

measure having come up from the other Chamber.

Motion put and passed, and the order discharged.

INSECT PESTS AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, in moving the second reading, said: This is a short Bill for the purpose of altering the title of the present "Secretary for Agriculture" to "Secretary to the Department of Agriculture." This is necessary in consequence of the change recently made in the department, which was previously only a *quasi* Government institution. It is now a Government department under the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and it is necessary that this Bill should be introduced. The Bill also extends the power to the Governor to appoint "any such other officer" as he may think fit.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

Passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 8.45 p.m. until the next day.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 12th September, 1899.

Papers presented—Question: Loans to Improve Suburban Blocks—Question: Purchase of Material through Agent General—Question: Railway Free Passes for Fire Brigades—Joint Committee, Commonwealth Bill, Extension of Time—Constitution Acts Amendment Bill, in Committee, Clauses 5 to 18, progress; Divisions (5)—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: 1, Correspondence as to delay of vessels at Fremantle harbour; 2, Drawback Regulations under Customs Consolidation Act.

Ordered to lie on the table.

QUESTION—LOANS TO IMPROVE SUBURBAN BLOCKS.

MR. WILSON asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands: 1, Whether loans were granted for the purposes of improvement to holders of suburban blocks; 2, If not, why not.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS replied: Yes.

QUESTION—PURCHASE OF MATERIAL THROUGH AGENT GENERAL.

MR. WILSON asked the Premier: Whether all goods purchased outside the colonies, on behalf of the Government, were ordered through the Agent General's office in London.

THE PREMIER replied that they were, with but very few small exceptions.

QUESTION—RAILWAY FREE PASSES FOR FIRE BRIGADES.

MR. HIGHAM, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier: Whether he intended to place on the Estimates a sufficient sum to defray the railway fares of the various fire brigades taking part in the annual competitions.

THE PREMIER replied: The Government does not consider it necessary to do so. The matter is governed by regulation, by which tickets at single fare for the double journey are allowed to clergymen and accredited delegates to conferences, etc., when the distance to be travelled is not less than 25 miles, on production of the certificate of the secretary of such conference. The concessions are only allowed when not less than six delegates are travelling to any conference. Any accredited delegate is allowed a ticket for his wife, if accompanying him, at the reduced rate.

JOINT COMMITTEE, COMMONWEALTH BILL—EXTENSION OF TIME.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir John Forrest) moved that the time for bringing up the report of the Joint Select Committee, appointed to inquire

into the effect of the Commonwealth Bill in Western Australia, be extended for one week. The Joint Committee had almost concluded their labours in regard to calling evidence, and would complete the taking of evidence to-morrow, and he felt sure they would be able to report to this House next Tuesday. While regretting to have to ask for this extension of time, the Joint Committee had been working almost continuously every moment of time they could spare. During the last week they worked five days out of six, doing the utmost they could manage to do, and they were still not able to finish the evidence in time to report to Parliament to-day. He fully believed that on Tuesday next they would be in a position to present their report to this House, and he promised the House that they would do their best to conclude their labours and present their report by the next Tuesday.

MR. LEAKE (Albany): Although he had thought it necessary to oppose an extension of time on the last occasion, still he would not oppose the present motion for extension, for there was only one more witness to examine, and he did not think it would be possible for the Joint Committee to prepare their report in time for presentation next Thursday, so that an extension to the following Tuesday would be reasonable and proper. He did not hesitate to say that if a further extension were asked for, he would not be inclined to support it.

Question put and passed.

CONSTITUTION ACT'S AMENDMENT BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Consideration resumed from 7th September, at Clause 5 (number of Legislative Council); Mr. Moran having moved that the word "thirty" be inserted in line 1 in lieu of "twenty-four," struck out.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The Committee had taken a grave and serious step, which required careful consideration. He did not know whether the Government had considered the position involved in the matter, but when the amendment was before the Committee the other evening, he called attention to the relative positions of the Houses of Parliament in the other colonies. In

New South Wales there are 69 members in the Council, and 125 in the Assembly; in Victoria, 48 in the Council and 96 in the Assembly; in Queensland, 42 in the Council and 54 in the Assembly. It was proposed to raise the number of the members of the Legislative Council in this country to 30. It was his intention to ask that the number of seats in the Assembly should not be increased beyond 44, but even with 48 members there was a large proportionate power given to the Legislative Council. It was a serious question for the House to consider, unless the Government were prepared to go further and increase the membership of the Assembly to something like the same proportion. It was unsafe to increase the number of members of the Legislative Council to 30, while the Legislative Assembly only consisted of 48. A new goldfields' electorate was necessary, but he would like to know what the intentions of the Government were in relation to the seats in the Assembly. Was it intended to increase the membership to something like the same proportion as the Legislative Council? It would be a grave and serious mistake for the Committee to raise the membership of the Council to so near the number of members of the Legislative Assembly.

THE PREMIER: For what reason.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The hon. member scarcely required to ask that question.

THE PREMIER said he would like to know.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The Lower House was supposed in all countries to have the controlling power over the Government of the nation.

THE PREMIER: Numbers would not affect that.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: They would, indeed.

THE PREMIER: But the hon. member voted for the amendment the other night.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The Government placed hon. members in a peculiar position. The number of members of the Assembly ought not to be increased beyond 44, and he had intended to move for a reduction of the number to 44. The Committee had asked that the three provinces in the South should be turned into two, and that three

other representatives should then be given to the goldfields. At the present time the Murchison goldfields' representatives were returned by Geraldton, and the coast, but the goldfields' people did not object to that so much, because the interests were much alike. There were only three goldfields' representatives in the Legislative Council, one of whom was away, therefore at the present time there were only two goldfields' representatives in the Upper House.

MR. A. FORREST: Two too many.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The goldfields' representatives, he hoped, would admire the hon. member's candid expression.

MR. A. FORREST: There should be no Upper House at all.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: That was another question altogether. When the number of members of the two Houses approached so near to one another it created a state of things which did not exist in any other colony.

THE PREMIER: Why did the hon. member vote for the amendment the other night then?

MR. ILLINGWORTH said he did not vote for that, he voted to strike out 24 in order to force the Government to consider the question of the advisability of amalgamating certain provinces in the south, and making two provinces, and then giving three more members to the goldfields. That was what he voted for, and spoke for, and what he contended for still. If it were the intention of the Government to increase the representation of the Assembly then his objection failed, and he would like to know what was the intention of the Government first before he went further.

THE PREMIER said he did not know that he had to be interrogated by the member for Central Murchison; still he would be glad to answer the question. The amendment the other evening was carried by a majority of one; the members who voted for the amendment consisting of 14 members who sat on the opposite benches, and five members on the Government side, who helped to defeat the Government on the amendment.

MR. GREGORY: The amendment was moved by a member from the Government side.

THE PREMIER was prepared to accept the decision arrived at, and to accept it in its entirety. It had been stated that there should be six new members, three for the Metropolitan division and three for the Eastern goldfields; that was the point of all the speeches made in that connection; and although it might have been possible for the Government to have reversed the decision, still the Government intended to loyally accept the decision. The Government proposed to accept that decision as an intimation of the desire of the Committee, and notices of certain amendments had been given, and were on the Notice Paper for carrying out that decision. There was nothing unconstitutional in having the number of members of the other House nearly approaching the number of members of this House. That did not give the members of the Upper House any more constitutional power than they possessed now: whether there were 24 or 44 members of the Council, they would still be members of the Council bound by the constitution. For his part he disliked very small Houses; it was a great disadvantage, and members in another place felt the disadvantage of a small House, as it gave too much power to one or two persons. It was almost impossible to carry on a system of government such as we had here, with very small Houses. The objection he had was on the score of expense. If this country decided to pay its members, then extra members meant more money. A larger number of members would make the Upper House better able to carry on their duties than as at present constituted of 24 members. He had no intention of asking the Committee to increase the number of members of the Lower House. He had been quite content to leave the Upper House as it was, with 24 members, but the member for Central Murchison, with the great influence he possessed, was able to defeat the Government the other evening by one vote.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: No; he spoke against it.

THE PREMIER: The hon. member voted the other way. If he had voted with the Government they would have been able to defeat the proposal. His first desire was to adhere to the Bill as placed before the House, but he did not say he would object to every proposal

that was made. There was no great principle as to whether this or the other House should be a little larger or a little smaller, and there would be no material difference so long as there was no payment, and certainly no constitutional question arose in regard to the addition of six members. His intention was to support the decision arrived at the other evening, and on the Notice Paper he had made provision accordingly; and he requested hon. members not to increase the number of members in the Lower House, but leave it as in the Bill.

Amendment put and passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 6.—Colony divided into eight Electoral Provinces, each returning three members:

THE PREMIER moved that in line 1 the word "eight" be struck out, and "ten" inserted in lieu thereof.

Amendment put and passed.

THE PREMIER further moved that in the second line the words "twenty-four" be struck out and "thirty" inserted in lieu thereof.

Amendment put and passed.

THE PREMIER further moved that the word "Moore" be struck out of the definition of Central Province. It was inserted inadvertently, as it had never been in the Central Province, and the amendment would leave it as before.

Amendment put and passed.

THE PREMIER further moved that the word "Guildford" be struck out of the definition of East Province, and "Moore" inserted in lieu thereof. In regard to the Moore district, the amendment would place it as it had always been. In regard to Guildford and the re-arrangement necessary consequent on the decision come to on Thursday last, it was proposed to include Guildford in a new electorate, to be called the Metropolitan Suburban Electoral Province, which would comprise Claremont, Guildford, South Perth, and Subiaco electoral districts. The intention was that there should be three members for the Legislative Council to represent Perth, comprising the municipality with the addition of that part of North Perth which had been built over, to be one electorate; and the Metropolitan Suburban Province would be another electorate, comprising all the districts

surrounding the city, including Claremont, Subiaco, Guildford, and South Perth; so that the Metropolitan electorate would be in the centre of the suburban districts all round. This was about the best re-arrangement we could make, and he believed it would be satisfactory to those concerned. To cut up Perth by giving half of it to one side of the country and the other half to the other side of the country would not be nearly so satisfactory, for the purposes of representation, as giving the whole of Perth to a province, and the whole of the metropolitan districts outside of Perth to another province. Such a method of treating the representation of a large city was not unusual in other parts of the world, and it was the best suggestion he could make, though he was not wedded to it. He had carefully looked into it, and he asked hon. members to accept it. He asked the House now to allow "Guildford" to be struck out of the East Province, and to allow "Moore" to be inserted in lieu of it. The East Province would thus comprise Beverley, Moore, Swan, York, Northam, and Toodyay electoral districts, all having the same general agricultural interest; while the viticultural and horticultural interest would be the one general interest represented in the new Suburban Province. It was always undesirable to have a district divided in such a way that the votes of the electors were almost nullified by one portion of the district having a certain kind of interest different from that of another portion of the same electoral district, both parts being dissatisfied with such an arrangement; and his desire was to keep the interests the same throughout the whole of each electorate.

Amendment put and passed.

THE PREMIER further moved that all words after "comprising," in line 1 of the definition of Metropolitan Province, be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu thereof:—"Perth, North Perth, South Perth, and West Perth electoral districts."

Amendment put and passed.

THE PREMIER further moved that after "Metropolitan Province" there be inserted the following new definition:—"Metropolitan Suburban Electoral Province, comprising Claremont, Guildford, South Perth, and Subiaco electoral dis-

tricts." The reasons for this new province had been already stated.

Amendment put and passed.

THE PREMIER further moved that in the definition of North Province, "DeGrey" be struck out, and "Pilbarra" inserted in lieu thereof. It had been pointed out that Pilbarra was associated with an important goldfield, and had more significance than the older name of DeGrey, and he was glad to fall in with the suggestion, after giving it some consideration.

Amendment put and passed.

THE PREMIER further moved that in the definition of North-East Province, after the word "comprising," in line 1, the remaining words be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu thereof:—"Boulder, Hannans, Kalgoorlie, Kanowna, Mount Margaret, and Menzies electoral districts." This proposal was made with a view to carrying out the decision arrived at by this House the other evening. He had given this matter a good deal of thought since then, and the question which had to be decided was, what provision should be made for the Eastern goldfields electoral districts. Various possible solutions of the difficulty had presented themselves, and had received consideration. One was to have included Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie (the two Coolgardies in the present Bill and the three Kalgoorlies) in one Central Province, surrounded by Yilgarn, Dundas, North-East Coolgardie (called Kanowna in the Bill), Menzies, and Mount Margaret. But on consideration, and influenced by the knowledge that Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie had for some time been vying with one another for supremacy, and were to some extent not always in accord, it had appeared to him that the same principle which had actuated him in trying to include one interest only in one electorate should also decide this question, and he had therefore determined that to divide these two important places, making each the head-centre of its own provincial electorate, would perhaps give more satisfaction to the electors. By so doing, however, the northern part of the district would have a larger population than the southern, south-eastern, and south-western parts. Yilgarn, the two Coolgardies, and Dundas had not at present so large a population as the three Kal-

goorlies, Kanowna, Menzies, and Mount Margaret; but Parliament had been unable, all through, to divide provinces on the basis of population only; and, therefore, if hon. members carried out the arrangement he proposed, they would not be doing anything they had not done before, and that division would probably give more satisfaction than any other to the people in those districts. Yilgarn, Mount Burges, Coolgardie, and Dundas would then be in one electorate, and Kalgoorlie, Boulder, Hannans, Kanowna, Menzies, and Mt. Margaret in another. There would be, in fact, the Northern and the Southern provinces, which arrangement he hoped would be more satisfactory than the one he had first thought of—the amalgamation of the Kalgoorlies and Coolgardies, leaving the other districts to be a kind of outside or suburban electoral province. Not having had an opportunity of speaking to many hon. members on this subject, he would not be indisposed to receive suggestions with regard to it; therefore, if any hon. member could propose a better distribution of the electorates for the Assembly into provinces, he would be glad to consider the matter. It must be remembered that, according to the plan pursued in the past, and under the Electoral Bill which had recently passed through the House, it was not permissible to divide an electoral district into two in forming a province, for a province must consist of a certain number of electoral districts, which was a very good provision, because the electoral rolls were made up for the districts, and were thus available for the provinces; therefore, it would be altogether impossible, or at least very awkward, to divide the electoral districts in forming a province. A group of complete districts must be amalgamated to form a province; and that being so, he could suggest no better plan, after several days' careful consideration, than that he had proposed on the Notice Paper.

Amendment put and passed.

THE PREMIER further moved that after the definition of North-East Province there be inserted the following new definition:—"South Province, comprising Mount Burges, Coolgardie, Dundas and Yilgarn electoral districts." Hon. members might express surprise and dissent from the name of the province; but,

in naming provinces, the endeavour had been to keep to the points of the compass, although that had not been always done successfully owing to the extension of settlement. However, the names of these provinces were not of importance, because members of the Legislative Council were not referred to in that House by the names of their provinces, but by their own names. Recently he had thought of re-arranging the names of provinces. The district known as the South Province would be more properly named the South-East; and the existing South-East Province, taking in Albany, would be more properly called the South Province, seeing that it was the most southerly electorate in the colony. Looking at the Constitution Act, however, and the phraseology of some of the clauses of the Bill, it had appeared that some of those clauses would have to be re-drafted, thus causing trouble, and perhaps not giving complete satisfaction to members of another place who had been accustomed to call themselves as members for certain provinces. He had therefore determined to leave the names of the provinces unaltered and to create a new province, for which he could find no better name among the points of the compass than "South." It certainly was the South Province, though it was a good deal to the eastward as well. The name could not be said to be altogether inappropriate, and therefore he moved the amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

MR. LEAKE moved that the definition of "South-West Province, comprising Bunbury, Murray, Nelson, Sussex, and Wellington electoral districts," be struck out. It was desirable that hon. members should have an opportunity of considering the suggestion he had made the other evening to amalgamate the South-East and South-West Provinces, allowing the membership of the Upper House to remain unaltered in point of numbers. If the amendment were carried, the East, South-West, and South-East Provinces could be divided into two Provinces, thus giving six representatives to the agricultural districts, and transferring to the goldfields the three taken away from that group. The goldfields would thus have the same representation as had been given them by the previous amendment (Mr. Moran's) but without increasing

the number of members in the Legislative Council.

THE PREMIER: But the hon. member had voted to increase that number.

MR. LEAKE said his doing so had been a means to an end; for if that amendment (Mr. Moran's) had not been carried, the present amendment would have had no chance. To increase the number of members in either House was at present undesirable, in view of the possibility of federation at an early date. By taking three representatives from agricultural districts and giving them to the goldfields, the Committee would not be acting unfairly, for the agriculturists would still be left with ample representation. He asked for the amendment the favourable consideration of the Committee.

MR. MONGER: The Committee had considered it already, and would strike it out.

THE PREMIER: Surely the hon. member could not be in earnest in proposing that the Swan, the Moore, Toodyay, Northam, York, Williams, Plantagenet, Albany, Sussex, Nelson, Bunbury, Wellington, and Murray, which now returned nine members, should in future return six? The hon. member must know little about those 13 districts, or he would not desire to do this thing.

MR. GEORGE: Hear, hear.

THE PREMIER: They were the old-established parts of the country; they were the parts where a large population existed now, a population not far short of 40,000. It was an old-settled population, for the most part people who had been there for a great number of years, making their living on the lands of the colony, and he could not understand why the hon. member wished to disfranchise these old settlers, who were wedded to the soil, and who had been living there, they and those before them, for two or three generations. The hon. member wished to take the franchise from these people and give it to others who had only been in the colony a short time.

MR. GEORGE: The hon. member was going for the most votes.

THE PREMIER said he was not afraid of speaking his mind to the hon. member, or anyone else. These old districts should have representation; the people

living there were patriots to the backbone, and were wedded to the soil of Western Australia. They had made their homes there, and never intended to leave. They were not birds of passage, but they and those before them had been here for generations. If the hon. member (Mr. Leake) wished to disfranchise them and give the votes to persons who had been here for twelve months only, then the hon. member might believe he was acting as a patriotic son of Western Australia! He (the Premier) could not support the hon. member.

MR. GREGORY: The object of the amendment carried the other evening was not to increase the membership of the Upper House.

THE PREMIER: Why was that not stated then?

MR. GREGORY: It was stated; he had said so. He wished to see three provinces merged into two, and then to give three extra members to the goldfields. He did not want to see the membership of the Council increased beyond 24. On the basis of population the goldfields were entitled to extra representation, but as the Committee had agreed that there should be ten provinces now instead of eight, he hoped this amendment would not be pressed to a division, but that the districts as decided on would be allowed to remain.

MR. QUINLAN hoped the Committee would not agree to the amendment of the member for Albany. The other evening the hon. member was in favour of increasing the number of members of the Legislative Council by six, and now he proposed to reduce the number of members of the Legislative Council. As representing the agricultural interests he modestly entered his protest against the proposal. Those who had lived the best part of their lives in this colony, who had made the colony what it was to-day, should not be deprived of their representation, and that representation given to those who scarcely knew what the colony was, or what the colony possessed. It was about time we heard less of the goldfields districts.

MR. JAMES: The constant references to the want of patriotism by a large majority of people who did not happen to live in the agricultural districts, were not necessary. There were as good people

on the goldfields, no doubt, as down the South, or in Perth, and it was undesirable that these references should be made, as they tended to accentuate differences. He hoped the hon. member for Albany (Mr. Leake) would not press his amendment, as increased representation had now been given to the goldfields. Some members thought that we could not interfere wisely or fairly with the existing provinces, and the only way to get over the difficulty was by creating two new provinces. Having obtained their object in that way, an amendment had now been moved to strike out one of the old provinces. It would be unfair to those who voted for the previous amendment to now carry this amendment as two new provinces were to be added.

MR. LEAKE said he would like to remove from a mind, which was already full of false impressions, one false impression, that he in no way desired to disfranchise any portion of the community. The Premier had taken rather an exaggerated view of the situation.

THE PREMIER: Misrepresentation would probably have been a better word.

MR. LEAKE: All he wished to do was to give six representatives to one particular section of the community which had nine now. There was not much in the argument that the agricultural settlers were old and had enjoyed certain privileges for a long time; some people got too old to enjoy anything. As his amendment was suggested in the interests of the goldfields members, and with the idea of testing the feelings expressed the other evening, and as certain representatives of the goldfields who voted the other evening did not desire his amendment now to be pressed, he would ask leave to withdraw it; with the increase to 30 members it was nearly as good as the position he argued for.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SOLOMON: With regard to the West Province, that comprised what was called "Canning." In relation to other parts of the colony, principally Fremantle, the Canning comprised a part of the Fremantle municipality, and was therefore a misnomer. He moved that the word "Canning" be struck out and "Clarence" inserted in lieu thereof. The largest portion of the people in what was

called "Canning" were at the smelting works (Fremantle) and on the south side of the Fremantle municipality.

THE PREMIER regretted he could not meet the sentimental view of the member for South Fremantle, in associating this district with the old-established place, the Clarence, where the first settlers of the colony landed in 1829, or a considerable number of them. We had all seen the graves on the top of the hill there. That was the only distinguishing mark, besides the ruins of the limestone walls which Mr. Peel and a number of immigrants erected there. No doubt the Clarence had some very sad associations connected with it, very sad indeed, but he did not think there was anything very pleasurable connected with the township, anything to influence us in naming an important electorate after it. Although the Government proposed to divide the Canning district, still it seemed to him there was no good reason for expunging the name from the list of electoral districts. We should still have, for some time yet, the member for the Canning. The Bill provided that the Canning should still retain its name, and unless some good reason were shown we should try and adhere to the old names. An instance might be given by the member for Central Murchison, in reference to Nannine being expunged in favour of Central Murchison or North Murchison. As to the proposal to alter the name of the Canning electorate and substitute the name of Clarence, it should be remembered that the Canning electorate would retain a large portion of the electorate as re-arranged in the Bill; that the portion of the Canning so retained was an important part, containing a large number of settlers; and the name of "Canning" was adopted originally after a distinguished politician in the old country. He would confess that the first name which occurred to him for the electorate as re-arranged was "Rockingham," and that was certainly better known and more heard of than Clarence. Many members of this House could not tell where Clarence was, although some of the older inhabitants of this part of the country knew it. He could not support the amendment.

MR. HIGHAM: The name of the electorate should be altered, because the

name was not applicable to the new electorate.

THE PREMIER: The new electorate would be bounded on the north by the Canning river. Perhaps "Jandakot" might suit the hon. member.

MR. HIGHAM: If "Clarence" were considered not to be suitable, then "Chesterfield" would be an appropriate name. There would not be 50 electors of the present Canning district who would remain within the boundary of the new electorate, and therefore the name of "Canning" was not appropriate. The new electorate included a large portion of South Fremantle townsites, also of the settlers about Jandakot and other parts, including Rockingham; and it took in only a small proportion of those who constituted the present Canning electorate. He had suggested the name of "Chesterfield" because it was a section of south suburban Fremantle.

MR. WILSON: Some members wished to take away the respectable name of the electorate he had represented in this House for some years. Although he had no personal objection to the new name suggested, he believed his electors would not welcome a change. As to not more than 50 of the present electors being included in the new electorate, there would be Kelmscott, which was a thriving centre, also Armadale, and further south would be a portion of the Murray district to be added to the new electorate. He did not think a better name than "Canning" could be found for the new electorate; and although he might not represent the Canning in the new Parliament, he hoped to represent some portion of his old district in the new Parliament, and he desired now to conserve the old name.

MR. GEORGE: The name of "Canning" should be continued to the new electorate as being most suitable. As to the number of the present electors to be included in the new electorate, he must say Parliament was practically legislating in the dark, because the rolls as prepared at present were misleading, and instead of there being 600 electors in the Murray district, as the present rolls appeared to show, he ought to be representing nearly 2,000, if all persons entitled to be on the roll were there on it, as they ought to be. If female voters were to be added, there might be 1,000 more. The same dis-

parity between the number on the roll at present and the number who ought to be there would be found in the Wellington district, where there would be nearer 3,000 persons who had a right to vote, instead of the small number on the roll at present. The Government ought to have taken legitimate means to get a full roll, so that Parliament might have had the proper information before it in dealing with this Bill. He believed a larger proportion of persons entitled to vote were registered on the goldfields than the number registered on the coast, because the men on the goldfields had been taught the value of representation before they came to this colony, whereas in the coastal districts many of the people were apathetic, and if difficulties were thrown in their way they did not take the necessary trouble to get enrolled. There should be adopted in this colony the system used in the Eastern colonies, by which the police force collected the number of voters and assisted in the compilation of electoral rolls; and although he did not say they should rely entirely on the police, still—

MR. HIGHAM rose, for the second time, to ask whether the member was in order in discussing the question of compiling electoral rolls.

THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. member had proceeded far enough on that.

MR. GEORGE: In conclusion, he supported the retention of the name "Canning," if only on the ground of sentiment.

MR. DOHERTY: In dealing with nomenclature, the Government should consider euphony. "Chesterfield" was more euphonic than "Canning." It was time hon. members ceased to bring down the tone of debate in the House to the level of the Perth City Council. The hon. member (Mr. George) was a past-master in that style of discussion, and it was a pity he had not left his iron jaws behind him when he vacated his seat on that body.

MR. GEORGE: The hon. member attempted to be funny, but barely succeeded in being insulting. He would call the hon. member a "cad," were it not that he would have to withdraw the expression.

MR. HIGHAM: Of whom would the new electorate be constituted? Of those

residing in the original South Fremantle electorates, in the district by the sea road as far as the smelting works, which district included a large majority of the electors. Outside that was a small farming population at Coojee and Jandakot, and a fairly large portion of the employees of the Jarrahdale Timber Company at Rockingham. There would not be more than 50 electors out of the old Canning electorate. The electorate was practically a Fremantle district, and the Fremantle members objected to its being called "Canning." Their wishes should be studied in changing the name; and while none of them were wedded to the old name "Clarence," they were prepared to accept "Chesterfield"; but they objected to "Canning."

MR. CONNOR: As a compromise, call the electorate "Rockingham."

Amendment (Mr. Solomon's) put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	9
Noes	...	...	...	18

Majority against ... 9

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Connor	Sir John Forrest
Mr. Doherty	Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. Holmes	Mr. George
Mr. Illingworth	Mr. Gregory
Mr. James	Mr. Hassell
Mr. Kingsmill	Mr. Hooley
Mr. Locke	Mr. Hubble
Mr. Solomon	Mr. Lefroy
Mr. Higham (Teller).	Mr. Pennefather
	Mr. Phillips
	Mr. Plesse
	Mr. Quinlan
	Mr. Rason
	Mr. Sholl
	Hon. H. W. Venn
	Mr. Wallace
	Mr. Wood
	Mr. Wilson (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived, and the clause as previously amended agreed to.

Clause 7—Qualification of members of Legislative Council:

THE PREMIER moved that the words "subject as hereinafter provided" be inserted at the beginning of the clause, and that in line 2 the words "capable of being" be struck out and "qualified to be" inserted in lieu thereof.

Amendments put and passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 8—Members to retire periodically:

THE PREMIER moved that all words after "1900" be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu thereof:—"And

the member who in turn becomes the senior member shall retire two years after the day when the previous senior member was hereby required to retire, and so on with every member who subsequently in turn becomes senior member. In the case of the first members for the South Province and the Metropolitan Suburban Province, the member who polls the lowest number of votes shall vacate his seat on the twenty-first day of May, 1902, and the member who polls the next lowest number of votes shall vacate his seat on the twenty-first day of May, 1904, and the third member shall vacate his seat on the twenty-first day of May, 1906." There had been some trouble in inserting this proviso. The intention was that every member of the Upper House should retire in the year 1900, and that after that year every new member, one member for each electorate, should retire every two years, following out the plan pursued ever since there had been a Legislative Council.

Amendment put and passed.

MR. LEAKE: It might require a new clause in the Electoral Bill, dealing with "plumping."

THE PREMIER: In the first election for a new province there was nothing in the Electoral Bill to prevent plumping, but after that election only one member would be elected at a time; therefore, the elector would only have the opportunity of voting for one candidate. He further moved that in Sub-clause 3, line 7, the words "seniority shall be determined by" be struck out, and "order of retiring shall be according to" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Amendment put and passed.

THE PREMIER further moved that in line 8, the word "Christian" be struck out, and "other" inserted in lieu thereof; that in Sub-clause 4, line 1, the words "of the Legislative Council" be struck out; that in line 2, after "province," the words "or, in the case of the first members for a new province, the seat of a retiring member," be inserted.

Amendments put and passed, and the clauses as amended agreed to.

Clause 9—agreed to.

Clause 10—Tenure of seat by member filling vacancy:

THE PREMIER moved that the words "Subject to Section 8 of this Act" be inserted at the beginning of the clause.

Amendment put and passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 11 and 12—agreed to.

Clause 13—Qualification of electors:

MR. JAMES: According to the Electoral Bill, provision was made by which electors on the existing roll might be transferred to the roll for a new district. The effect of that would be, in the case of a new electorate, say for instance, South Perth, that if the election were to take place before six months had expired after the roll had been formed, no one would be entitled to vote. The difficulty would not arise in connection with the existing districts, but it might arise in the case of the formation of a new electorate. How could a person have been registered for six months?

THE PREMIER: Did not Clause 44 provide all that was needed?

MR. JAMES: No; it did not. If an election took place say four months after the South Perth roll had been formed, the electors would not have been registered for six months.

THE PREMIER: Then they would not be able to vote.

MR. JAMES: In the case of an elector being transferred from one roll to another the claims were ante-dated.

MR. EWING: A person only had to be on some roll for six months.

MR. JAMES: That was not it. No one would have been registered on the South Perth roll for six months.

THE PREMIER said he would look into the matter, and see if he could not amend Clause 44, to get over the difficulty.

At 6:30, the CHAIRMAN left the chair.

At 7:30, Chair resumed.

MR. GREGORY: Would there be any chance of getting the qualification reduced somewhat, so as to make the Upper House more popular by enabling more voters to take part in elections. No one could vote on a lower qualification than an annual value of £25, according to the clause.

THE PREMIER: That was the same as in South Australia and Queensland.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: In Victoria the qualification was £10.

MR. GREGORY moved that in Sub-clause 2 the word "twenty-five" be

struck out and "ten" inserted in lieu thereof.

THE PREMIER: The amendment was not desirable, for not only had this been the law in the colony for a long time, but it was the same qualification as in South Australia and Queensland.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: In South Australia, the last election was carried in favour of reducing the electoral franchise for the Upper House.

THE PREMIER: That change had not been made yet.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The Assembly had passed it.

THE PREMIER: The Legislative Council in South Australia had not passed it, and he did not think the Council would pass it. Any person who owned or occupied any land or building of the annual value of 10s. a week rental was entitled to vote in elections for the Upper House, and a voter could not occupy much of a house if it was not worth 10s. a week.

Amendment put and negatived.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: No provision appeared in the Bill in regard to a company consisting of a number of persons, who might all claim to be electors by reason of the value of their joint qualification. There had been trouble on that point in Victoria, as in the case of the Melbourne Club, when 220 members claimed to be put on the roll by virtue of their club membership, and for some time they were put on and exercised their vote. The Attorney General would remember that, and he would understand the point. Did this clause sufficiently provide against that?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said it did.

MR. ILLINGWORTH moved that in paragraph b of Sub-clause (6), the words "within a province" be struck out. The amendment would abolish plural voting. He hoped the Government would see their way to come into line with the whole of Australia by granting "one man one vote." Why should a man have one vote for his manhood and other votes for his property?

THE PREMIER: The hon. member had exercised the plural vote in Victoria for many a year.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: It was necessary to do so in order to secure reform. A man might have property in several

electorates, and could vote in every one. Why should he?

MR. A. FORREST: Why should he not?

THE PREMIER: Plural voting had been the rule in Australia for 50 years.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: But not now. The Commonwealth Bill had established the principle of "one man one vote," and now that we were amending our Constitution, this was surely a fitting opportunity for introducing this reform. There was a strong public feeling on the question.

THE PREMIER: Among people with only one vote.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The feeling was still stronger among those who had no votes at all.

THE PREMIER: The force of example was astonishing. The hon. member had sat in the Victorian Legislature for a year or two, where the system of voting had been the same as here, yet one had never heard of his having moved in that House to alter the law.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: There had been no opportunity.

THE PREMIER: An opportunity could always be made. But so soon as the hon. member came to this colony, he desired that we should be ahead of all the others in liberal legislation. It was said that a change of countries did not change one's mind.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: That depended on the country.

THE PREMIER: The hon. member, who in Victoria was a Conservative and a protectionist, when he came to this colony—

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Was still a protectionist.

THE PREMIER: Seemed to become a great Liberal.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said he had always been a Liberal.

THE PREMIER said he had never heard that the hon. member had been a Liberal in Victoria. And the hon. member also posed in this colony as a free-trader.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: No; he had always been a protectionist.

THE PREMIER: The hon. member had never supported any legislation in this colony which savoured of protection. For some 50 years the other colonies had enjoyed self-government, yet it was only

recently that the colony of Victoria was making its constitution more liberal than that of this colony. True, the trend of Australasian legislation was towards "one man one vote," but why should we imitate everything done elsewhere? A law that worked well elsewhere might fairly be expected to work well here; but in Queensland, which had probably more than treble the population of this colony, the last Governor's speech a few days ago stated that the Government intended to retain the present system of voting, which was identical with our own. No doubt pure manhood suffrage would come, but in matters of this sort it was necessary to "hasten slowly." There was much to be said on both sides. The arguments he could use would have little effect upon those who did not admit that the possession of capital or property should confer any political privilege, and who thought it only necessary that a man should be alive in order to prosper and be happy, and help to build up a great country. He was not prepared to go so far as to say that. The possession of property was an indication that a man had some sense, and some brains.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: And it gave a man power to tyrannise over his fellows.

THE PREMIER: Yes; but did it not also give him power to assist his fellows? From the hon. member's remark, one would think that the principal use of property was the power it gave the owner to be a tyrant. But there was quite as much generosity and kindness in the minds and hearts of men with a little property as could be found among those who had nothing.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Very often a good deal more.

THE PREMIER: Quite true. Very often those supposed to be the richest were probably not rich at all, for they might have great obligations. Take the capitalistic squatter, the bloated squatter, as he was called—say in the North-West, who had a large, well-stocked station. Probably that man had greater responsibilities, and actually more anxiety, than the man who had nothing. He was indebted, perhaps, to financial institutions, and was nearly worried out of his life, although he appeared rich. By the amendment such a man would be unable to vote in respect

of his property, either in his own interests or in the interests of his creditors, though other people in the neighbourhood of that property, having perhaps no such obligations, could vote for a member for the district.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The squatter would have one vote.

THE PREMIER: Whoever promulgated a theory of this kind a hundred years ago would have been looked on as a man without sense. However, people were advancing intellectually and otherwise.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Just so.

THE PREMIER: And now the desire seemed to be to give to the men who possessed nothing power to tax those who had something. That was a curious theory, that the power of the person having some property must be minimised as far as possible. Of course there was another side to the picture, for the property holders could influence the votes of other people; but there was no necessity to imitate Victoria at the present time. That colony was only adopting the principle after 50 years of self-government, and we, who had only had our own Parliament for nine years, might well wait a little. This Legislature had gone ahead pretty quickly in the matter of advanced legislation, and we were nearly in line with the most democratic colony in Australasia.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Why not go all the way?

THE PREMIER: Not just now. The hon. member must surely acknowledge that there was reason for his (the Premier's) remarks. He hoped the amendment would not be pressed.

MR. GREGORY: The next clause (14) actually provided that owners of premises jointly held on lease or otherwise should each have a vote in respect to those premises. If such plural voting were allowed, a limited company could take up 300 acres on the goldfields, and put the names of 30 shareholders on the roll in respect of that property. The large firms holding station property could do the same for their shareholders, and by the aid of perhaps 300 or 400 votes, could become masters of the district in electoral matters.

MR. HIGHAM: Why take exceptional cases?

MR. GREGORY: The cases were not exceptional. Mr. G. W. Hall had taken up 300 acres recently.

MR. A. FORREST: But 30 votes would not be given in respect of that land.

MR. GREGORY: The names of 30 shareholders might be placed on the roll.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: So with the Weld Club.

MR. GREGORY: The Government had been careful to provide in Clause 13 in the qualifications, that anyone seeking to vote for the Upper House on account of his name being on the electoral list of a municipality must have property of the annual ratable value of at least £25; whereas a leaseholder of Crown lands could be placed on the roll if his rental were not less than £10 per annum. He hoped dual voting would be abolished, if not for the provinces, for the Lower House. The Upper House was elected on a property qualification, therefore a man of property had two votes, one as a residential vote, and one for his property. In the Victorian Parliament this question had been fought for years, and now it was admitted there that by the abolition of dual voting nothing much was lost.

MR. A. FORREST could not agree that absentee voting was made easy. There was a lot of trouble in connection with it, and people would not go to the trouble. Surely if a man had property in one part of the colony where he employed a large amount of labour, that man should have some say in the representation of that part of the country? If a man found money for the carrying on of a pastoral property, that man should have a vote to say who should represent that portion of the country. If a man spent £20,000 or £30,000 in assisting to develop the town of Kalgoorlie, that man had the right to say whether a certain candidate who put up for Parliament to represent that place was a suitable person to return. If Parliament was going to give every man of the age of 21 years a vote, that would give people of property an opportunity of considering their position.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The Commonwealth had passed it.

MR. A. FORREST said he did not believe in the Commonwealth Bill, and the sooner we got rid of that Bill the better. When the hon. member came to this country he was a great protectionist, but

we had never heard him say one word in favour of protection in this country. In Victoria the hon. member did not want one man one vote, but he wanted it here. There might be some argument in abolishing dual voting in the Lower House, but as to the Upper House there could be no argument. We did not want to have the two Houses returned on identically the same basis; if so, then there would not be much good in keeping two Houses going.

MR. LEAKE: The striking out of the words would not establish the principle of one man one vote. The amendment simply limited the clause to saying that no man should be entitled to more than one vote for one province. No one objected to that. If the hon. member desired to affirm the principle of one man one vote, that would have to be done by a substantive amendment later on, and if the member for Central Murchison, did aim a blow at plural voting, he (Mr. Leake) would support him. He did not see the fairness of allowing a man to have a vote for every province because that man had a little property in each province. He did not object to allowing a man one vote for his property and one for his manhood, but the elector must say where he would have the vote for his property, and he must have the vote for his manhood in the electorate where he resided. The hon. member for West Kimberley (Mr. A. Forrest) no doubt had a vote for Perth, where he resided, and a vote for every electorate and every province in the country. Several years ago he (Mr. Leake) had votes for several provinces and several electorates, but he did not believe in the principle; he did not think it was fair.

THE PREMIER: There was plural voting in England and elsewhere.

MR. LEAKE: True, they did things differently elsewhere. A Ministry went out when they were beaten in the other colonies, but they did not do it here.

THE PREMIER: Pass a similar vote here, and the hon. member would see the Government would do so here.

MR. LEAKE: We did not want to give too great a shock and bring in the one man one vote principle straight away; we wanted to work the change by degrees, therefore it was proposed to

give a man one vote for his residence and one for his property.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The Federal Bill, which had passed all the colonies except Western Australia, contained the principle of one man one vote for both Houses, and we stood on this side of the continent pleading for what all the other parts of Australia had granted. The voice of the people had been heard from one side of Australia to the other on this question, and that alone should be sufficient to show the members of this Committee the desirability of abolishing plural voting.

THE PREMIER: Plural voting had not been done away with in Queensland.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: It had. As the Bill stood, not only could one man in Perth vote for every province, but for every electorate in the colony, so that if we had 30 members in the Legislative Council and 40 members in the Assembly, one man could cast 78 votes at every general election.

THE PREMIER: A man would have to own a lot of property then. He did not think there was one man in the colony who could do it.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: There was. Were we legislating for so many acres of land, or so many houses? If so, let us establish the principle of giving a vote for every ten acres a man had, or every house a man had, and let property be represented. The trend of popular legislation was on the lines of allowing manhood to assert itself once at an election, and not to allow a man to have 30 votes. This state of things must come to an end, and his object in moving the amendment was to ask the Committee to come in line with what had been the decision in the Commonwealth Bill, and had been carried in all the other colonies except this.

THE PREMIER: The hon. member had put forward an exaggerated case. He might inform the hon. member this Bill had been the law, until a few days ago, in Victoria; this terrible thing, which the hon. member now denounced, existed in Victoria while the hon. member lived there, and the hon. member did not raise his voice then to put it down.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: We did.

THE PREMIER: It was the law in New South Wales for 30 or 40 years; it existed in Queensland at the present day, and in the mother country; therefore, it could not be such a terrible thing as the hon. member wished to make out. The hon. member was willing to allow this state of things to exist in regard to a municipality, but he wished to limit it in regard to parliamentary elections. Why was it that in municipal elections people, who owned property in two wards, were allowed to vote in each ward where he had the property? He did not know why the hon. member did not logically argue that that should not be so. He (the Premier) could never understand how it was that people who advocated the one man one vote principle in Parliament did not advocate it in regard to municipal elections. He had thought of that often, and he had never been able to see the difference. Some people could not stand by and say "boo" if a thing was popular. The member for North Coolgardie (Mr. Gregory) dared not for the life of him say anything to displease a single elector in his district. He (the Premier) had never heard that hon. member say a thing to displease an elector. Before the hon. member spoke he had to consider whether, if he spoke, he would please an elector at Menzies. He (the Premier) represented the whole colony, and he could not consider whether he was pleasing anybody or not. But the hon. member for North Coolgardie never said a thing without first considering whether he would displease a miner in his district. The same could be said with regard to the member for Central Murchison. He thought of the elector in Cue who held the votes in his hands. There was no one like the hon. member for Central Murchison who so liked to see how the cat jumped first. He did not say this in an unkind manner about the hon. member, because as a rule the hon. member had something reasonable to say.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The Premier never thought of Bunbury.

THE PREMIER: No, but of the whole colony and its electors. He hoped hon. members would not follow the member for Central Murchison in his plausible observations.

Amendment put, and negatived on the voices. A division being called for by

MR. ILLINGWORTH, it was taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	14
Noes	...	...	...	19
Majority against				5

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Doherty	Mr. Connor
Mr. Ewing	Sir John Forrest
Mr. George	Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Hall
Mr. Holmes	Mr. Hassell
Mr. James	Mr. Higham
Mr. Kingsmill	Mr. Hooley
Mr. Leake	Mr. Hubble
Mr. Oats	Mr. Lefroy
Mr. Solomon	Mr. Locke
Mr. Wallace	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Wilson	Mr. Pennefather
Mr. Wood	Mr. Phillips
Mr. Illingworth (Teller).	Mr. Piesse
	Mr. Sholl
	Sir J. G. Lee Steere
	Mr. Throssell
	Hon. H. W. Venn
	Mr. Quinlan (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived, and the clause put and passed.

Clause 14—When joint owners and occupiers shall be entitled to be registered:

MR. GREGORY said he intended to move to add a proviso that not more than three persons be entitled to vote for one property or lease.

THE PREMIER said he had no objection to that.

MR. A. FORREST suggested that four would be a more suitable limit, as he knew many large station properties owned by four persons representing very large interests, and if the four persons were entitled to vote for the property, that arrangement would be satisfactory.

MR. GREGORY accepted the suggestion, and moved as an amendment, in line 4, that after the word "licensees" there be inserted "not exceeding four."

Amendment put and passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 15—Disqualifications:

MR. LEAKE pointed out a grammatical error, if not an error of sense, in the clause.

THE PREMIER, acting on the hon. member's remarks, moved that in Sub-clause (2), line 3, the word "have" be altered to "has not;" also that the words "or a pardon conditional on not leaving the colony," at the end of the sub-clause, be struck out.

Amendments put and passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 16—Legislative Assembly to consist of 48 members:

MR. A. FORREST suggested that the number of members to be elected for the

Assembly should be left blank, to be filled in later, as several members had amendments to propose.

MR. LEAKE: The chief object of the Bill was to give increased representation to the goldfields, and that could be done by taking away certain members from existing districts where the electors were few, and giving those members to goldfields electorates. It was desirable to give this increased representation without increasing the total number of members to be elected. The tendency in other colonies was to reduce rather than increase the number of representatives in Parliament. He moved that the words "forty-eight" be struck out, with a view to inserting "forty-four."

SIR JAS. G. LEE STEERE moved, as an amendment on the amendment, that the word "fifty" be inserted in lieu of "forty-four." Even apart from the consideration that the number of members in the Upper House had been increased, there were some new districts which ought to have representation in the Assembly. It would be inadvisable for that purpose to disfranchise any of the districts mentioned in the Bill; and, therefore, while discussing this clause, the Committee ought to decide on the number of members of which the Assembly should consist. By making that number 50, instead of 44 or 48, the relative proportion between the membership of the Upper and of the Lower Houses would be exactly the same as at present, namely, six more members to the Lower House and the same number to the Upper. He had been requested by his constituents to propose that a member be given to the South-West mining districts, which was a very proper suggestion, seeing that it was impossible that one member could represent the interests both of agriculturists and miners. The truth of that statement was admitted, not only by the electors, but doubtless by every hon. member who had endeavoured to represent those conflicting interests. Not only to-night, but on Thursday last, he had heard several arguments on this question as it affected the provinces. Some hon. members wished to so redistribute the provinces that these would contain partly agricultural and partly mining electors; but the effect of the debate showed all along the line that it

was most unwise to amalgamate two industries having diverse interests. He therefore proposed this amendment on the amendment, substituting 50 members for 44; and in the next clause he intended to move that the South-West mining districts, namely Greenbushes, Donnybrook, and the Collie, should constitute a separate electorate, and should return a member of Parliament. Hon. members might think it strange that those places, which were not contiguous, should be joined together in one electorate; but such an amalgamation was not unusual in the United Kingdom, the Representation of the People Act admitting of similar combinations. In Wales there were eleven boroughs which had towns joined on to them for electoral purposes, many of which towns were 30 miles distant from their respective boroughs; and that was done for the purpose of preserving a community of interest between the different electors. It was thought advisable in England that those towns should not be placed in agricultural constituencies, and therefore they were grouped together for electoral purposes, and linked to a certain borough. The same could be done here by enacting that the three mining districts he had named, having boundaries as described, say, in the Mines Office, should form one electorate.

THE PREMIER said he was in a dilemma. Forty-eight members were quite enough for the Assembly; and while agreeing with the Speaker as to the inconvenience of having antagonistic interests mixed up in one electorate, altogether nullifying the effect of the votes, still it was difficult to admit that Greenbushes and the Collie at present deserved separate representation, for those places had hardly been long enough in existence to enable one to judge how long they would remain. Doubtless they would endure for a considerable period. The Colliefields were prospering, and Greenbushes would continue to prosper if the price of tin kept up; but, before making those places one electorate, more consideration would be required than could at present be given. There was also a demand for another member for Kimberley.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: And another for Bulong.

MR. GREGORY: And another for North-East Coolgardie.

THE PREMIER: Regarding North-East Coolgardie, he had sent a telegram to the warden (Mr. Troy) asking what that officer considered to be the number of voters at present in the district, and the reply was that there were probably in the district about one-half the number now on the electoral roll. That statement showed how difficult it was to judge of the requirements of an electorate. There were 3,368 voters some time ago on that roll, and now apparently half had gone somewhere else. Surely it was not the duty of Parliament to run after people who were here to-day and gone in a few weeks, and to provide them with a separate representation. Representation should be given to settled populations. There were numerous instances of places once largely populated which now contained but few inhabitants. Kurnalpi at one time had a population of 2,000; Widgiemooltha had at one time at least 1,000; Redhill and Siberia had a great many more than at present; Black Flag at one time had certainly 1,000 people, but there could hardly be more than 100 there now. At Broad Arrow there had been at one time about 2,000.

MR. A. FORREST: There were a good many there now.

THE PREMIER: Then they must have come back since he visited Broad Arrow. At Goongarrie there must have been at one time 1,000 people. By-and-by, such places would settle down, and would doubtless become thriving communities; but at present it was difficult to decide what representation to give them. He would be sorry to lessen the representation of a district which had always supported him, but equally sorry to give a representative to the district not entitled to one. The Committee must try to do what was just and reasonable.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said he had intended to move on the lines of the amendment (Mr. Leake's) to reduce the number of the Assembly to 44; but the numbers of the Council had been increased to 30, therefore it seemed imperative that the numbers of the Assembly should also be increased, if only for that reason. Had the Government accepted the suggestion to blend three provinces into two, and to give three Upper House

members to the goldfields, the Council would have remained with its 24 members, and the Assembly with 44. However, it would be ridiculous, having increased the Upper House membership, to reduce that of the Lower below 48. The Speaker had made out an excellent case for the Collie. That place was an existing reality, as were the tinfields. The gold discoveries at Donnybrook might or might not be permanent; but it was pretty certain that the Speaker, representing the electors of those districts, with all his adroitness would not be able to represent them to his own satisfaction, in view of their conflicting interests. The member for North-East Coolgardie (Mr. Vosper), who was seriously ill, had asked him (Mr. Illingworth) to move that a member be given to the Collie district in the Assembly. In justice, that district should have separate representation; consequently he was strongly disposed to support the amendment of the Speaker. And yet, by so doing, he would be placed in the same dilemma as he had experienced the other evening, that he was compelled to vote for an increase in the Council members because in no other way could fair representation be obtained for the goldfields. There was no reason why, in the list of Assembly electorates, "Collie" should not be substituted for "Greenough." Considering the small number of people in some of the electorates, many of them could with advantage be amalgamated, such as Beverley and York, Greenough and Geraldton. If this were done, members could be provided for districts entitled to additional representation without increasing the membership of the House. The words "forty-eight" should be retained in the clause, with the distinct understanding that there be made in the next clause such a blending of constituencies as would provide a member for the Collie.

MR. KINGSMILL said he was inclined to support the suggestion of the Speaker to give a member to Collie, Greenbushes, and Donnybrook. That hon. member's statement that in England there were electorates consisting of places not contiguous to each other, was a valuable contribution to the debate. The mining districts of Collie, Greenbushes, and Donnybrook showed every sign of permanency, and as the mineral development

of the South-West proceeded, other electorates would be required. He would, of course, support the retention of the two Kimberley electorates.

MR. A. FORREST: It was a pity the Committee did not agree to his proposal at first, and leave the number of members of the electorates blank until the discussion on Clause 17 had been finished. He rose to support the suggestions of Sir James Lee Steere. It was necessary in the interest of the colony that the particular part of the South-West referred to should be provided with a member. He had just come back from a trip to the Collie, and could say that the people living in Perth had no idea of the value of the coalfields to the colony. There was work there for thousands of men in the near future. There was a permanent field there that would last for generations. He had never, in his experience of goldfields or of the colony at large, seen so much wealth under one's feet. One company which had scratched a few holes in the ground was now getting out 300 tons of coal a day. A man had only to make a hole in the earth and put in a truck and bring coal up. The time was very near at hand when this colony would be exporting coal. If the suggested representation had been for Colliefield alone then he would say the representation was justifiable.

MR. LEAKE said he felt he was on the horns of a dilemma. He was prepared to withdraw his amendment if the Premier was prepared to allow the 48 members to stand, and leave the adjustment of electorates to be dealt with in Clause 17. We could deal with Sir James Lee Steere's amendment in the next clause. He would not try to reduce the number of members to 44 if the Premier would say he would not increase the membership beyond 48.

THE PREMIER: We should have to see what the Committee did.

MR. LEAKE: The districts which were immediately affected by the alteration proposed by Sir James Lee Steere, Sussex and Nelson, should be given one member, and the South-West mining district should have the other. That would secure an absolute certainty of a seat for the member for Nelson, and leave the member for Sussex the mining representation. If something was not done

in the South-West district, the control of that district would be given to the mining community and shut out the present representative. He would go a long way to secure a seat for their much-respected Speaker, and no one would regret more than he (Mr. Leake) would the possibility of that hon. gentleman not being returned to preside over our discussions. If we allowed the 48 members to stand, we could either blend Sussex with Nelson or the Greenough with the Irwin. These two last named districts together only had 300 electors. It might be possible to throw Greenough into Geraldton. He hoped members would agree to fix the number of members at 48, and meet the requirements of the situation by amalgamating one or two seats.

HON. H. W. VENN: It would be rather idle to-night to discuss the question whether we were going to have 44, 48 or 50 members, without the views of the Government on the matter. He did not think any member of the Committee except the Premier would be able to adjust the boundaries of any electoral district. The Premier would be able to say how far a district could be amalgamated, or if one district could be amalgamated with another district at all.

MR. LEAKE: York and Beverley might be amalgamated.

HON. H. W. VENN: As to the Collie, he always thought it would do members a great deal of good and instruct them, if they could only spare the time, to go to the Collie and see for themselves what the possibility of the coalfield there was. He represented the Collie district, the Upper Preston, and Wellington; the district was a large one, and he felt it would not be long before the Collie district would actually control the whole of the electorate. Although he did not say the interests of the Collie were diametrically opposed to the rest of the district, still Collie should combine with other districts to have a member of its own. He was only speaking to Sir James Lee Steere the other day when the difficulty presented itself to his mind as to how it would be possible to blend the Collie with Greenbushes and Donnybrook, as it seemed to him impossible. The Collie would be a mining district by itself; so

would Greenbushes, and Donnybrook might hereafter be a mining district by itself. Collie electorate would be one of the largest in the colony, and Collie alone would soon need more than one member. He was also in a difficulty to know if we could manage with 48 members. He thought it would be better to have 50 members. If a proposal came before the Committee to give both East and West Kimberley a member, he would vote for that.

MR. HIGHAM: We should defer the discussion on this clause until we had considered the various suggestions made during the debate. We should report progress, so that we could consider the various suggestions which had been made. He moved that progress be reported.

Motion, that progress be reported, put and negatived.

SIR JAMES LEE STEERE said he could not see why any member should be on the horns of a dilemma. The only reason why he could not agree with the suggestion put forward by the leader of the Opposition was that he did not think we should know exactly the districts we were going to have. If we postponed Clause 16 until Clause 17 had been disposed of, he did not think there was any possibility of carrying an amendment to do away with any of the districts as they appeared in the Bill. Therefore we might make up our minds to limit the number of members to 48 or 50. He hoped members would agree to increase the number of members to 50, so as to give a member to the South-West mining districts, and one to another district to be approved of by the Committee.

MR. WOOD: The discussion so far had been so much waste of time. The only solution of the difficulty was to postpone the consideration of Clause 16 until Clause 17 had been disposed of; he would move that. If we agreed to 48 or 50 members we were committed to a definite number, whereas in the consideration of Clause 17 we might find it expedient to increase the number of members to 52. The member for North-East Coolgardie wanted an extra member for Kanowna, and he (Mr. Wood) wanted an extra member for West Perth, as his district was too large to be represented even by himself. Several other members wanted assistance in their electorates; so that there

might be 52 or even 55 members after we had finished considering Clause 17.

THE PREMIER: The only question now was as to increasing the number of electorates, for there was no likelihood of this House consenting to strike out any of the electorates named in the clause. If the total number of electorates was to be increased to 50, there appeared to be a general opinion as to where the additional members should go. If that increase was to be made, he would be inclined to vote for the two electorates he had in view. There would be no difficulty in making a description to include Donnybrook, Greenbushes, and the Collie. In preparing this Bill, he had thought the time had hardly arrived for these places to have separate representation; but when 2,000 persons were said to be at Greenbushes, several hundreds at Donnybrook, and 500 at the Collie, these three places were becoming large communities, and he would be inclined to support the extension of representation to them, if there was to be an increase.

MR. GREGORY: There had been a distinct promise from the Premier to give increased power to the goldfields. He (Mr. Gregory) had agreed to an increase in the number of the Upper House, and he thought it would be better to maintain the number of this Assembly at 44, as at present, because to increase it beyond that would take away some proportion of the increase which was being given to the goldfields, and would practically nullify that increase. If there was to be any addition to the number, he would like to see another member given to the North Coolgardie districts, which were fully entitled to additional representation, and to overlook their claims could not be fair.

THE PREMIER: In the hon. member's electorate (North Coolgardie) there were 1,070 persons entitled to vote, and in the adjoining electorate there were 1,788 at the present time.

MR. GREGORY said he must contradict those figures, as he had a return, which reached him only a day or two ago, showing the number in his electorate to be much larger.

MR. EWING: Nothing was to be gained by adjourning the consideration of this question, which really was whether a good case had been made out for an increase in the representation of this

House up to 50 members. It had been truly said that there would be the greatest difficulty in wiping out any of the seats provided for in Clause 17; but a coal-mining industry and a tin-mining industry were growing up in the Southern part of the colony, and these were entitled to be represented in Parliament. The Committee had realised that commercial interests, as well as population, should be represented in Parliament; therefore the two members who now represented the district in which those two rising industries were situate could not be expected to represent those industries satisfactorily, because those members were elected by farmers, and it must be admitted that consumers and producers had distinctly different interests. Farmers did not desire to be represented by a member who was elected for a mining industry, and the persons concerned in a mining industry of any kind did not wish to be represented by a member who was elected by farmers. The policy of this redistribution was to separate all inconsistent interests, and it had been shown that the coal-mining and tin-mining interests were inconsistent with the agricultural interest by which they were surrounded. Therefore he supported the amendment for increasing the total number of members to 50.

MR. GEORGE supported that amendment. The Bill would fail to give satisfaction if a representative were not given to the Collie coalfields, and in addition to that interest there were timber mills established there employing a number of men. Certainly 1,000 men were employed in those industries at the Collie, and he believed there would be close on 2,000 persons engaged in the coal-mining industry within 12 months. There had been in the past two years in the purely agricultural districts a large amount of settlement, which carried with it fairly large families; and the Bill should be framed with a view to the early future as well as to the present: for Parliament should not forget the claims of the yeomanry, who were the backbone of the country. To combine Greenbushes and Collie in one electoral district would not be satisfactory, and it would be better to give one member to the coal-mining industry, which was likely to grow to large proportions in a short time.

MR. LOCKE: The Collie coalfields would soon form an important district, and the Greenbushes tinfields were already important. Yesterday he had visited Dounybrook, and had found the gold industry developing in a manner which would astonish hon. members. To join the three places in one electorate would not be difficult, and would be highly desirable, the interests of the present representatives not being identified with those of the mining industry.

Amendment (Mr. Wood's), to postpone Clause 16, withdrawn.

MR. LEAKE said he would not insist on the Assembly membership being reduced to 44, and would vote for the retention of the word "forty-eight."

Amendment on amendment (Sir J. Lee Steere's) put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	27
Noes	4
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Majority for	23

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Connor	Mr. Holmes
Mr. Doherty	Mr. Illingworth
Mr. Ewing	Mr. Leake
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Gregory (Teller).
Mr. A. Forrest	
Mr. George	
Mr. Hall	
Mr. Hassell	
Mr. Higham	
Mr. Hooley	
Mr. Hubble	
Mr. Kingsmill	
Mr. Lefroy	
Mr. Locke	
Mr. Mitchell	
Mr. Monger	
Mr. Pennefather	
Mr. Phillips	
Mr. Piesse	
Mr. Sholl	
Mr. Solomon	
Sir J. G. Lee Steere	
Mr. Throssell	
Hon. H. W. Venn	
Mr. Wallace	
Mr. Wood	
Mr. Quinlan (Teller).	

Amendment on amendment thus passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 17—Colony divided into 50 electoral districts:

MR. ILLINGWORTH (for Mr. Vosper) moved that the word "Bulong" be inserted after "Boulder." A telegram from North-East Coolgardie stated that at a public meeting held on Saturday night, strong indignation was expressed at that district not having been given increased representation, and that a resolution had been passed asking that such places as Bulong, Balagundi, Mt. Monger,

and Kurnalpi, should be made separate electorates, there being 1,200 electors on the roll in the district. It had been said the intention of the redistribution of seats was to give increased representation to the goldfields; and by the amendment just carried, two seats were available. Let one be given to Bulong.

MR. LEAKE supported the amendment. By the vote just taken, another political job had been perpetrated. The Bill was introduced with the expressed intention of giving increased goldfields representation, yet while doing that, good care was taken to counteract the possible gain to the goldfields by giving increased representation to other districts. On the second reading, the Premier had stated with regret that one of the Kimberley electorates must be obliterated.

MR. CONNOR: And it was a mining district.

MR. LEAKE: Never mind; it was a "pocket borough" represented by the hon. member interjecting. The two Kimberleys were amalgamated, the intention being to reduce the representation of that part of the country, and the proposal was received with acclamation. It had never been mentioned, however, that the number of members of the House would be increased to 50. That amendment had been sprung upon the Committee to-night, and the reasonable suggestion of the member for Fremantle (Mr. Higham), that progress should be reported to give time for consideration, had been rejected. The Government had now shown the "cloven hoof," the idea being to secure two extra seats for Government supporters.

THE PREMIER: No, no.

MR. LEAKE: Perhaps that question could not be fought out in Committee, but the public would settle it outside. The Premier had accepted the suggestion to increase the membership to 50 as if it had been a new idea.

THE PREMIER: So it was.

MR. LEAKE: It had evidently been the result of prior deliberation.

MR. CONNOR: Of common sense.

MR. LEAKE: Then of sense so common that it had no persuasive force. By the amendment just carried, the Government would probably secure the representative of the Collie coalfields, that district having lately declared against federation. This

matter had not been dealt with openly. Hon. members should have been informed on the second reading that the membership was to be increased to 50. The proposed reduction from 48 to 44 had been mentioned in several places; consequently the Government had come well prepared to meet that proposal.

MR. A. FORREST : The amendment had been on the Notice Paper for a week.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS : And it was very singular that a goldfields member (Mr. Vosper) had given notice of an amendment to make "Collie" a new electorate.

MR. LEAKE : It was curious that Ministers did not give some expression of opinion on this state of affairs. This evening the Premier, in a faltering tone, had said he was on the horns of a dilemma in respect to the amendment of the member for Nelson (Sir J. G. Lee Steere).

MR. WOOD : And the hon. member had said that also.

MR. LEAKE : True; and now hon. members could see on which horn he (Mr. Leake) was impaled. It was on the sharpest horn. The Committee were entitled to an opportunity for further considering the innovation. If the Premier had told us in the early stages of the debate that he approved of the contemplated insertion in Clause 17 of two new electoral districts, those of East Kimberley and the Colliefields, perhaps we should not have had so much cause to complain; but it was the way in which this business had been done that prompted him to say what he had said. He hoped members would see that this proposal had come upon them as a surprise. If a number of members had had time to consider this matter in all its phases, they would probably have reversed the decision or have voted differently.

THE PREMIER regretted that the leader of the Opposition had made the speech which he had made, because the hon. member—he was going to say "as usual," but he would not say that—was altogether unfair, and had stated what was far from a fact. He (the Premier) appealed to hon. members to say whether they had had any communication with him or his colleagues; and to Sir James Lee Steere, to say if he (the Premier) had ever said one word, implying that he

had any knowledge that a motion was to be brought forward to-night, or at any time, to increase the membership of the Assembly to 50. He had no knowledge that anything of the sort was intended. He was aware that the member for North-East Coolgardie (Mr. Vosper) had given notice that he intended to insert "Collie," also "Bulong," as electorates.

MR. LEAKE : Kimberley was the one referred to.

MR. A. FORREST : That appeared on the Notice Paper.

MR. LEAKE : It had not been put there by the Government.

THE PREMIER : Everyone was aware of it, and the hon. member must have been aware of it. He (the Premier) was not aware that Sir James Lee Steere was going to move an amendment, nor did anyone tell him that Sir James Lee Steere intended doing so.

MR. LEAKE said he did not suggest that Sir James Lee Steere had been "put up" by the Premier. He repudiated any such suggestion. He could not for a moment think of such a thing. Sir James Lee Steere was the last man the Premier could influence.

THE PREMIER : What was the "cloven hoof," then?

MR. LEAKE : The Premier's.

THE PREMIER said he had stated that he was in a dilemma; that he did not wish to alter the Bill, his inclination being in favour of leaving the Upper House with 24 members, and the Lower House with 48. If that had not been his intention, he would not have submitted the Bill to hon. members as it was submitted. Members by a considerable majority had decided otherwise. In regard to East Kimberley, he had been aware ever since the Bill had been placed on the table that a large number of members wished to have that electorate restored, and if the member for Albany (Mr. Leake) went about and did not speak to anyone, of course he would not know the view of members; not even those of his own side. He (the Premier) tried to find out the views of hon. members. He knew there was a great desire to retain East Kimberley district as an electorate; and he appealed to the member for East Kimberley to say if he had ever asked him (the Premier) to support the proposal. He would ask the

member for West Kimberley, or any member, if he (the Premier) had agreed to support him, until now. The leader of the Opposition could call members on this side of the House any name he chose; he could apply to us any term he desired; he could accuse us of want of good faith; but our characters and our reputations for good faith were quite equal to the hon. member's, both in the House and out of it.

MR. LEAKE: Then he congratulated the right hon. gentleman.

THE PREMIER: We were not dependant on the hon. member for our characters; we stood before the country as honourable men, and he might go further and say perhaps a good deal better than the hon. member. He regretted very much that the leader of the Opposition should have desired to insult him (the Premier) and other members of the House by the observations he had made in regard to this matter. He said again he had not in any way communicated to anyone that it was desirable that the number of members should be increased, and he said again the amendment by Sir James Lee Steere was as new to him as to the member opposite.

SIR JAMES LEE STEERE said that, as he had been appealed to by the Premier, he thought he was bound to say a few words on the subject as it concerned himself. When the amendment was carried for an increase of members in the Upper House, he happened to see the Premier, and suggested to him that as the membership of the Upper House had been increased to 30 we ought to increase the Lower House to 50; that we ought to give a member to the mining districts in the South-West portion of the colony. The Premier replied that he did not think we ought to do it, as there was only a floating population down there. When addressing the people at Greenbushes on Saturday last, he (Sir James Lee Steere) was asked to try and get the people another member, and he replied that he was favourable to it, but was afraid the Government were not. He knew, however, that so many members in the Assembly were favourable to giving a member to the South-West mining districts, that he thought they could carry it against the Government. He had never mentioned to anyone what he

intended moving that night, and he should not have moved the amendment if Mr. Vosper had been present; but in the absence of that hon. member, he had taken the matter into his own hands.

MR. CONNOR: The district of Kimberley had been dragged into this discussion to a large extent. If the leader of the Opposition wished to insinuate that there had been any collusion between himself and the Premier, or that the Premier and himself had had any conversation on the matter, then that was wrong. He was satisfied with the justice of his claim, and he could show it. He did not ask anyone to support him. He intended to allow the matter to stand on its own merits. If it were just that East Kimberley should be struck out, let the Committee decide it. Because he (Mr. Connor) could not conscientiously follow the leader of the Opposition, believing as he did in the politics of the Government side as against the politics on the other side, it was unfair and ungentlemanly to accuse him (Mr. Connor) of being the representative of a pocket borough. He was as independent as any other hon. member.

Amendment—that "Bulong" be inserted after "Boulder"—put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	6
Noes	...	...	...	24
Majority against				18

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Connor
Mr. Holmes	Mr. Doherty
Mr. James	Sir John Forrest
Mr. Jenke	Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. Wallace	Mr. George
Mr. Illingworth (Teller).	Mr. Hall
	Mr. Hassell
	Mr. Higham
	Mr. Hookey
	Mr. Hubble
	Mr. Lefroy
	Mr. Locke
	Mr. Mitchell
	Mr. Monger
	Mr. Pennefather
	Mr. Phillips
	Mr. Piesse
	Mr. Quinlan
	Mr. Sholl
	Sir J. G. Lee Steere
	Mr. Throssell
	Hon. H. W. Venn
	Mr. Wood
	Mr. Solomon (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

MR. ILLINGWORTH, on behalf of Mr. Vosper, further moved that after "Claremont," the word "Collie" be inserted.

HON. H. W. VENN: Would that be an appropriate name? He should say "South-West Mines."

THE PREMIER: The name would do now.

MR. JAMES: In his opinion, the position of the Collie and the extent of the industry did not justify a member.

MR. DOHERTY: Let the hon. member go and look at it.

MR. JAMES: The industry had not been sufficiently long established to justify its having a member. In mining districts there had been populations which had now almost disappeared. He hoped that would not happen to the industry in the Collie district, but that within a few years there would be justification for granting two or three members.

MR. GREGORY: The amendment was one of which he also disapproved. Evidently the majority of members were determined not to trust the people, and the goldfields members would know what to do. When the next election took place upon the goldfields, with few exceptions, no man would get in unless determined to fight against the Government and to support a fair redistribution of seats. There ought to be another member for North-East Coolgardie district. Seeing the small support the goldfields got, they might just as well throw up the sponge and let the people see the Government had a majority; and although they had a property vote in the other House, and an opportunity of getting a large number of votes in many provinces, also the absent system of voting, they would not trust the people in any shape or form.

MR. A. FORREST: The remarks of the hon. member for North Coolgardie (Mr. Gregory) were uncalled for. In this Bill it was proposed to give a large increase of representation to the goldfields.

THE PREMIER: Four members.

MR. A. FORREST: If four members were given to Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, or the Boulder, or wherever it was, and votes were also given to other places, it was said that the numbers given to those other places counteracted the increase of the goldfields members; but he failed to see it. He had been in Kanowna district, and in his opinion one representative

more (especially of the class of the present member, than whom no one worked harder for the benefit of the district), ought to be sufficient. Kanowna was, he believed, only 12 miles from Kalgoorlie, and there were the Boulder members and the other members close to those districts. It was altogether out of reason for members from the goldfields to come down here and say the House would not give anything to the goldfields. The hon. member (Mr. Gregory) no more represented that district than he (Mr. Forrest), nor did he more represent any other district than himself. Members were sent here to represent the whole of the colony.

MR. LEAKE: And nicely they did it.

MR. A. FORREST: It would be a matter for regret for it to go forth that members represented little circles down here, and nothing else. Members looked to the goldfields as the most prosperous part of the colony and were prepared to give representation to the goldfields, but members must not object because we wanted a little representation down here. As to the Collie coalfields, Greenbushes, and Donnybrook, if those places were in any part of the Eastern goldfields the people would not be satisfied with one member. On the Collie field alone there was more wealth in the ground than in the Boulder or any mine in Western Australia, and it only required development. It would not be many months before the development of that district would not only supply Western Australia with coal but other parts of the world where coal had a market value. Who were the members who supported the railways and the opening up of the goldfields? The coastal members.

THE PREMIER: And the farmers too.

MR. A. FORREST: Everyone helped in the development of the goldfields, and all were quite prepared to help them, whether there were representatives from them or not.

MR. DOHERTY: It was a satisfaction to him that the House had taken a serious turn and wished to give a representative to Collie. It would be a good thing if the Government would simply take all the members of the House to the Collie and let them see the absolute wealth the country there possessed.

MR. GEORGE: We could not afford any more picnics.

MR. DOHERTY: It would be a saving to the country, for education always saved a good deal. One mine turned out 300 tons a day, and in three weeks the output would be 600 tons per day, the present demand being greater than the output. That mine was capable of putting out in a few months about 1,000 or 1,500 tons a day. It employed something like 200 men, and in a few months there would be 500 employed on it. On another mine 500 would be employed in 12 months, probably, making a total of 1,000 on two mines. Other property not yet in hand would also be opened up, and he predicted that within two years from now the population of the Collie coal-fields would not be very far short of 5,000 people. He could not speak with any authority regarding Greenbushes and Donnybrook, but when he advocated a member for Collie only, it was on the lines that this particular industry wanted a representative in the House. Unlike the gold-mining industry, coal-mining was not represented in the House, and a member representing the latter interest could see that coal was properly distributed throughout the colony, and that fair railway rates were provided. He supported the proposal to amalgamate the Collie, Greenbushes, and Donnybrook districts in one electorate.

MR. GEORGE: The member for North Coolgardie (Mr. Gregory) should recollect the danger of using expressions likely to create antagonism between different districts and interests in the colony. The people in the coastal districts had only the kindest feelings towards those on the goldfields. As regards the claims of Kanowna, how could hon. members who had not visited that district do justice to them? From the hon. member's speech, it appeared that the district had 3,000 voters, but the Premier had argued that the number was about 1,700. Which was correct? If the hon. member desired a fair judgment, he should show what the effect of the proposed division would be. If there were only 1,700 electors, and Kanowna were the principal centre of population, probably the greater number of voters resided in Kanowna; and could the Committee with reason be asked to make Kanowna a separate constituency

in those circumstances, seeing that the remaining portion of the district would then have a smaller number of voters than many of the coastal electorates? Were there a proper system of registration in the southern districts, hon. members would be astonished at the number of voters enrolled. In the Murray district alone there would be some 2,000 instead of 600, in the Wellington an additional 1,000 or 1,500. The Collie deserved a separate member. There were questions connected with coal-mining requiring special legislation, and a member for the Collie would be cordially received, and his efforts to provide for the safety of coal-miners would demand every consideration.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Hon. members were apparently unanimous on the question of a representative for the Collie. The member for the Collie, Donnybrook, and Greenbushes electorate would represent gold, coal, and tin; but he hoped the day was not distant when each of those three centres would require a separate member.

Amendment (Mr. Illingworth's) put and passed.

THE PREMIER further moved that "DeGrey" be struck out. Later, he would move that "Pilbarra" be inserted in its proper place in the alphabetical list.

Amendment put and passed.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (for Mr. Conolly) moved that the word "Eucla" be inserted after "Dundas." The hon. member's (Mr. Conolly's) object, evidently, was to obtain separate representation for a purely mining district, instead of having it confounded with an agricultural and pastoral country; and he (Mr. Illingworth) understood there were good reasons for the proposal.

MR. KINGSMILL supported the amendment. Considering the development which had taken place, and the promising aspect of things at Esperance, that was justification for asking that Eucla should be included.

Amendment put and negatived.

MR. ILLINGWORTH, on behalf of Mr. Vosper, moved that the word "Greenough" be struck out, the object being to obtain a seat for the goldfields.

Amendment put and negatived.

MR. A. FORREST moved that before the word "Kimberley," the word "East"

be inserted. He did not wish to discuss the question, though he was quite prepared to devote half an hour to the subject if hon. members desired.

MR. LEAKE: How many electors were there in each Kimberley district?

MR. A. FORREST: There were 157 in West Kimberley.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The numbers were, 145 in West Kimberley and 90 in East Kimberley.

MR. A. FORREST: There were a great many more people than that; half the people were not on the roll.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Half of the people who were on the roll in the Kimberleys were down in Perth and voted by proxy.

THE PREMIER: According to the roll the number of electors in East Kimberley was 92, and West Kimberley 145. The population was given at 235 in East Kimberley, and 413 for West Kimberley.

MR. GEORGE: There were the blacks to be considered.

THE PREMIER: There was nothing in the returns to show the difference between blacks and whites, but aborigines were not included.

MR. JAMES: There was no reason why the scheme of the Bill should be departed from, because no one could say that these two districts, which combined, represented 250 voters, should have two members. Indeed to give those districts such representation would be a gross scandal. The Premier had pointed out that there was sure to be an agitation in the future for the further redistribution of seats, and it would be adding to the fire, to have an electorate with less than 100 voters, while some electorates had 3,000 voters. It had not been stated how many Europeans there were in the Kimberleys.

MR. DOHERTY: Four hundred in East Kimberley, and 600 in West Kimberley.

MR. JAMES: Then it was significant that the number on the roll was so small.

MR. DOHERTY: They did not take the trouble to get on the roll; they were constantly droving and wandering about.

MR. JAMES: If they did not take the trouble to get on the roll, why should they have this great representation?

MR. A. FORREST: There was no one to worry the people into putting themselves on the roll.

MR. JAMES: Then if there was all this indifference on both sides, why should they have representatives to themselves? There was absolutely no justification for separating the two Kimberleys, and he hoped members would not support the amendment. He felt grateful to the Government when they brought forward the Bill, as several small electorates had been cut out, but now other small electorates were being included, which would foment agitation for redistribution in the near future.

THE PREMIER: There was a good deal in what the hon. member had said; but it was a good thing for the colony to have representation of remote districts, because it drew attention to those districts, and kept them before the Government and the Parliament of the country, whereas if these districts had no representation at all, or what was equal to it, being joined to some other electorate, the district was bound to suffer. In South Australia there was what was called the Northern Territory, with Port Darwin as the centre. There were 900 electors on the roll for the Northern Territory, and these 900 electors returned two members to the Parliament. In East Torrens, which was a certain part of Adelaide, there were 14,000 electors on the roll, and this number returned two members; therefore members would see there was a great disparity, and no doubt the reason was that it was found to be to the interests of the whole country that the Northern Territory should have representatives in Parliament, and as according to the system in South Australia each electorate returned two members, the Parliament did not hesitate to give two members to 900 electors, while 14,000 electors also had two members. If East Kimberley had not had a representative in Parliament it would not have been in the position it was to-day. The place was so remote, few people took an interest in it; people had no knowledge of it; but it was worthy of the consideration of members to give to remote places like that some representation. East Kimberley had great resources. It was capable of supplying the whole of the meat for the colony; at any rate, the two Kimberleys were. These two districts were capable of supplying all the beef we might require in this colony for a great

many years to come, and he did not think the Committee was going far wrong in giving representation to that part of the country. No doubt it certainly did lead to observations such as those suggested by the member for East Perth, that it would fan the flame for a redistribution. It encouraged people to think that whilst small communities returned a member, larger communities should return more members. According to the figures the electorates had a very small population; still the districts had great resources, and in giving them representation we would be acting wisely and in the interests of the colony.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: If it were proposed to deprive the Kimberley electorate of representation, the hon. member's remarks would have been to the point. To-night he (Mr. Illingworth) asked for a representative for Bulong, which had an electoral roll of 1,200 electors, but the Committee had declined that representation. In the face of that, it was now proposed to give a member to 92 electors, a good number of whom were resident in this part of the colony, and who could be heard and made themselves felt in elections that took place down here. How were hon. members to justify themselves. They had refused to give increased representation on the goldfields, and yet it was proposed to give a member to 92 electors. The Kimberley district would be very well represented by either of the two gentleman who now represented those districts.

MR. DOHERTY: It was impossible for one man to represent the two districts.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Why.

MR. DOHERTY: How could a person represent a plaintiff and a defendant in action?

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Then it seemed that the two districts were contesting.

MR. DOHERTY: They were rivals.

MR. A. FORREST: The hon. member for East Perth endeavoured to make a little mischief by saying that in the Kimberley districts the interests were identical. He could tell the hon. member the interests in the districts were not identical. For many years there had been two members. If the electors were not numerous, still the district was a producing one, the occupants being amongst

the largest producers in the colony, and they would be producing more every year. The hon. member (Mr. Illingworth) altogether forgot the West Kimberley district had a large pearling industry, which gave occupation to a large number of people in Fremantle in making boats all the year round. The people in the Kimberleys bought in this country, and were not like some others. The pearling industry gave, he supposed, employment to some 1,400 to 1,500 Malays, Japanese, and Chinese, who were able to do the work, whilst Europeans could not, and those people consumed goods on which customs duties were paid. The wealth of the two Kimberleys was far in excess of that of Bulong, and it ever would be so. Surely hon. members did not want to wipe out the representatives for the Kimberleys.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: There was a desire that the Kimberleys should be content with one member.

MR. A. FORREST: That big country was about a quarter of Western Australia, and one of the most important parts of the colony. The Kimberleys had saved this colony more than once by its exports of wool and pearl shells, and also by feeding the people of the colony at a cheaper rate than food could be imported at now, and they would continue to do so.

MR. DOHERTY: The little speeches of the member for East Perth (Mr. James) against East Kimberley could be quite understood by him, because that hon. member once tried to be returned for that electorate, but he could not get in. It was impossible for one member to adequately represent the two Kimberleys.

MR. CONNOR: It seemed to be the idea amongst members that there was only one industry in Kimberley, namely, the pastoral industry. Kimberley was the means of the gold industry being developed to its present stage. He would not say there would have been no goldfields if there had been no Kimberley, but the goldfields would not have developed so quickly. An industry of very great importance to the colony was the pearling industry. Between the Northern Territory of South Australia and Western Australia there was likely to grow up a very large commercial business, and that part of the colony was deserving of more consideration. There

were a lot of stations on the Northern Territory side which would have to be supplied from the Western Australian side.

MR. MITCHELL: We decided, he thought, to at any rate give the goldfields more representation, but we were not prepared to have the pruning knife used as it had been. We proposed to knock off four members north of Geraldton. If hon. members would draw an east and west line from Geraldton they would see to the north of it something like three-quarters of the territory of Western Australia. Probably places in that part of the colony would be in existence when many of the goldfields would be no more.

MR. JAMES: Reference has been made to the export of wool. He found from the report of the Collector of Customs that the wool exported in 1898 from Broome amounted to 1,344lbs.; from Derby, 682,610lbs.; and from Wyndham, nil; making a total of 683,954lbs. out of a total export of 10,126,306lbs.

MR. LEAKE: It was his intention to oppose the proposed alteration. He could not see the necessity of giving any 140 people two representatives in this Chamber. That was what it amounted to, and of those two one represented at the present moment 92 names on the roll. Probably not half of those 92 voters would go to the poll in the event of a disputed election, because many of them were absentee landowners who bought Wyndham town lots at the time of the Kimberley boom, and many others were either Government servants or employees of a well-known firm which practically controlled the whole of that district.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: And had two members in the House.

MR. LEAKE: Should we allow a representative to 92 people, and yet deny representation to large numbers of voters in well-settled and populous centres? The two Kimberleys had been given separate representation at a time when the prospects of the district were infinitely better than at present.

MR. KINGSMILL: No.

MR. CONNOR: The prospects of East Kimberley had never been so good as now.

MR. LEAKE: Possibly so, but the representation was granted when there was more activity in the district as a result of the gold discovery. Had it not

been for the Kimberley goldfields, the North would never have been divided into two electorates; and there was nothing to justify separate representation now. The proposal to give it had been an after-thought.

MR. KINGSMILL supported the amendment. His remarks on the second reading, that redistribution on a population basis was against the best interests of the country, had been amply borne out by the subsequent discussions. East Kimberley was in the pioneer stage of its existence, and would be one of the most valuable districts in the colony. A wrong would be done to both Kimberleys if they were not given separate members.

Amendment (Mr. A. Forrest's) put, and a division being called for by Mr. Leake, it was taken with the following result:—

Ayes...	...	...	...	22
Noes...	...	...	...	5

Majority for ... 17

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Connor	Mr. Holmes
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Illingworth
Mr. A. Forrest	Mr. James
Mr. Hassell	Mr. Leake
Mr. Higham	Mr. Wilson (Teller).
Mr. Hooley	
Mr. Hubble	
Mr. Kingsmill	
Mr. Lefroy	
Mr. Locke	
Mr. Mitchell	
Mr. Monger	
Mr. Pennefather	
Mr. Phillips	
Mr. Piesse	
Mr. Quinlan	
Mr. Sholl	
Sir J. G. Lee Steere	
Mr. Throssell	
Hon. H. W. Venn	
Mr. Wood	
Mr. Doherty (Teller).	

Amendment thus passed.

MR. A. FORREST further moved that after "Kimberley" the words "West Kimberley" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed.

THE PREMIER moved that after "West Perth" the word "Pilbarra" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed, and clause as amended agreed to.

On motion by the PREMIER, progress was reported and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 11:20 p.m. until the next day.