

" seven members, to join with a similar committee of the Legislative Council, for the purpose of inquiring into the proposals of the Midland Railway Company for final completion of railway, as set forth in their letter of the 25th November, 1892, with power to call for papers and persons, and to report on Tuesday, December 13th, and request that leave may be given to a similar committee of the Legislative Council to join with a committee of the Legislative Assembly for the purpose aforesaid.

" JAS. G. LEE STEERE,
" Speaker.

" Legislative Assembly Chamber,
" December 6th, 1892."

Ordered—That the consideration of this Message be made an Order of the Day for Wednesday, 7th December.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 3.45 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, 7th December, at 8 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 6th December, 1892.

Pleuro-pneumonia in cattle travelling from Kimberley to Southern portion of the colony—Railway facilities at Beverley to meet the grain traffic during the forthcoming harvest—Export Timber Branding Bill: third reading—Perth Gas Company's Act Amendment (Private) Bill: third reading—Excess Bill, 1891: third reading—Fresh proposals from Midland Railway Company: appointment of Joint Select Committee—Bonus for Deep Shaft-sinking on Gold-fields—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 2.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA AMONGST CATTLE TRAVELLING FROM KIMBERLEY TO SOUTHERN DISTRICTS.

MR. RICHARDSON: I desire to ask the Premier, with leave, without notice, (1) If he is aware that a large mob of

cattle is travelling overland from Kimberley to the Southern districts; (2) also, that the disease known as pleuro-pneumonia exists, or has existed, in some of the cattle herds in Kimberley, originally brought over from Queensland; and, (3) is the Government exercising the necessary vigilance to prevent any danger of that dread disease being introduced amongst the cattle of clean districts?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I am not aware of any large mob of cattle being on the way Southward from Kimberley. I have had no information to that effect.

MR. RICHARDSON: They are on the DeGrey at the present moment.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I have not heard of it; nor have I heard anything about pleuro-pneumonia. I do not know that any particular precautions have been taken—I do not see what precautions we could take in that isolated and extensive district with regard to cattle coming over the border. However, I shall be glad to confer with the hon. member, and if he can suggest any means by which this might be done, the Government will be very glad to do what it can in the matter.

RAILWAY FACILITIES TO MEET THE GRAIN TRAFFIC AT BEVERLEY.

MR. HARPER: I beg to ask the Commissioner of Railways whether any steps have been taken to provide better facilities for dealing with the goods traffic at Beverley, and whether those facilities will be completed in time to meet the large grain traffic which the coming harvest will entail?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn): The General Traffic Manager states that he will be quite prepared to deal with the traffic at Beverley, at the forthcoming harvest.

EXPORT TIMBER BRANDING BILL.

On the Order of the Day for the third reading of this Bill,

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said: I should like to say a few words before this Bill passes out of our hands. It has come to my notice, and I think to the notice of other members of this House, since the

second reading of the Bill, that there may be some difficulty in carrying out the provisions of the Bill as regards branding; and if the Bill becomes law, in its present shape, it will very likely damage the jarrah trade, and also the karri trade, very considerably, inasmuch as it will be impossible to put the brand provided for in the Bill upon all kinds of timber. For instance, there is a large business done in jarrah laths, and also karri laths, and it would be a difficult matter, I take it, to put an inch and a-half brand on an inch board. Shingles and palings are the only things excluded in the Bill from the operation of the branding clause.

Bill read a third time, and ordered to be transmitted to the Legislative Council.

PERTH GAS COMPANY'S ACT AMENDMENT (PRIVATE) BILL.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

EXCESS BILL, 1891.

Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

FRESH PROPOSALS FROM THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Sir, in moving the motion standing in my name, I do not intend to say very much on the subject to-day, as I believe hon. members will be generally in accord with the motion, which really does not commit the House to anything whatever more than an approval of the proposal to refer the question to a joint committee of both Houses. I am not quite correct in saying it does not commit the House to anything whatever; it commits the House to the first part of the motion, which I think will be found to be generally in accord with the views not only of hon. members but of the people of the colony generally; that is, that in the opinion of this House it is desirable that this Midland Railway should be completed, and the lands now excepted from sale be opened for selection at as early a date as possible. As I said on a former occasion, when I addressed a public assembly in this colony, this Midland Railway was not a part of the policy of the present Government; it was a legacy left to us by a former Legislature

and by a former Government. And I would like to impress upon members here that it is to the Legislature that existed some years ago and to the Government of that day that we owe the existence of this Midland Railway Company. I do not wish anyone in this House or out of it to cast upon the present Government or the present Legislature the difficulties and the troubles that have surrounded the Midland Railway almost from its very commencement up to the present time. For all that, the present Government look upon this Midland Railway as a great public work, and a very important one—as important, we consider, to the progress and development of the colony as any other work now being, or about to be, constructed in the colony. We have always taken our stand upon this: that we make no difference whatever between this great public work of connecting the metropolis and central parts of the colony here with Geraldton and our Northern districts—we make no distinction between this great public work and any other great work that is going on, or about to go on, in the colony. The question we have to ask ourselves, and which I may say the Government have asked themselves a good many times, is this: is it desirable that this great work should be completed, and as soon as possible? I think there will be few persons in this House or in the colony who will say that it is not desirable that the Northern parts of the colony should be connected with the Southern parts by railway. The second proposition, too, I think, will find very few persons adverse to it—that it is desirable, as soon as possible, that the lands which have been locked up for several years between here and Geraldton should be thrown open for selection, and occupied and improved. In the opinion of the Government it is most desirable that these lands—not only the lands belonging to the Company or which they have a right to select, but also the alternative blocks, or at any rate half of the frontage which is reserved for the Government—it is most desirable that these lands should no longer be locked up but thrown open for selection and occupation. One of the very worst things in connection with the land-grant system in force in this colony for the construction of railways, which we have entered upon by

offering subsidies of land instead of borrowing the money ourselves—one of the very worst things in connection with this land-grant system is that for a considerable time the lands of the colony are locked up, unutilised, and held in reserve. This drawback, this trouble, has been experienced in the Southern parts of the colony, where for seven years the land belonging to the Great Southern Railway Company, while that line was in course of construction, was exempted from selection. That had a very deterrent effect upon the progress and development of the districts through which the railway passed; in fact, so far as improvement and settlement of the land was concerned, it was at a standstill during those seven years. Since then a great stimulus has been given by that railway to settlement, but everyone will admit that the fact of these lands having been locked up from settlement and occupation all those years had a very prejudicial effect. The same has happened between here and Champion Bay. Since the 27th February, 1886, the Crown lands between Guildford and Walkaway have been exempted from sale and not open for selection; and it is a continual source of irritation and a continual source of complaint on the part of those who live in that part of the colony that they are not able to acquire land, not able to add to their present holdings or to acquire new holdings, throughout that immense extent of territory, owing to these lands being locked up, in connection with this Midland Railway. The proposition I have to move to-day says in effect that this state of things should come to an end as soon as possible, and that this railway should be completed, if it is possible to do so, as soon as can be, and, in the next place, that the lands along the route should be thrown open for selection and occupation. If we admit these two propositions, the next question that arises is: what is best to be done to carry out these objects? The Government suggest that the matter should in the first place be referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament, in order that they may consider the question, and come to some decision upon it, and report to this House what they think should be done. If they consider that nothing should be done, so far as we are concerned, well and good;

if, on the other hand, they think that something should be done, they will suggest what that something should be. This House will then have to consider their suggestion. The reason why the Government suggest this course is simply this: as I said before, we consider this is a legacy left us by a former Legislature and a former Government. We do not wish for a moment—I hope no one will think so, though probably it has occurred to some minds already; if so I hope they will put it out of their minds—we do not wish for a moment, by this motion, to shrink any responsibility. We do not wish either to shrink any responsibility ourselves, or to throw the responsibility upon any joint committee. The Government are quite prepared to deal with this matter in the way they deal with any other matter that comes before them,—either a matter that is of their own originating, or a matter that comes to them in the course of their duty. And I may say this: if the House agrees to this proposal to refer the question to a Joint Committee, the Government are prepared to submit to that committee their opinions on this matter. They do not feel that they are justified in throwing the matter down, and saying to the committee, “There it is; do what you like with it.” They will be prepared to come before that committee, and to give the committee their opinions as to what is best to be done. They will be prepared not only to give their opinions as to what is best to be done, but also to give the committee every assistance and every information that is in their power to give them. This reference of this most important matter to a Joint Committee of both Houses will not in any way bind members of this House, either individually or collectively, and I can myself see no objection to this reference. It seems to me that neither on the part of those who are opposed to anything further being done, nor on the part of those who are in favor of doing something, can any objection to this course be fairly taken. The effect of the passing of this resolution will simply be this: it will affirm the first portion of the motion—“That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that the Midland Railway should be completed, and the lands now excepted from sale be opened

for selection at as early a date as possible." It will affirm nothing more than that; and that, I take it, everyone in this House, and everyone in this colony, must be in favor of. This resolution merely affirms that, and that we will refer the whole matter for the consideration of this Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament. After that committee have reported their views on this question, the Government and the members of this House will be perfectly free—as free as they are at this moment—to adopt that report, or to act in any way that may be decided upon by a majority of this House. I do not think this is an occasion upon which I should say anything more. I have now said all I have to say. I therefore formally move the motion standing in my name,—“That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that the Midland Railway should be completed, and the lands now excepted from sale be opened for selection at as early a date as possible. 2. That the proposals of the Company, as contained in their letter of the 25th November, 1892, be submitted to a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament for consideration, with a view, if possible, of formulating some scheme by which the objects above mentioned may be attained.”

MR. DEHAMEL: It appears to me that the Premier has placed before us (what he himself called) one of the most important questions possible, with only twenty-four hours' notice, and that there is only one course open to us, and that is to take time to consider these proposals thoroughly, and to consider what the effect of this motion may be before we run straight into it. I therefore beg to move that the debate be now adjourned.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): I cannot see, myself, that there is any good reason for adjourning this debate. The question is a small one—that in the opinion of this House it is desirable that this railway should be completed. Surely we have had this question before the House and before the country for such a length of time that no man in this House wants 24 hours to make up his mind upon that point; and that is the only point the Government ask the House at the pre-

sent moment to decide upon. I do not suppose there can be any difference of opinion upon that point, and surely it cannot require much time to decide whether a joint committee of both Houses should sit to consider and to suggest the best way of carrying out that object. As to whether these proposals of the Company may be good or not, that is a very different matter, and one that will deserve very much consideration. But, while the Joint Committee are threshing out some scheme, and putting it in black and white before a committee of the whole House subsequently, all members not on this Joint Committee will be considering the question, and working out a scheme in their own minds. But I ask the House in all seriousness whether it is worth while to delay any further before coming to a decision upon the point we are now asking a vote upon, and that is whether it is desirable this railway should be completed.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: We do not want to refer that to a select committee. We can agree to that at once.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): That is all we are asking the House to agree to. What is there in the second proposition? That the proposals of the Company be referred to a select committee of both Houses. Surely we do not want time to consider that point. As to the proposals themselves, the Government do not ask any member to bind himself in any sense upon one of these proposals. The select committee may submit a different scheme altogether. But there is no reason why we should delay the passing of this simple motion. I hope members will think twice before they postpone a simple matter of this kind, so that we may get on.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: I think the proposal of the hon. member for Albany to adjourn this debate is a very reasonable one. The Government have now had this proposal, this outrageous proposal, this impertinent proposal, I consider it, of this outrageous Company before them since the 25th November, and they have been unable to come to any decision on the subject yet.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Who says so?

MR. R. F. SHOLL: They have been unable to make up their minds what to

do, and they came down to this House last night, and put these outrageous proposals for the first time before us, and they now ask us,—

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Ask what?

MR. R. F. SHOLL: Whether we are to send these insulting proposals to a select committee or not. I say it is an outrage upon the Government, and an outrage upon the common sense of this House, to ask that these proposals should be entertained for one moment. We all agree that it is desirable this railway should be completed, and as early as possible; but who is going to do it?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion): That is what we want the committee to say.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: What is the object of this select committee? The object of these proposals of the Company is to get further assistance from the Government, and I think the House would treat them very properly by refusing to send them to a select committee at all, and send them back to the Company, stating that the Government intend in the future to compel them to carry out their contract, or forfeit it.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Let the select committee do that, if they like.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: I do not think it is worth taking up the time of members by referring it to a select committee at all. I agree with the hon. member for Albany that this is not a matter that at any rate should be considered to-day, considering it was only laid on the table last evening, and that although it has been in the hands of the Government for nearly a fortnight they have been unable to come to any decision upon it.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Who says so?

MR. R. F. SHOLL: I say, if they have, they ought to acquaint this House with it; and, if the Government were acting in good faith towards this House, they would have done so.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Nonsense!

MR. R. F. SHOLL: It may be nonsense from your point of view. A great many things are nonsense from the hon. gentleman's point of view. Probably the

Government have decided upon their select committee, and who are to sit on it.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): That is for the House to say.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: I am perfectly well aware of that, and also that the Government, with their majority at their back, can appoint any committee they wish. It is a farce to refer this matter to a select committee at all. The subject is unworthy of the time and attention of the members of this House.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Why?

MR. R. F. SHOLL: I should like to say this: whenever a member is speaking in opposition to any matter which the Premier or the hon. member for West Kimberley has taken very much to heart, their interruptions are continuous. I should like to call the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that, according to our Standing Orders, a member interrupting another member when speaking is highly disorderly. I should like to impress that upon the hon. member for West Kimberley, and also upon the Premier himself.

MR. MONGER: Sitting on this side of the House, I am sorry I am unable to support the amendment of the hon. member for Albany, because I consider that the motion submitted by the Government is a most reasonable one. It simply states that, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the Midland Railway should be completed at as early a date as possible, and that the lands now excepted from selection should be thrown open. This, I think, is a most reasonable proposal to emanate from the Government,—I must say far more reasonable than I expected from them. As to the appointment of the select committee, it is left in the hands of members themselves, and it is for them to see who is placed upon this committee, and to see that gentlemen representing both sides of the House are placed upon it. Should this committee bring forward certain resolutions which are not in accord with the general feeling of this House, no one is pledged to support them. It is all very well for the hon. member for Albany to say we have only had this matter before us for the last twenty-four hours. To my knowledge it has been before us and

before the people of this colony for the last twenty-four months.

MR. DEHAMEL : No.

MR. MONGER : The gist of the thing has been before us, and, if we have been unable to come to any conclusion within the last twenty-four hours, it is simply owing to members not having taken the trouble to consider these proposals. I do not say for a moment that, when they come before the House, I am going to support them in their entirety, but I shall feel it my duty to support such of them as are in the interests of the colony generally, though, in doing so, I may be opposed to other members on this side of the House. I can only express my regret in being placed in that unfortunate position; but I am pleased to say that the Government for once have brought forward a motion which I am able to support.

MR. CLARKSON : I think the thanks of the members of the House are due to the Government for the action they have taken in this matter. I am sure we are all sick and tired of the very name of this Midland Railway, and, personally, I was very glad indeed to hear that it was proposed to refer the whole thing to a select committee of both Houses. Had these proposals come before the House in their present form, it would have taken us at least a week to get through them, and very likely not settle the matter in such a satisfactory manner as I hope it will be by this select committee. I am very pleased indeed that the Government have adopted the course they have.

MR. SOLOMON : I rise to support the Government in this matter. I think they have taken a very just and proper course to bring this question to a settlement. It is only natural that not alone this House but the colony generally should wish to have this vexed question settled one way or the other. This select committee will thresh it out, and we shall have some scheme presented to us, which we shall have an opportunity of discussing, and going fully into the matter. I am fully in accord with this motion of the Government, and I intend to support it.

Motion for the adjournment of the debate put, and negatived on the voices.

Resolution—put and passed.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) : With regard to the appointment of the Joint Committee, I think that in an

important matter of this sort it would be well to increase the usual number of members to sit on the committee, from five to seven. As I understand both Houses are to be represented by the same number of members on these joint committees, this will give us a more representative committee than if we had only five from each House. Therefore I move that the committee consist of seven members instead of five.

MR. R. F. SHOLL : I think that a large committee on a question of this sort is most undesirable, for this reason: that the members of it, when they come to this House to deal with the proposals of the committee, are virtually pledged to support them.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) : The committee may not agree.

MR. R. F. SHOLL : No doubt they will agree, and they will come here pledged to support the conclusions they have arrived at, and it will stifle the debate that ought to take place on an important matter like this. There are other reasons why these large committees are undesirable: they do not do their work so well or so expeditiously, generally; and, as I have said, it stifles discussion when the matter comes before the House to have so many members pledged to support the committee's proposals.

Question put—That the select committee consist of seven members of the Assembly, including the mover, instead of five as provided for in the Standing Rules and Orders.

Passed.

A ballot having been taken, the following members, in addition to the mover, were elected to serve upon the committee:—Mr. Loton, Mr. Lefroy, Mr. Burt, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Richardson, and Mr. Molloy.

Ordered—That the committee have power to call for persons and papers, and report upon Tuesday, 13th December, and that the resolution of the House be transmitted to the Legislative Council, with a request that they elect a similar number of their members to serve upon the Joint Select Committee.

BONUS FOR DEEP SHAFT-SINKING ON GOLDFIELDS.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that on the 23rd November the

House passed the following resolution:—
 “That, owing to the difficulty and uncertainty of procuring a supply of water on mining and pastoral purposes in our inland districts, the Government should, without delay, take such steps as may in their opinion be best calculated to test at what depth water in sufficient quantities can be procured.” The Government now proposed to submit for the approval of the House the following resolution:—
 “That a bonus of £5 per foot be offered to any person or company, who, during the year 1893, shall sink a shaft on any of the declared goldfields of the colony, between the depths of 200 and 300 feet from the surface, in accordance with regulations to be published.” He might point out that before this notice offering this bonus would be gazetted the Government would frame regulations under which the bonus could be earned. Of course it would not for a moment be allowed that a shaft might be sunk anywhere, in order to earn this £5 a foot—although he very much questioned whether it would pay anyone to sink a shaft between the depths mentioned, from 200ft. to 300ft., simply for the purpose of earning this bonus. In any case, the Government wished the money to be expended in a profitable manner, and they would provide that the work shall be carried on under the direction of the Wardens and under specific conditions. Of course the Government could have acted, and were prepared to act, on the resolution of the 23rd November, whenever they considered desirable, and they hoped that some good results might accrue by reason of the authority given to them by that resolution. But they did not feel justified in undertaking a work of this kind, offering a bonus to persons for sinking at these great depths, without placing the matter before the House, and obtaining the authority of the House to do so. Deep sinking on our mines, he supposed everyone would admit, was very necessary and almost imperative, for two reasons: in the first place, for the purpose, in some parts of the colony, of ascertaining at what depth water could be found; and, secondly, —what was really the most important, or quite as important as the other—for the purpose of ascertaining and testing the depths of the auriferous quartz. Some time ago the Government offered a

reward for something of this kind, and they published the offer in the *Gazette*, but there was no response to that invitation, and therefore their efforts in that direction on that occasion were of no avail. They believed, however, that the offer of this bonus would result in some good to the colony. They understood that several shafts had been sunk in various parts of the colony to a considerable depth, and this bonus would probably have the effect of their being carried to a greater depth, and so test the depth at which not only water can be obtained but also the depth to which our auriferous deposits extend. This money, of course, will be expended out of the sum allotted on the Loan Schedule for the development of the goldfields; and he thought no more legitimate way of spending the money could be found. As he said the other evening, when speaking upon the resolution then moved, he did not look upon our goldfields in the same light as any ordinary industry, or as private ventures; he looked upon them as a great source of national wealth. We were incurring very great expense indeed at the present time with the object of developing this great source of wealth, which we knew to exist in certain parts of the colony. We were constructing roads, building a railway, providing telegraph lines, and sinking for water on these fields, and what for? In order to develop the natural resources of the country, in order to develop that great source of national wealth, the gold-mining industry. The Government felt that they were justified in doing this, believing that upon the successful development of our goldfields the prosperity of the colony largely depended. Now that these fields were languishing, in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining water, the Government thought they should make this offer, which, as he had already said, would have the twofold result of testing the existence of a water supply, and also testing—he would not say the existence, for we knew of their existence—but testing the depth and extent of our auriferous deposits. As he had said before, the authority already given them under the resolution passed the other evening might have been considered sufficient warrant for the Government proceeding with this work; but, Parliament being in session,

and as the Government intended doing something in this direction at once, they felt they would be more justified in their actions if they submitted the matter to the House, and obtained the approval of the House. The Government had thought this matter out in the best way they could, and they were convinced that the offering of this bonus would be the best way to encourage deep sinking for water, and also the best way for encouraging the development of our mines.

MR. RICHARDSON said the resolution appeared to him somewhat bald, the way it was placed before them. He did not of course know what regulations the Government intended to make, or what conditions they intended to impose; they had not given the House any idea of their intentions in this respect. But it appeared to him that, according to the resolution as now worded, half-a-dozen men or more might go on sinking shafts in any part of the colony—it might be a reefing country or not. It did not say that these shafts were to be sunk on our mines, nor did it indicate in any way who were to have the water rights attached to the discovery of water, nor what the dimensions of these shafts were to be—in fact, it appeared to him there were fifty things about it concerning which the House required some information. It also seemed to him that £5 per foot was a pretty liberal bonus to offer,—

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): It is only at depths of between 200ft. and 300ft. If they only sink 20ft. they will only get £5 for the one foot below the 200ft.

MR. RICHARDSON said, in that case, he had misunderstood the intention of the Government. He thought it was to be £5 per foot all the way down from the surface, and he was not quite sure whether the resolution did not bear that interpretation.

MR. R. F. SHOLL thought the motion passed the other evening was to the effect that it was desirable to ascertain at what depth water could be found, not only on our Yilgarn and other goldfields, but also for pastoral purposes in our inland districts generally; but the present motion, so far as he could make out, was to subsidise mining companies to sink shafts on their own property, to provide water for working their own mines. He thought

this was quite a different proposal from that passed the other evening, and he considered that a very great injustice might be done to the country if it should be called upon to pay 20 or 30 companies a bonus for assisting them in working their own mines.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): They would have to do the work before they would get the money.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said they would have to do the work in any case, and these companies should call up their capital to do it. He thought if the Government, at the expense of the country, proved to them that water was to be obtained at a certain depth, the Government would do all that could be reasonably expected of them, and would carry out the intention of the House when it passed the other resolution, a few evenings back. He thought the country had helped our Yilgarn goldfields at any rate very handsomely already, what with constructing roads, erecting a telegraph line, and agreeing to build a railway, and also spending some thousands of pounds in obtaining water. He failed to see why the country should now be called upon to subsidise the different mines, and assist them in sinking their own shafts, for their own benefit. Surely these companies might be reasonably expected to do this themselves. They had a large amount of uncalled capital; let them call it up. If they could not do that, let them reconstruct their companies. He thought the country had already done a great deal for their mines, and a little energy on the part of the companies would achieve all that was proposed to be done by this Government bonus. No doubt it would be very welcome assistance—monetary assistance was always welcome, not only to mining companies but also to individuals. But they ought to consider the interests of the country.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): That is what we want to do.

MR. R. F. SHOLL thought they ought to ask themselves whether it was fair to the country to call upon it to give monetary assistance to these private companies to sink shafts for their own purposes and their own benefit. The Premier told them this was to be done under the direction of the Warden. He did not think the Warden was likely to be the most

competent man to decide where these shafts should be sunk. The mining manager would be the man to say where it would be best to sink a shaft. Supposing the Warden disagreed with the manager of any particular mine, and insisted upon a shaft being sunk in a certain place, that shaft would either have to be sunk in that place, or not sunk at all, if they wanted to claim this bonus.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): No, no. The Warden would simply see that the conditions were complied with. These shafts would already be down 200 feet before they could claim any bonus.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said there was another question that ought to be considered. There was one company at Yilgarn which had decided—and he thought wisely—to defer paying any dividend or placing any expensive machinery on their mine, until they had proved the richness of their mine. They had already sunk 200 feet, and he thought it would be most unfair to that particular mine, and the company would have reasonable ground for complaint if, after sinking that depth at their own expense, while other mines were taking gold out of their stone in order to pay a dividend—it would be most unfair to that particular mine if it was excluded from obtaining this bonus.

MR. A. FORREST: They can demand it now if they earn it.

MR. R. SHOLL did not think so. This resolution did not appear to be retrospective. It was only offered to those who sank shafts during next year. There was another point to be considered. This offer was open to all the mines, all over the colony, and the House had no idea what it was likely to cost the country. If any goldfields at all deserved assistance from the Government it was those fields that were far removed from railway communication, or telegraph communication, or even postal communication. He thought it would be only reasonable to offer those outlying fields some assistance, even to the extent of providing a public crusher. But he did not see that Yilgarn deserved all this consideration, bearing in mind what we were doing, and had already done, for those fields in the way of providing them with railway facilities and other facilities. He was sorry he could not support the

motion before the House; but he would promise the Government this,—if it passed, he should be one of those who would take advantage of this assistance, and be very glad to get it.

MR. BAKER thought that the resolution as it stood was very unfair to the Northern goldfields; in fact it would only apply to Yilgarn. There was no other field in the colony where there was a 200ft. shaft, and, who was going to sink a shaft like that "on spec.," just for the sake of getting £5 a foot afterwards? This was simply an offer to benefit one field, and that was Yilgarn. This was not fair to other fields, and he hoped the House would see that they got fair play all round. At any rate, they would not get his support to the resolution as it stood. This bonus ought to be offered for sinking any depth below 100ft., so as to give other fields a chance. There were plenty of mines with shafts down to 100 feet, but none down to 200 feet, except at Yilgarn.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion) said the hon. member could move an amendment to the resolution, if he wished the bonus to apply to depths of 100 feet. It might be on a graduated scale, £2 10s. per foot at depths between 100 feet and 200 feet, and £5 per foot at depths between 200 feet and 300 feet. It would be for the Government then to consider the matter. Of course a great deal of money would be required if they agreed to commence the bonus at only 100 feet, but that was no reason why the proposition should not be made, and considered by the House. Although there might be room for amendment as to the details of the motion, the desire of the Government was to assist those who showed a willingness to assist themselves, in the prosecution of the gold-mining industry, and more especially the gold-reefing industry. This did not apply to one particular goldfield, but to all the goldfields of the colony. The Government would be prepared to listen to any argument in favor of amending the resolution. At present there were three or four mines at Yilgarn that had gone a depth of from 100 feet to 200 feet, and he believed there was one mine that had gone to a depth of 200 feet, and there was nothing in the resolution to prevent that mine from

applying for this bonus, if it continued sinking below the 200 feet level, to any depth down to 300 feet. As the Premier had said, the object of the Government was to test the depth and extent of our auriferous deposits, and also the depth at which water was obtainable.

MR. RICHARDSON: Must it be fresh water?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion) said the resolution did not express that, nor that water should be discovered at all. He thought if they got such water as would serve for working the mines it would be a good thing; but the bonus was not offered for obtaining water, or rather, it was not a necessary condition that water should be actually discovered. The bonus was intended to encourage sinking, in order to ascertain whether water was obtainable, and also to test the depth at which auriferous quartz was obtainable. It had been said that the country had already done a great deal for the gold-mining industry. In his opinion the gold-mining industry had done a great deal for the country, and, with assistance wisely rendered to the industry at this stage, it would do a great deal more for the country. Whatever the House might do in the way of amending the resolution—and, as the Ministerial head of the Mining Department, he might say that he had himself no objection to its being amended, so long as the amendment was well considered and well threshed out—he was prepared to listen to any reasonable suggestion, and he might say the same of the Government.

MR. CLARKSON was very pleased to be able to support this resolution. He had the honor to represent a gold-mining district at present—he believed it was an honor he should soon lose—and he thought that anything we could possibly do in the way of developing these mines by shaft-sinking should be done, not only in the interests of the mining industry but also in the interests of the pastoral industry. This resolution would test not only the extent or depth of our auriferous deposits, but also an equally important point: it would test the question of a water supply in those parts of the country where these shafts were sunk. He hoped the House would agree to the resolution.

MR. DEHAMEL was glad to say he was able to take an opposite view from the Government on this occasion, and he did that as one who was interested in one of the mines at Yilgarn, and who would therefore benefit by this resolution. But, though personally he might benefit by it, he did not see why the country should be put to the expense of paying for him, or for anybody else; and he certainly intended to vote against it. It seemed to him, without any doubt at all, that it was a proposition by the Government to try to benefit speculators,—the men who last night, when dealing with the Police Bill, they were trying to relieve from the operation of that Act—the men who wanted to put their money into raffles and sweeps, for, practically, those who put their money into gold mines were the same as those who put their money into raffles. The Government were now trying to benefit one class of speculators—those who put their money into gold-mining—which was as much of a gambling speculation, pure and simple, as a raffle or a sweep. The Premier as well as the rest of them knew very well that when he put £100 into a gold mine, he simply wiped it out of his bank account: if it turned up trumps, well and good, if it did not turn up trumps, he knew it was simply thrown away on a chance. He could not see why they should ask the country to pay for these mines to get the benefit of the expenditure. He was quite in favor of the resolution passed the other evening in favor of testing for water, but he objected to the country assisting those who were in a hole and had got into difficulties by speculating in mining ventures. It seemed to him it was beneath the dignity of that House to pass such a resolution. He did not intend himself to move any counter resolution, but if it went to a division he should certainly vote against it.

MR. RICHARDSON said there might be something objectionable in the idea of assisting mining companies to improve their own property, but, looking at the proposal all round, he thought it might be fairly said that it was calculated to do a great deal towards giving an impetus to the development of the mining industry, which, after all, was probably the chief object which they had in view. But whether this was the most legitimate

way of assisting the mining industry was a moot question, and a matter for consideration.

MR. MONGER said he was in accord with the motion, so far as it went; but he did not think it went quite far enough. He failed to see why this boon should be offered to companies who were going to sink this additional distance next year, and be withheld from those companies who had already gone a greater depth than 200ft., and he was going to move that the same consideration as was now offered to companies who sank shafts during next year should also be shown to those companies who had already sunk to a depth of 200ft., without any inducement of this kind having been held out to them. He thought these companies should have the same encouragement as those companies who had not shown as much enterprise.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): No, no.

MR. MONGER: Why should they not?

MR. SIMPSON moved, That progress be reported, and leave given to sit again.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he proposed to put the proposal of the Government in a little better shape, to meet the objections of the hon. member for East Kimberley (Mr. Baker), by offering a bonus also for sinking at depths between 100ft. and 200ft. With reference to the suggestion of the hon. member for York, as to paying people who had already sunk shafts, he did not see any good reason for that. Using an illustration, if the Government reduced the price of land, you might as well argue that those who had bought land at a higher price should be refunded. What they wanted to do was to encourage those who had not already done it to develop the resources of their mines. That was their object, and he thought the motion would have that result. He thought the proposition, as amended, would be of great service, and be fair to all parts of the colony, both at the North and in the Southern portions of the colony. By reducing the depths at which this bonus should commence, they would be assisting the Kimberley, Pilbarra, and the Murchison goldfields; and by going the greater depth we should be assisting Yilgarn and other fields. As to whether the principle of State assistance to this or

that industry was a right one or not, he did not care a straw about these abstract principles. His idea was to do good for the country, and the question he asked himself was—would it benefit the colony? Assist in the development of any industry, so long as it was profitable to the country; that was his argument. He would now, with the leave of the House, withdraw his original resolution, in order to submit it in an amended form.

THE CHAIRMAN said the question at present before the House was that progress be reported.

MR. SIMPSON said he would, with leave, withdraw that amendment.

Amendment withdrawn.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) then moved the following amended resolution,—“That the undermentioned bonuses be offered to any person or company who, during the year 1893, shall sink a shaft as hereinafter mentioned, on any of the declared goldfields of the colony, in accordance with regulations to be made by the Government:—

“For a shaft between the depths of 100 feet and 200 feet, £2 10s. per foot.

“For a shaft between the depths of 200 feet and 300 feet, £5 per foot.”

MR. R. F. SHOLL thought they were drifting far wide of the resolution passed the other evening, which was intended to benefit not only the mining industry but also the pastoral industry.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The other resolution will stand.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said it seemed to him that what they wanted to ascertain was whether water was obtainable on our goldfields. There were certain shafts already sunk a considerable depth, without finding water, but it was considered that if they sunk another 100 feet they might find water. That at any rate would test the existence of water at that particular point, and it would be a good thing for all the mines in that locality, and—so far as testing the question of an underground water supply—it would be a good thing for the country too. This would not interfere with the resolution passed the other evening, or prevent them from testing for water with the diamond borer, in other parts of the colony.

MR. MONGER moved that progress be reported.

MR. SOLOMON said he would support that motion. It appeared to him that this resolution was an attempt to gain by a sidewind that which—

THE CHAIRMAN (interposing) said that a motion to report progress could not be entertained within fifteen minutes of a previous motion to the same effect having been negatived.

MR. DEHAMEL was afraid they were getting into a fog. The previous motion to report progress had been withdrawn.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said if there was a general desire that progress should be reported, the Government had no wish to oppose the feeling of the House in the matter.

Question put—That progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The committee divided, the numbers being—

Ayes	...	...	...	9
Noes	...	...	...	17

Majority against ... 8

AYES.
Mr. Darlot
Mr. DeHamel
Mr. Richardson
Mr. H. W. Sholl
Mr. Simpson
Mr. Solomon
Sir J. G. Lee Steere
Mr. Traylen
Mr. Monger (Teller).

NOES.
Mr. Baker
Mr. Burt
Sir John Forrest
Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. Hassell
Mr. Lefroy
Mr. Loton
Mr. Marmion
Mr. Molloy
Mr. Paterson
Mr. Pearse
Mr. Phillips
Mr. Piesse
Mr. Quinlan
Mr. R. F. Sholl
Mr. Venn
Mr. Clarkson (Teller).

MR. MONGER said he still thought that the resolution should apply to mines who had already sank shafts, so long as they complied with the conditions. Why should those mines that had done nothing in this direction, and had shown no enterprise, be placed on a better footing than mines that had expended large sums in endeavoring to do what the Government wanted to be done? Why should this bonus be limited to those who sink shafts during the year 1893? It was absurd to say that it was only those who were going to sink next year were the only people who were doing, or had done, anything in the way of developing the mining industry; and, unless the Government were prepared to help those who had done so much up to the present to make Yilgarn a success, he intended to go against the resolution of the Premier.

Personally, he considered the whole thing was unnecessary. Most of these mines had a large amount of uncalled capital, which could be called up and expended in the further development of the mines, in this direction; and he did not think there were many of the mines at Yilgarn that would require much assistance in this way from the Government. If they did, he should say—give that assistance to all, including those who have sunk shafts in the past. He was sorry that the committee had decided not to report progress, as he should have liked to have had an opportunity of ascertaining the views of the various mining people in Perth, who were most largely interested in the welfare of these mines. He saw amongst hon. members present those who were shareholders in the best mines at Yilgarn, but he did not think these gentlemen should be the only people who should have an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon this question. The Attorney General intimated just now that the Government were willing to report progress, and he had been surprised to find the members of the Government voting, in the division, against reporting progress.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): I said if it was the general wish of the House.

MR. DEHAMEL said it appeared to him they were getting more and more into a fog, and the best thing they could do was to adjourn the debate. If the time had not yet elapsed for again moving to report progress, he would wait a few minutes. It appeared to him the Premier wanted to crush the Opposition; but the Opposition would not allow themselves to be crushed by the Premier. They would put in force every form they could, rather than submit to be crushed by the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government. He would ask the Premier, did he hold any shares in Yilgarn?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): What do you mean by that?

MR. DEHAMEL: Of course I must not impute motives.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): You are imputing motives.

MR. DEHAMEL: We were told the other night there was only one patriotic and only one honest man in the colony, and that if honesty was to be the test at the next election there would only

be one man returned to this House, and that was the hon. the Premier himself. But when we have a resolution like this put before us, which simply comes to this, that the money of the country, the money of the people of the colony, is to be used in developing gold mines for the benefit of the rich, I ask,—where is that honest man?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion): Over there.

MR. DEHAMEL: The hon. gentleman says over here. I know this: if I were in the place of the Premier I would not have brought forward such a motion as this, with the interest that he has, or is believed to have, in the mines at Yilgarn. When we passed that resolution the other night what was the object of it? At first it was confined simply and solely to obtaining water for the development of the goldfields, but the hon. member for the Swan moved an amendment extending it in favor of the pastoral interests of the colony, and we had a division upon it, and we tied, and his Honor the Speaker very properly gave his casting vote with those who went for the interests of the country instead of with those who went for their own pockets.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Is that in order? Is that Parliamentary?

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must not impute any motives.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I think he should withdraw. I do not want to press it, but I think it was a very improper observation.

MR. DEHAMEL: I shall be very pleased indeed to withdraw it, if it hurts the feelings of the Premier.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion): You won't hurt our feelings if you talk for a month.

MR. DEHAMEL: When we come to look at this resolution, it comes back to this: that the Government are trying now, by a sidewind, to bring about that which this House deliberately refused the other night. You cannot get away from that. The original proposition was that there should be a shaft sunk to provide water for the mines. Then it was proposed to have a bore, and ultimately it was resolved that the boring operations should not be confined to Yilgarn goldfields but to the inland districts generally, to ascertain whether

water was obtainable, not only for mining but also for the pastoral interests. That was a very proper resolution, and, after the division the other night, I do not think that members can consistently support the present resolution, which is solely in the interest of mining companies. Sir, it is exactly fifteen minutes since the last division, and I beg now to move that progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

Upon a division the numbers were—

Ayes	...	...	...	15
Noes	...	...	...	11

Majority for ... 4

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Darlot	Mr. Baker
Mr. Harper	Sir John Forrest
Mr. Leffroy	Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. Loton	Mr. Hassell
Mr. Monger	Mr. Marmion
Mr. Pearce	Mr. Molloy
Mr. Quinlan	Mr. Paterson
Mr. Richardson	Mr. Phillips
Mr. R. F. Sholl	Mr. Piesse
Mr. H. W. Sholl	Mr. Venn
Mr. Simpson	Mr. Clarkson (Teller).
Mr. Solomon	
Sir J. G. Lee Steere	
Mr. Traylen	
Mr. DeHamel (Teller).	

Progress was then reported, and leave given to sit again on the following day.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to 5 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 7th December, 1892.

Railway Platform at Smith's Mill—Land Regulations Amendment Bill: third reading—Perth Gas Company's Amendment Bill: second reading—Export Timber Branding Bill: second reading; referred to select committee—Excess Bill, 1891: second reading; committee—Midland Railway: further proposals from; referred to joint committee of both Houses—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. G. Shenton) took the chair at 8 o'clock.

PRAYERS.

LAND REGULATIONS AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill was read a third time, and passed.