colony has no backbone whatever. During the last few years we have raised and spent one-and-a-quarter millions of money. The Colonial Secretary told us that even when that Bill was brought forward he had his doubts about the wisdom of it. I do not wonder at that, and I think he would have had his doubts about this Bill too, if he did not happen to be a minister. If it had not been for the Coolgardie fields the railway to Southern Cross would have been thrown away, but the discovery has saved the railway and prevented it from becoming a white elephant. The first item on the Schedule is the railway to the Murchison fields. In my opinion the amount proposed to be expended is too much. I think that for half the amount a railway suitable to the mining district could be built to Cue. I object to syndicates building railways, and at all events we have already enough syndicate railways in this colony. The Coolgardie railway I consider is a necessary one, and will pay from the jump if the Government keep to their promise and charge proper freights on all goldfields lines—such freights as will pay working expenses, interest, and capital outlay within thirty years. Only a short time ago a deputation waited on the Commissioner of Railways asking him to lower the freights. When the line was in the hands of the contractors these merchants were willing to pay £3 per ton, but as soon as it was taken over by the Government they were not satisfied with half the rate. If hon. members have seen a train leaving Northam they will know that it is a very expensive line to work, because the water

has to be carried for the engine nearly the whole distance. I shall oppose the railway from Donnybrook towards Bridgetown. When I was in that district I saw splendid land there equal to any in the colony, but I object to building any more railways to stumps in the bush. When the Government are prepared to come down with a proposal to take the line right into Bridgetown it shall have my support. Neither can I support the Collie Coalfield line, because I consider we have not sufficient data in regard to the coal. I have seen it, and it is not true coal. Even according to the Engineer-in-Chief it takes up nearly double the room imported coal does, which is a serious drawback to its use, even if it be otherwise good. Good coal may be found, but when it is it will be time for the Government to construct this railway. I shall support the item for rolling stock, because it is badly wanted, and I hope it will be the means of very shortly enabling the people to be supplied with sufficient trucks to carry their goods. With regard to the Fremantle harbour works, I consider they never ought to have been started. They will do no good to the colony. They will not tend to the growth of one pound's worth more of produce, and they should not have been undertaken until the colony had goods for export. Even without the works, if we had the goods for export we should have the ships here to take them away. I pooh-poo the idea of the mail steamers coming to Fremantle, because I find that even with the harbour at Albany they will not always come in. I might point out in connection with the construction of these works that very soon we shall be called upon to vote £100,000 to dredge out the river at Rocky Bay, where they are throwing all the mullock from the quarries, and turning what was previously deep water into shallow pools which cannot be navigated except by small river boats. I do not consider the item of £25,000 for light-houses should come out of the loan money, but out of current revenue. I shall not say anything further now, except that when the Schedule comes before us I shall reserve to myself the right of making any alterations I think proper. I trust hon. members will approach this matter not in the light of

what is beneficial to their particular constituencies, but in the broad light of what is in the interests of the colony as a whole.

THE HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: As I know our opinion on this Bill is looked forward to with anxiety, I think it as well we should give our views. In the first place, I feel that the matter it involves is very important. And the amount we propose to borrow is very large. At the same time, the Bill has been before the country for some time, and no district has expressed an opinion adverse to it. Therefore, the question to me seems to be whether we should be right in opposing it. For my own part, I should be better satisfied if the amount were only one-third of what it is. But still I feel that the Premier's judgment is good, and he would not have acted as he has done unless he had been satisfied that it was in the best interests of the colony. Therefore, we should not object to it unless we conscientiously think it is our duty to do so. I should have been glad to have seen some of the railways which are proposed left to private enterprise to construct, because we know that the Government do not carry out large public works with the same economy that private individuals do. I do not like this continual borrowing, and I feel sure that there are other important works besides those set out here which we shall have to borrow further for, and, as an honest man, I consider we should look forward, before doing so, to see who is going to pay the debt and interest. We know the painful position some of the other colonies are in through borrowing, and we seem to be following in their footsteps as fast as we can. As to the railway from Mullewa to the Murchison: I think a light line might have been constructed for half the amount set down for it. The railway to Coolgardie is, I think, justifiable, and will be reproductive almost from the start, if it is properly managed, although it seems to me that those interested in mining want to pay as little as possible for the conveniences given them. I should be glad to see this House affirm the Donnybrook-Bridgetown Railway, which is an agricultural line. I must say that I was prejudiced against this railway before I saw the district, but I am now of opinion that the farmers

there labour under many disadvantages from want of a railway. Besides this, there are magnificent forests, with an inexhaustible supply of timber, which will help to make the railway pay. Then there are the tin fields, which even up to now have not been even thoroughly prospected. There is much rich and fertile country in the district capable of producing vegetables and dairy produce in the summer months, when they cannot be grown elsewhere. The district also possesses a magnificent rainfall. The difficulty to be coped with there is the clearing, but by the expenditure of capital this can be overcome, and the district made one of the most productive in the colony. I shall, therefore, support this railway. I shall not support the Coal-fields line, inasmuch as I do not think the coal measure has been sufficiently proved to justify it. The rolling stock provided for we must have. As to the item "Fremantle Harbour Works," the colony has taken a bold step, and I feel very doubtful whether the results will be justified by so large an expenditure. Item 8 is a proper one. Item 9 I think we might have dispensed with. Items 10 and 11, I suppose, are necessary. Item 12, £25,000 for lighthouses, I am doubtful about. I believe if we put a lighthouse at the Leeuwin it will lead to greater losses than are experienced at present. The other items, I presume, are necessary. I shall, therefore, have much pleasure in supporting the principle of the Bill; and I hope, when we have gone through the items in detail, there will not be as much diversity of opinion as we expect.

THE HON. H. McKERNAN: Like the hon. member who has just sat down, I shall say a few words upon this Bill. I should like to draw attention to an element in connection with it which I think deserves the attention of every hon. member, and that is, what has become of the enormous revenue raised in this colony at the present time? The returns for last month showed £99,000, and with such a revenue there is no question that we could continue to raise loans of even greater magnitude, but there is no member of the House or the Government who can undertake to say how long this revenue will keep up. While we are without some guarantee on this point, I think more attention should be given to the

expenditure than appears to be the case at present. With reference to the railways already constructed, there seems to be some difference of opinion as to how they should be conducted. We have a statement that one of them, during its first year of working, returned £4,000 over working expenses. When I heard that statement I immediately thought something must be wrong, because I think that never before in the history of railways has such a thing happened. There must have been an enormous quantity of freight carried, if the rates charged are uniform with those on the other lines. And this brings me to the point that the Government railways are not intended to give a profit. If we want to increase our agricultural productions we must work our railways not to make a profit, but to aid the farmers to send their produce to market at a lesser rate than it can be shipped to our shores. At the present moment produce can be brought from Adelaide to Fremantle at less than it can be transferred from Bunbury or Donnybrook to Perth. That being so, some inquiry should be made to see how this large profit appears to have been brought about on this particular railway during the short space of twelve months. The proposed railways to the goldfields are the most important points in connection with this Bill. The goldfields, at present, are the primary cause of our prosperity, and I quite agree with the Colonial Secretary when he says that the other districts of the colony should be brought into communication with the fields. As far as I can see, it was intended by nature that the agricultural portions of the colony should be connected with the auriferous portions. The only other item I will refer to is that of the Fremantle harbour works, and I should like to know how we are to meet the interest on our loans, if we are, for the next four or five years, to continue throwing £200,000 a year into the sea? I am afraid, if we go on in this way, we shall soon find ourselves in the same position as our neighbours. I might say that I think the item £50,000 for roads and bridges should be provided out of current revenue. The other items I shall generally give my support to, except, perhaps, that relating to the Collie railway, and because I do

not think the Government should enter into competition with private enterprise in raising coal.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I shall give my support to this Bill, although I do not propose to deal at present with any of the details of it. I think we should carefully consider the position of the two Houses in regard to a measure of this kind. I understand that this House has only certain privileges in connection with this class of Bills, and, therefore, we should be careful how we act. There can be no doubt that the last loan did an immense amount of good. Before it was raised and spent this colony was not in a very satisfactory condition, the proper name for it at that time being the Swan River settlement. Since then the colony has been raised to one of the first in the Empire, and I think when this further money is spent we shall see even greater progress. I see no reason why this new loan should not be spent as carefully as the last. We must remember that this is really a new colony, and we cannot expect it to advance without the expenditure of capital. The same rule applies to States as to individuals, and we must take some risks in borrowing if we wish to progress. There may be some items in the Schedule which are not necessary, but taking it as a whole I do not think there is much to be cavilled at.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: I approve of the principle of this Bill, but I object to some of the items. The railway from Mullewa to Cue really means the expenditure of half a million of money, and this seems to me to be going too far when we have only raised 68,937 ounces of gold there. We must go on with caution. We must remember we have a peculiar country to work. I consider that for a small population we have done wonders. It is said that besides the gold there is the wool to bring down, but I should like to know what sort of country it is the railway will pass through. Why, it will take fifty acres to keep a sheep. The Government should have started it as a mineral line, and have constructed it the cheapest way possible. As to the second item, the line to Coolgardie, I think that work is justifiable, because up to the 30th June last we had raised 320,000 ounces of gold in the district, and the amount

of traffic is enormous. I believe at present there are five or six hundred teams on the road, each carrying five or six tons. If properly worked, I believe the railway will pay for itself in two years. As to the railway from Donnybrook towards Bridgetown, I do not see how the money can take it there. If the Government want to build the line, why do they not adopt the Engineer-in-Chief's estimate, which is £160,000? For my part, I think if anyone goes over the country they will say it cannot be built under £200,000. Then, what is there to build a railway for? Even according to the petition which was sent round the country, only a very small area is shown to be under cultivation. The land is heavily timbered, and the best part of it is behind the trees. It is the finest country in the world for trees, and with the present price of produce it is impossible for any man to make headway on land which will cost so much for clearing. A farmer in the district told me it would not pay to grow hay although the railway might pass his door, and what more than that is wanted to show that the railway will not pay? At all events, I cannot vote for the railway at the present time. The Collie coalfield line I do not agree with, but the difference which this would make to the Bill is so small that we might as well let it go if we cannot reduce some of the other items as well. I suppose it is no good saying anything about the harbour works, because we have already thrown money into the sea, and we shall probably have to throw in more. In connection with the amount for roads, I should like to see the route from Coolgardie to Kurnalpi opened up. There are a large number of reefs there, and the road will bring traffic to the railways. With these few remarks I shall support the second reading.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: I should have been glad had the debate been adjourned, but as hon. members seem to wish to pass the second reading, I feel it my duty to say a few words. I do not think there will be any objection to the principle of the Bill, although some differences may arise as to the details. For my part I would rather have seen the amount smaller. When Responsible Government was inaugurated we owed the small amount of £1,330,000, or about

£29 per head; since then we have borrowed another million and a third, and now we are seeking to borrow a million and a half, which is excessive to my mind by at least £500,000. It seems to me we are endeavouring to boom the colony and reach greatness by too rapid strides. Borrowing by the State is much the same as borrowing by individuals, and my experience is that directly we try to go outside the proper and prudent principles which guide business transactions we come to grief. I hope I am wrong, but it seems to me we are drawing too rapidly on our future prosperity, and unless we are very careful we shall find ourselves beset with some of the bitter experiences of the other colonies. The two chief items are the goldfields' railways. It seems to me that our prosperity depends to a great extent on the success of the goldmining industry. I quite agree that differential rates should be charged on these lines, so as to pay not only working expenses, but interest and sinking fund. The policy of the Government is a policy of great expectations, but we must be careful, for if the mines do not turn out as we desire the colony will be in a serious position. Since Responsible Government we have increased our indebtedness from £29 to £40 per head, which is enormous, considering we have only seventy-eight thousand people, a large number of whom we cannot look upon as permanent settlers. I must say I should like to see both these railways built by private enterprise.

HON. MEMBERS: We have had enough of that.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: I do not mean land-grant railways, but I think we might give a company the necessary strip of land on which to construct the line, and stipulate as to the charges to be made, and reserve the right to resume the line after a reasonable number of years. The more we can throw on private enterprise the better for the country. Again, I should like to have seen these railways built as cheaply as possible commensurate with safety. I am told by those capable of giving an opinion that if built on a two-foot gauge they would carry all the traffic required and cost only half the money. Afterwards, when the fields were assuredly permanent, the broader gauge could be laid down. The

next important item in the Schedule is that of £200,000 for the Fremantle harbour works. I think it a great mistake that these works were ever undertaken, and if I could see any way of striking out the item I should do so, because these works will be a sink for money for many years to come. I do not begrudge a reasonable amount being spent at Fremantle, but I think the whole scheme too huge. If there was traffic for steamers they would come into almost any harbour. I do not think I can support the Donnybrook-Bridgetown railway at present, because I think there are works of far greater importance which should be undertaken first. As to the Coalfield line, I do not think we have sufficient information before us to warrant our passing it just now. When we get into committee I shall deal with each item in a broad spirit and in the interest of the colony as a whole, and I hope every other hon. member will do the same.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: I move that the question be now put.

Question put and passed.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Put and passed.

SCAB ACT—REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS brought up the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the working of the Scab Act, and moved that it be received.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at twenty minutes to eleven o'clock, p.m. adjourned until Thursday, 4th October, at half-past four o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 3rd October, 1894.

Petition of John Sutherland—Yilgarn Railway revenue and freight rates—Increase of Salaries of Judges of the Supreme Court—Cost of upkeep of the Governor's Establishment—Closure of Street in Busselton Bill: third reading—Roads Act Amendment Bill: in committee—Droving Bill: consideration of Committee's report—Estimates, 1894-5: further considered in committee—Message from the Legislative Council: Removal of Colonial Prisoners Bill—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

PETITION OF JOHN SUTHERLAND.

MR. ILLINGWORTH presented a petition from John Sutherland, praying that the House would set aside the decisions of the Warden of the Murchison goldfields, in respect of certain mining matters in which he (Sutherland) was concerned.

Petition received and read.

MR. ILLINGWORTH moved that the petition be printed.

MR. SIMPSON: I am one of the last in this House to object, at any time, to a petition being received or printed; I think it is the duty of this House at all times to listen to the grievances of every man who has a legitimate cause for appealing to Parliament for redress; but, in this case, I have an intimate knowledge of the present petitioner's doings, in connection with mining, for some years past. He is commonly known on the goldfields as the "Duke of Sutherland"; and I can say, from my own personal knowledge of him extending over three years, that he has done no work on the Murchison goldfield, where he has been during that time. I would be sorry in any way to interfere with the action of the hon. member who presented this petition on behalf of one of his constituents; but I am sure he will excuse me if I say I have a little more knowledge of this gentleman than the hon. member has. In addition to this petition, I believe the Commissioner of Crown Lands has received another petition from the same man, praying for the removal of the Warden. His connection with the goldmining industry has been one of continuous and incessant