

# Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 6th November, 1907.

	PAGE
Questions: Printing by Prison Labour ...	549
Mining Grant, Callion Company ..	549
Railway Gangs ..	549
Bills: Roads and Streets Closure, Ia. ....	549
Jarra-wood-Nannup Railway, Ia. ....	549
Marriage Act Amendment, Com. reported ...	549
Navigation Amendment, Ia. ....	604
Estimates resumed: Treasury and Education	
Votes completed ...	553
All-night Sitting on Estimates ...	571

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

Prayers.

## QUESTION—PRINTING BY PRISON LABOUR.

Mr. ANGWIN (without notice) asked the Treasurer: Will he cause inquiry to be made regarding the statement appearing in to-day's *Morning Herald*, in an article relating to printing by prison labour; also a statement that in regard to prison labour the Minister had been misled by his officers?

The TREASURER replied: I have already sent on the article for inquiry.

## QUESTION—MINING GRANT, CALLION COMPANY.

Mr. HOLMAN, for Mr. Bath, asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Has a grant of £1,000 been promised to the Callion M.Co.? 2, If so, has any portion of his amount been paid? 3, Is the Minister aware that the men have had to sue the company for their wages, and although they secured a verdict the money has not been forthcoming up to date?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, Yes; for a specific purpose. 2, No. 3, No.

## QUESTION—RAILWAY GANGERS.

Mr. HOLMAN, for Mr. Bath, asked the Minister for Railways: 1, How many flying gangers have been appointed since the system was inaugurated? 2, Were they promoted from permanent gangs? 3, If so, how many were promoted? 4, How many leading fettlers

were appointed? 5, Were these promoted from repairers? 6, For what reason were casual hands promoted to flying gangers? 7, What length of service did flying ganger T. Wilson have before he was promoted to the charge of a flying gang on the Cue-Nannine section? 8, On whose recommendation was he appointed?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Forty-three (43). 2, No, not all. 3, Thirty-five (35) were promoted from Permanent Way Gangs. 4, Forty-seven (47). 5, They were drawn from Repairers and reduced Gangers. 6, The casual hands promoted to Flying Gangers were Railway Construction Gangers of known ability, whose experience pointed them out as being the most suitable for the positions, and desirable men for the Railway Service. 7, Casual, a few months only. 8, Resident Engineer and Inspector, Northam, and on his well-known ability as a Railway Construction Ganger.

## BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, Roads and Streets Closure; 2, Jarra-wood-Nannup Railway; introduced by the Premier.

## PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: Plan of proposed Railway from Narrogin to Wickepin, showing area available for subdivision.

## BILL—MARRIAGE ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

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

Clauses 1, 2, 3—agreed to.

Clause 4—Amendment of 58 Vict., No. 11, s. 4:

Mr. TAYLOR: What was the meaning of inserting after "religion" the words "or other person"?

The PREMIER: By Section 4 of the principal Act, "minister" meant any minister of religion authorised to celebrate

marriages. "Or other person" referred to registrars of marriages.

Clause passed.

Clauses 5, 6, 7—agreed to.

Clause 8—Amendment of Section 12 (posting of public notice):

Mr. TAYLOR: The section provided for the posting of notices. The Criminal Code prescribed punishments for law-breakers; and in view of these penalties, why should the publication of notices in a conspicuous place be needed as a preventive of bigamy or other offence against the Act? How many people read the notices posted up? The publicity was no safeguard, and the system of publishing banns should be done away with. People should be able to get married without the fact being published in the by-ways and highways. There might have been justification for the publication in the earlier days of the State when there was a big rush of people from all parts of the world, but now that there was a settled community and people were well aware of the laws of the country, it was quite unnecessary.

The PREMIER: One reason for the existence of the provision was to prevent the possibility of persons committing bigamy. The system of calling banns and posting notices had been in vogue in the old country and in most of the other States for very many years, and there was no reason why it should be altered. There was an alternative, that if persons did not desire banns to be published in a place of worship they were at liberty to have a notice posted on the church door for a certain period. [*Mr. Gull*: Or be married by special license.] One of the main reasons amending the section as in this clause was that banns need not necessarily be called in churches on three consecutive Sundays. This would obviate the difficulty that arose in cases such as at timber mills, where church services were not held every Sunday. The practice in vogue did not cause a hardship to anyone. An opportunity was given by the practice to any person who knew of a cause why the parties should not be married of taking action and stating his objection. It had been

suggested that notification of an intended marriage should be inserted in the local newspapers, but that would cause a great deal of expense.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: One objection to the law in regard to the publication of banns was that people who had money were able to be married without any such publication. If the system were good for a poor man it should be equally good for one who was able to pay £10 for a special license. It appeared to him that the publication of banns was originally established in order to allow the ministers to obtain extra fees. The publication was no safeguard against crime, for if a man wanted to break the law by committing bigamy he could go to the registrar and get a special license and so prevent all publicity.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The member for Pilbarra apparently thought a special licence was provided to give the rich man an advantage over the poor man. It was nothing of the sort, as was shown in the section of the parent Act. The publication of banns had the effect sometimes of enabling parents of minors to know their son or daughter contemplated marriage. If there was anything to be ashamed of in connection with marriage, there might be something in the arguments raised; but surely there was no reason for any objection to banns being called.

Mr. TAYLOR: It was the compulsory nature of the clause to which he objected, for there was no valid reason why persons contemplating marriage should have to post a notice at the registrar's office, or have banns called in a church. He desired to make the costs as low as possible, and also to remove from those desiring to marry the compulsion of having to post a notice of intention, at the registrar's office or other public place. Seeing there was a law to punish bigamy where was the necessity for posting notice of intention to marry? This publication was not compulsory in other matters in which the law was liable to be broken. Despite the similar provision in previous legislation, bigamy was as frequent in this State as elsewhere; and the mere

necessity for posting the notice would not deter those determined to break the law. Such a provision was obsolete. The fee for special license to marry was ten guineas; and anyone able to pay ten guineas might obtain a special license and be secretly married, thus evading the object of the clause. This proved the desirability of reducing the fee for special licenses to an amount sufficient to cover the cost of registration, say one guinea.

Mr. STONE: The ordinary registration fee was high, but there was little cause for complaint in the charge for a special license, which was required only in exceptional circumstances and was issued only after close scrutiny as to the identity of the parties applying. Frequent instances of bigamy in the past justified the provision in the clause.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 9 to end—agreed to.

New Clause—Amendment of Section 20:

Mr. ANGWIN moved that the following stand as a clause:—

*Section 20 of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting after the words "resident magistrate" the words "or any person authorised by law to celebrate marriages."*

Section 20 provided that special licenses should be issued by the Governor or a resident-magistrate, but difficulties sometimes arose in the way of having marriages celebrated because of the heavy fee which was charged at the discretion of the Governor or resident magistrates. It would be to the advantage of the State and the parties concerned if the words proposed in the clause were inserted, because persons authorised by law to celebrate marriages might be better acquainted with the circumstances of the persons applying to be married. Instances had occurred where the magistrate had refused to lower the fee and marriages did not take place in consequence; and there were other instances where the magistrates had put certain questions to couples who were rather diffident about answering them. The clause would allow registrars of births,

deaths, and marriages to grant special licenses and therefore exercise discretion as to reducing the fees.

The PREMIER: Section 20 provided that the Governor or resident magistrate might, by reason of special circumstances showing that there existed good reason for the speedy celebration of the marriage, grant special licenses. It would not be wise to give this responsibility to young persons such as clerks of court in out-back places who were usually the registrars of births, deaths and marriages. Although there might possibly be some occasions when the circumstances of cases had not been gone into thoroughly by a resident magistrate, yet it was as well to restrict the power to the persons mentioned in the original Act. The fee of £10 was seldom insisted on. As a rule discrimination was exercised by the magistrate.

Mr. Stone: The publication of banns stood good for three months; that was sufficient safeguard.

Mr. ANGWIN: Few saw the notice publishing the banns. If it was wise to allow young men to celebrate marriages with the banns published as they were, there was no great difference in giving them the power to use their discretion in granting a special license. The object of the proposal was to extend the power to grant these special licenses. It would prove advantageous in country districts.

Mr. TAYLOR: The area should be broadened. It was strange we should go through all these formalities. In any other State of the Commonwealth if persons wished to marry they could go to a clergyman or registrar to register the contract just as any other contract was registered. Why should we try to make people outside believe that we were savages and that we would commit bigamy or any other crime. He was surprised at the Premier, a native of the State, clinging to the traditions of the lag days. We should remove these old and antiquated ideas and pass a Bill so that people would come here and live amongst us. Why should those sufficiently competent in the opinion of the Government to administer the mar-

riage laws not have the power to grant special licenses at a fee that would cover the registration. We should do away with these antiquated, tyrannical laws, which had so long disgraced this country. People should know exactly that they could go into a registrar's office, get a special license, and get married without demur, without giving any reasons at all, and at a fee that would cover the mere clerical work. In other States these restrictions had been abolished years ago. It was necessary that members should try and remove these restrictions and prevent Western Australia becoming a laughing stock to other parts of the world. There were only two persons in the country, according to the Bill, who could grant special licenses at a very heavy fee. There was a measure in another place which showed that the Government of the day had passed an order in Executive Council by which a special license was granted, and the fee was set down. If that Bill reached this Chamber then we would be able to deal with special licenses. We should accept the new clause, moved by the member for East Fremantle, so that anyone who required a special license should be able to get one without going to a magistrate or the Governor.

Question (new clause) put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	15
Noes	..	..	..	22

Majority against .. 7

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Angwin	Mr. Barnett
Mr. Bath	Mr. Reelher
Mr. Bolton	Mr. Butcher
Mr. T. L. Brown	Mr. Draper
Mr. Collier	Mr. Ewing
Mr. Davies	Mr. Foulkes
Mr. Eddy	Mr. Gordon
Mr. Holman	Mr. Gregory
Mr. Horan	Mr. Gull
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Hardwick
Mr. Taylor	Mr. Hayward
Mr. Troy	Mr. McLarty
Mr. Underwood	Mr. Male
Mr. Walker	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Heitmann (Teller).	Mr. N. J. Moore
	Mr. S. F. Moore
	Mr. Price
	Mr. Smith
	Mr. Stone
	Mr. Varyard
	Mr. F. Wilson
	Mr. Layman (Teller).

Question thus negatived.

New Clause—Ministers empowered to grant special licenses:

Mr. ANGWIN: Could another new clause be moved to amend Section 20 by empowering ministers of religion to grant special licenses?

The CHAIRMAN: The legality of the new clause could hardly be decided without seeing it and comparing it with that just negatived. So far as one could judge, the hon. member would be in order.

Mr. ANGWIN moved that the following stand as a new clause:—

*Section 20 of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting the words "or any minister of religion" after "resident magistrate."*

It was necessary that persons other than magistrates should be allowed to grant special licenses, and there was reason to believe the existing restriction had prevented marriages that should have taken place. Any person having a special reason for marrying speedily would rather mention it to his minister than to a magistrate. Ministers were hardly likely to abuse the powers thus conferred.

Mr. TAYLOR supported the new clause, though preferring that just negatived. As a confidant many people would prefer a minister to a magistrate, the latter being judicial rather than sympathetic.

The PREMIER: The same objection applied to this clause as to the former. Amongst ministers of religion were very young men who should not be entrusted with such responsibility. It was unfair that members should spring such new clauses on the Committee, instead of putting them on the Notice Paper.

The CHAIRMAN: It was not yet clear that the new clause was in order; but the mover was given the benefit of the doubt, so that the Committee might have a full opportunity of expressing their views. The clause could have been moved as an amendment to the other new clause just negatived.

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

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

A tie .. .. 0

## AYES.

Mr. Angwin  
Mr. Bath  
Mr. Bolton  
Mr. T. L. Brown  
Mr. Collier  
Mr. Davies  
Mr. Heitmann  
Mr. Holman  
Mr. Horan  
Mr. Hudson  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Stone  
Mr. Taylor  
Mr. Underwood  
Mr. Vervard  
Mr. Walker  
Mr. Troy (Teller).

## NOES.

Mr. Barnett  
Mr. Rebber  
Mr. Draper  
Mr. Ewing  
Mr. Gregory  
Mr. Gull  
Mr. Hardwick  
Mr. Hayward  
Mr. Layman  
Mr. McLarty  
Mr. Male  
Mr. Mitchell.  
Mr. N. J. Moore  
Mr. S. F. Moore  
Mr. Price  
Mr. F. Wilson  
Mr. Gordon (Teller).

The CHAIRMAN gave his casting vote with the Noes, on the ground that the existing law should not be altered until a majority had determined that a change should be made, and farther consideration should therefore be given to the question.

Question (new clause) thus negatived.

Schedule put and passed.

Bill reported without amendment; report adopted.

## ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1907-8.

*In Committee of Supply.*

Resumed from the previous day, Mr. *Daglish* in the Chair.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCHES (Hon. Frank Wilson, Treasurer).

Vote—*Literary and Scientific Grants*, £13,455:

Item—Public Library of Western Australia, £3,250:

Mr. TROY: The Estimates showed that it was proposed to increase the vote for the public library by £250. Considering the state of the finances, but without desiring in any way to hamper the education of the people, there should be no increase to the vote at the present time. He desired to refer to the method of appointing members of the committee and to ask what qualifications the members of the committee possessed for the positions they held. He recognised that the chairman and several others were possessed of the highest qualifications. Mr. Charles Harper, an ex-Speaker of the House and a gentleman of considerable merit, was also a member, but he did not take interest in matters such as this. Sir

George Shenton, Dr. Harvey, Dr. Kelsall, and Mr. Briggs were also members. The last-named gentleman was well-fitted for the position, while the same remark also applied to Mr. Justice McMillan. The report of the board for the year showed that Dr. Hackett had only attended four meetings, but this was due to the fact that he was out of the State for some months. Sir George Shenton did not attend once.

*The Treasurer:* He was also away.

Mr. TROY: Mr. Harper attended once and Dr. Harvey only once.

*The Treasurer:* He was away for half the year.

Mr. TROY: Dr. Kelsall attended four times. The board should be made more representative of the people, seeing that the money was not voted for any particular class. Several members of the board did not attend to their duties, and when new appointments were made they should be those of persons who were representative of the people.

Mr. HOLMAN: Last year Sir George Shenton only attended once, and he did not attend at all this year, so what was the use of having a man like that on the board? Dr. Hackett attended no meetings last year and nine the previous year, while Dr. Kelsall attended four this year and one last year. Mr. Justice McMillan had attended fifty per cent. of the meetings. [*The Minister for Mines:* He was a very enthusiastic member.] Time after time one had applied for grants for institutes in back country places, and was always told that there was no money, yet there was never any difficulty in getting large grants for the Perth institutions. At the Perth public library thousands of pounds were being spent to lock up books which were not allowed to be taken out of the institution. He had received a letter from the Institutes Association of Western Australia in which they set forth their case very clearly. In looking through the grants made to the mechanics' institutes for last year, he noticed that Cue only received £15.

The CHAIRMAN: The member was going a little wide of the mark.

Mr. HOLMAN: All he was doing was to compare the amount of money spent

in the capital with the disbursements in the country. In addition to obtaining the large sum of money set out in the item under discussion, the Perth library received a certain amount from the vote for mechanics' institutes. Last year the sum of £250 was taken by the public library from that vote. [*The Treasurer*: That was for out-back libraries.] The assistance given to the out-back libraries was not considered worthy of being continued.

At 6.15, the Chairman left the Chair.

At 7.30, Chair resumed.

Mr. HOLMAN (continuing): The grants made to the various institutes throughout the State in no way compared with the grant to the Public Library of Western Australia. He had received a letter from the Institutes Association of Western Australia, a body that should have some influence in this matter, and this letter pointed out that the public library did not lend out books at all. People desirous of using the library must go to the institution and read the books there. The Kalgoorlie library last year issued over 40,000 books to members. The Victoria public library was useless if people could not take books away to read, for it was only a few who had the leisure to go to the reading room and read books there. To give the public the full benefit of this library, books should be allowed to be taken away. The grant given to the Kalgoorlie library last year was only £100, yet that institution lent out 40,560 books during the year.

Mr. Angwin: That was only to subscribers.

Mr. HOLMAN: There were many persons who would subscribe to the Perth library if they were enabled to take out books. The institution would then become useful, and the subscriptions would go a great way towards the upkeep of the institution. It might be said that this library was a place for record; but we could keep it so. If there were valuable books which it was not desirable to loan out, these books could be kept in the library. Discretion would have to be used, but the present position was unsatisfactory. The

appointment of boards in connection with these institutions was by no means satisfactory. Representatives of the people had no seat on these boards. Some members of the board, such as Mr. Justice McMillan, Mr. Henry Briggs, and Dr. Hackett, were gentlemen who took a vital interest in the welfare of the institution, but there were other members of the board who did not attend the meetings at all. The time had come when some live members should be placed on those boards and the people themselves should be represented. One did not find on any of the boards members from the Opposition represented, which was unfair. If members from the Opposition side of the House were placed on the boards better work would be done. If the finances of the State were in a flourishing condition he would not stint this vote, but when we took into consideration that there were places in the out-back country, hundreds of miles away from the railway, that could not get a solitary penny to establish a library, then this vote should be curtailed. The Treasurer was not anxious that the people in out-back places should know what the public men in Parliament said, for he had stopped the supply of *Hansard* to outside places. The Government absolutely robbed the people in the back country of the right to read what the public men in Parliament said. Every individual in the State should have *Hansard* delivered to him free if he so desired. He moved—

*That the item be reduced by £500.*

Farther down on the Estimates there was an item of £2,000 for mechanics' institutes, and of this amount the public library of Perth received £250 for the purpose of the upkeep of what was called the travelling library. The letter from the Institutes' Association of Western Australia said that this branch institution was absolutely useless. Instead of spending the whole of the money in Perth, places out-back should receive some of the money. It was not the people from the country who visited the library in Perth, for when they came to the metropolis they had something more important to devote their time to. No public man could spare the time to go

to the library to read, and it was only right that people should be allowed to take books to their homes where they could read them in comfort. There should be a lending branch added to the library. Many hundreds of thousands of subscribers could be got for such a branch, and the people would be willing to pay a guinea a year. This would bring in a good revenue, sufficient to pay the whole of the salaries in connection with the institution.

Mr. DRAPER opposed the amendment. At night the library was frequently crowded by men who could not afford to subscribe a guinea per annum. If it were made a lending library, the books must be duplicated for the sake of those who read them in the building. This was the practice in English towns, where the free library had a lending branch and a reference branch. The argument of the last speaker proved that the grant should be increased. However, we could not afford a lending library.

Mr. BATH would not discourage the public library management, but pleaded for more considerate treatment of out-back settlers who contributed to the library, yet had none of its advantages, though they outnumbered the people of the capital. None would deny that money spent on the library was wisely spent, and if we could afford it we should spend much more, though with due regard to other centres. Last year the Treasurer argued for fixing the vote at £3,000, because such grants must be curtailed so that the more material and immediate needs of the people might not go unsatisfied. The trustees complained of being pinched for want of funds; but the State also was pinched, having a deficit of over £200,000. In view of the dire necessity for other expenditure, could we afford to be generous in this matter? If an increase on £3,000 was not justified last year, this year the justification was even less. The trustees stated that New South Wales voted £9,000 to the Sydney library; but that State had five times our population, and was more prosperous. Victoria also had five times our population, and though

she spent £14,000 on her library, this State did better in proportion; while the same applied in a less degree to South Australia. He protested against centralisation. If we could afford more this year than last year, better give the money to country libraries to buy books for themselves. Travelling libraries were unsatisfactory. It appeared that every country institute had a lending library, which was much more convenient than a reference library, as the people could read the books in their own homes. If funds permitted he would not deny the Perth library a generous grant. Such institutions were democratic, and their advantages were recognised the world over; but in times of financial stress the trustees must recognise that additional expenditure was impossible. He did not favour the amendment; but the vote should be £3,000, as in the previous year.

The TREASURER: As the last speaker said, this was a democratic institution, free to all; but other speakers did not seem to recognise its freedom. The member for Murchison (Mr. Holman) propounded three confused propositions—first, that the institute was an absolutely free library, dependent entirely on the Government; secondly, because it was supported by the Government, out-back libraries were being harshly treated; and thirdly, we should have a lending library supported by voluntary subscriptions. The public library had, with less money, done better work than the libraries of the sister States. If funds permitted, and if there were a demand, the Government would be glad to establish a lending library in connection with the existing institution. But Perth had already subscription libraries doing good work, and to some extent subsidised by the Government. The Mechanics' Institute library was available to subscribers. Was it democratic to turn a free institution into one dependent on voluntary subscriptions, and available to subscribers only? Would the hon. member say that a lending institution for which the Government would have to provide £2,000 or £3,000 to back up subscriptions was an urgent

need in Perth? The hon. member knew there was any amount of scope for joining subscription libraries in the metropolis even at less than a guinea. In regard to mechanics' institutes, for years back £2,000 had been provided each year, while out of the vote a sum of £250 was taken each year for the purpose of a lending library connected with the Public Library. The lending library was largely availed of by out-back institutions, many cases of books having been sent to them from time to time and returned and replaced by others. Among the out-back institutions that had benefited in this way were Bardoc, Bonnievale, Boorara, Boulder, Broad Arrow, Broome, Bulong, Cue, Day Dawn, Derby, Geraldton, Jourdie Hills, Kanowna, Leonora, Malcolm, Magnet, Niagara, Paddington, Port Hedland and Southern Cross, and the library at Midland Junction had also availed itself of the opportunity; yet hon. members would suggest that this vote should be reduced by £500. The Leader of the Opposition had tried to make out that everything in our country was wrong and badly handled, that everything in the distance was absolutely correct and something to be admired and to be proud of; that everything in the Eastern States must be right.

**Mr. BATH:** The Minister was absolutely wrong. What was said was that we were doing better here than they were doing in the other States. He (Mr. Bath) had refuted the idea that the other States were doing better than we were.

**The TREASURER:** The argument of the hon. member was that we as a Government were finding more money in proportion to the Governments of the other States. On that point he joined issue with the hon. member and affirmed that, as a Government, we were not doing better. The staff of the Public Library was doing better and cheaper work than the staffs of similar institutions in the Eastern States; but the Government and Parliament were not doing better with such institutions than were the Eastern Parliaments. The total volumes in the libraries in the different States were—Perth 75,000, Adelaide 60,000, Melbourne 183,000, Sydney 167,000. Adelaide, Mel-

bourne and Sydney with their huge populations should be ahead of Perth in regard to the annual increase of volumes; but strange to say, Perth headed the list in this respect. In each State the annual increase was between 5,000 and 6,000. The number of readers per annum in each state was :—Perth, 204,000; Adelaide, 95,000; Melbourne, 361,000; Sydney, 647,000. The Sydney figures included the lending library attached to the institution; anyone borrowing a book was put down as a visitor to the library. These figures showed that in giving facilities for the money spent we were far in advance of the institutions in Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney. The Government grant in Western Australia was £3,000 last year, and £3,250 was proposed this year. The annual Government grants in the other States were :—Adelaide, £3,100; Melbourne, nearly £14,000; Sydney, £9,000. In Adelaide the library had an annual private income of £1,855, derived from a bequest of £65,000 left to the institution by a patriotic citizen, Dr. Morgan. In regard to the cost of working we were getting better value. The figures were :—Perth, £3,085; Adelaide, £4,955; Melbourne, £13,842; and Sydney, £9,565. The salaries paid were :—Perth, £1,261; Adelaide, £1,898; Melbourne, £6,292; Sydney, £6,075. Money spent on books each year was :—Perth, £1,305; Adelaide, £2,710; Melbourne, £5,350; Sydney, £1,469. The percentage of salaries to the total cost was :—Perth, 40; Adelaide, 40; Melbourne, 45.5; and Sydney, 62.5. The idea of comparing institutions of this sort on the basis of population could only emanate from a man without practical experience like the Leader of the Opposition, who wished the Committee to believe that the expenses of the institution should be in proportion to the population.

**Mr. Bath:** No such thing was said. It was said that population was a proper basis of comparison.

**The TREASURER:** The institution here had not made any progress until ten years ago, though in the other States they had been in existence for many years, and yet we were doing cheaper work. Our library here was capable of satisfy-



ing the wants of double the population with hardly any additional expenditure. With double the population, of course, it would be considered a very much cheaper institution. We were ahead of South Australia which afforded the fairest basis of comparison. The Adelaide institution with fewer volumes and not half the number of visitors had an expenditure of something like £2,000 per annum more than our institution.

*Mr. Bath:* Probably more expenditure was incurred in Adelaide because of the bequest.

The TREASURER: We were getting more economical and better results than were obtained in any other State. There were no State libraries in New Zealand or Tasmania, and in Queensland the institution was only in its infancy. The Public Library Committee, consisting of Dr. Hackett, Sir George Shenton, Mr. Harper, Mr. Canning, Dr. Harvey, Dr. Kelsall, Mr. Justice McMillan, and Hon. H. Briggs, had done good work indeed. True, several members had not been able to attend all the meetings.

*Mr. Scaddan:* The usual thing with the boards those gentlemen were on.

The TREASURER: One could not accept that statement. There were only six meetings of the board a year, and some members through ill-health and absence from the State had been unable to attend regularly. [*Mr. Collier:* Neither ill-health nor absence prevented Mr. Harper from attending.] The feeling expressed by this Committee would be represented to the chairman of the board, and surely any member of the board who felt he could not do justice to the work would not retain his position. It must not be forgotten that the position was an entirely honorary one and that the gentlemen forming the board did good work for the State. In the case of the library here no bequests had been received from private sources, and the institution was dependent entirely on the sums voted by Parliament. It was really impossible to cut down the vote farther. Last year he had reduced it to £3,000 and in consequence there was a deficit at the end of that period of £78. Considering the useful work that was being done, the Com-

mittee should be provided with sufficient means to carry on the institution creditably. The cost of binding operations and the purchase of new books for the institution had been reduced. The latter was inadvisable, as for such an institution to be of value it must be kept up to date. Every member acknowledged that the institution was a means of education. The member for Murchison (Mr. Holman) had complained that he had not time to go to the library, and apparently considered that on that account it was of no utility. Such an argument was absurd. [*Mr. Collier:* He did not say that.] What the hon. member for Murchison said was that he had not the time to go there and he was unable to take the books away with him; consequently he had moved to reduce the vote by £500. The library was utilised more particularly in the evening, when it was attended by a large number of mechanics and others who desired to consult technical works in connection with their trades. It would be detrimental to the interests of the State if insufficient funds were granted to maintain the institution on a proper basis. With regard to the travelling library, last year 93 cases containing nearly 5,000 volumes went out on loan to 50 institutes in the country. The books went out from Derby in the north to Albany in the south and from Midland Junction in the west to Mt. Magnet in the east. The value of that branch of the library had been thoroughly recognised, and the work should be continued. [*Mr. Bath:* If the £250 were given to the institutes it would be preferable to having a lending library.] That would be of little value to the institutes, for as there were 50 institutes in the State each of them would receive only £5, and nothing much could be purchased with that. The public library was a national institute and could not for a moment be compared with some of the semi-private libraries to which hon. members had referred. Attention had been drawn to the fact that there was a free lending branch in connection with the Sydney Public Library. If the House would grant him £6,000 or £7,000 per annum he would be quite willing to add a free lending branch to the Perth library. It was unlikely, however,

that this sum would be granted; and if it were hon. members opposite would be the first to cry out against the expenditure of so much money on the institution in Perth. The out-back institutes received grants according to their membership.

Mr. WALKER: While he would not question the value of the public library, the excellence of the officers or the good services rendered to the State, it was surely necessary to emphasise the dissatisfaction felt in the outlying centres of the State at the lack of attention shown to them. While he would not deny that there was great value in the aid granted from the centre in Perth by the circulation of books sent from one small library to another, he could not but refer to the case of Kanowna, and emphasise the fact that a town of that size should not be left purely dependent upon the contributions sent from the Perth library. There was too much of a centralisation policy about the management of libraries generally. While the State was in a condition of comparative poverty, members must see that the distribution of the fund available for educational purposes was equitable. Perth did not comprise the whole State of Western Australia.

*The Treasurer:* The Perth Public Library was the only Government library in the State.

Mr. WALKER: The reason for that was clear; for no other place was allowed to have a Government institution. The Government lavished all its treasures upon the city. In New South Wales there was a much more up to date method of assisting the out-back people than was the case here, for the Sydney library augmented the voluntary efforts of the people in country towns to an enormous extent. Every little village institute had the money they raised by voluntary effort doubled by the Government. [*The Treasurer:* In this State the assistance rendered to the country libraries amounted to more than that.] Fair opportunities of establishing libraries should be given to the backblocks. When the money spent on all the libraries of the State outside Perth was contrasted with the amount spent in Perth, it was scandalous: £2,900 for all the outside libraries

and £3,000 odd for Perth alone—that was the position! The library we had in Perth would stand comparison with any library in the world, when we took into consideration its youth and the population it had to serve. The books were thoroughly up-to-date, the management was admirable, more than admirable, it was done on a system that was scientific. The State was proud of having a man like Mr. Battye at the head of the institution. Its value to the people of Perth could not be over-estimated. It was not possible to appreciate all the good done by an institution of this kind. That all the more emphasised what he had to say about out-back institutes. Were we to deny people out-back the same opportunities to get that valuable assistance which was provided for the citizens of the metropolis. Were we to starve out-back towns intellectually to allow people in Perth to have this luxury? He would not curtail the vote for the public library of Perth one iota, but he emphasised his protest against limiting all these votes to Perth. Whilst it was true we had a circulating library, the books of extreme value and of genuine service to the miner or mechanic were kept in Perth; they could not be distributed. Text books and authorities were kept in Perth; they could not be sent away. Although he knew there was wisdom in the selection exercised, the bulk of the books sent to the out-back institutes were novels, light-reading, and it was impossible for Mr. Battye with all his experience and long training to know the particular class of books that suited the tastes and requirements of each centre throughout Western Australia. A wrong system was adopted. It might be wise to make Mr. Battye the agent for the purchase of books for all the libraries in the State. He had facilities which out-back buyers would not have in getting at the cheapest market, and in knowing where to put his hand on particular books, but to make him the agent for distributing those books that had become too old for the Perth institution and sending these to the country was an unwise system to adopt. Under these circumstances he would have to vote to reduce the item by the increase of £250,

not with a desire to curtail this library but as a protest against the shoddy way in which the institutes in his electorate and other electorates had been treated. He would be compelled every year, as often as this item came up, to vote against it. It was this that made the people out-back complain about the Perth institution. Give the outlying centres justice and they would not begrudge Perth a penny. They would be glad to see the chief institution of education and enlightenment advancing.

Mr. STUART would not have opposed the item had the small institutes throughout the State received similar treatment to what the Perth library was receiving. The Minister was under a misapprehension in the idea that a lending library meant, of necessity, a subscription library. If the funds were available he would desire to see a lending branch established on the same lines as that existing in Sydney where any citizen of good repute, who could have his character certified to by two citizens or an honorary magistrate was at liberty to have the pick of any books in the lending branch, and they went so far as to allow a person, if he desired a book out of the public library, to have it. That was an inexpensive method. Many a youth could not afford to buy books that he required for his education, and it was far better for youths to do their reading at home under parental supervision than in the public library. Over half a million of people in Sydney availed themselves of the lending library, and he would not be far wrong in saying half that number would take advantage of the free public lending library which we were desirous of seeing instituted here. He made various applications on behalf of outlying centres and one in particular he made a special request for. That was Gwalia where the Government had a State hotel from which they derived a good profit. The people were desirous of having a library in connection with that hotel but could not get a penny for the purpose. But Perth with all its advantages could get more than all the other institutes put together. Last year he had said the allocation of these funds was not made with due re-

gard to a fair and just system. He then opposed the vote of £1,000 to the Kalgoorlie institute because he thought it was not necessary, and he then stated that the money would not be put to the use intended. The money was voted and expended on bricks and mortar, and now they were going to turn the building into a grog shop. They already had billiards on the premises, but if the people there wanted billiards or beer, let them get it as everyone else had to get it. Money was being thrown away because Ministers had not a knowledge of the country.

*The Treasurer :* Was this vote thrown away ?

Mr. STUART would not go so far as to say that. He very rarely went to the public library. There might be good books there, but it seemed to be a dead-and-alive place, and he had never seen more than 20 people in it at a time. It would be of some use if people were allowed to take the books out. There were towns out-back that would be glad to get a grant of £10. He could name half a dozen places in his electorate that would be glad of £10 to buy books with.

*The Treasurer :* Did they subscribe ?

Mr. STUART : These people were willing to subscribe but they found a difficulty. They were not satisfied with the boxes of books which were sent to them. They wanted something to call their own.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS regretted that year after year members approached this subject from a parochial point of view. [*Mr. Scaddan :* What about Fremantle ?] Fremantle had not the Victoria Library, but recognised that only one good reference library was possible in the State, and that one library in the capital was better than a dozen in scattered centres. Members did not seem to distinguish between a lending and a reference library. The item should be increased by £1,000. He had saved about £100 by consulting the library.

*Mr. Collier :* And the goldfields man was denied a similar opportunity.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS : No; he could consult the library when he visited Perth. The member for Kanowna (*Mr. Walker*) complained that the books lent to country libraries were mostly

novels. If that was so, it was the fault of the country committees, who could have what books they chose. In the last financial year some 77 boxes of books were sent to country centres, and the demand was growing, for 52 were sent out in the first four months of this year. It was thus untrue that these centres did not benefit by the Perth library. A provincial town in England, with its library maintained by local rates, might as well complain of the money spent by the Government on the British Museum.

Mr. HOLMAN : One would think the Minister for Works was an authority on country residents ; but though generally more intellectual than coastal people, they were refused assistance, and treated more like savages than human beings. The 90 or 100 country libraries had not received half as much as the Perth library, the subsidies being £1,500 and £3,500 respectively. Meekatharra, with nearly 1,000 people, could not get a penny for books. Many Perth people were willing to pay a guinea for books from the public library, which could still remain free to mere visitors. He objected to those trustees of the Perth Public Library who never attended a meeting. Every year the Treasurer promised great reforms, and then forgot all about them till the Estimates came up again. There was no desire to curtail any educational vote, but the money should be spent with equal liberality throughout the State.

Mr. ANGWIN : Municipalities and roads boards were having their subsidies reduced, and the Perth Library trustees should therefore be content with the sum granted last year, £3,000.

Mr. STONE : The amount set down was more than we could afford. The books should be classified, some lent out, and some kept for reference. One town in his electorate received £10 a year for its library, and he believed much of this sum was wasted in postage in obtaining the grant. Geraldton received only £15 a year. The board of the Perth library should be elected, for as now constituted it could get almost anything from the Government, while the back-blocks people were not given a fair deal.

Mr. BREBBER supported the vote, and was disappointed at the attitude taken up by the Opposition, because the institution did more good for those who visited Perth than for the residents of Perth. It would be no use sending works of reference to some outlying places where they would not be used, and would be destroyed in badly managed mechanics' institutes. Speaking from knowledge of the early days of the Perth Mechanics' Institute, he knew that the destruction of those books, if lent out, would entail more expense to the State than would be justified. In addition to this, a lending library was of no use to any person studying technical matters. If a youth wished to study a technical book he would buy it for himself. The demand for books to be sent to outlying centres was for light literature, not for technical books. Those who opposed the grant were not true to the people they represented, because the money would do more for their people than for the people in the city of Perth. However, this grievance cropped up year after year, the same arguments were used time after time, and members secured the same advertisement for their constituents.

Mr. TAYLOR : The member for North Perth was rarely in the forefront of battle unless the matter under discussion affected Perth. It was not that members were in favour of curtailing the vote for Perth. It was that they were anxious to look after the interests of outlying districts, because it was not fair to give all this money to the Perth library while outlying centres were left without assistance. The amendment was moved, not with the idea of starving the Perth library, but to emphasise the necessity for more liberality on the part of the Government to outlying centres. To set up that this was a national library and was used more by the people of the country than by the city of Perth, was absurd. No doubt it was a valuable institution, and the Government had nothing to be ashamed of in its conduct, but that was of no value to the people in the country who had no facilities in the way of literature. What assistance was a grant of a few pounds to supply literature to a coun-

try town? Better provision should be made. The opposition to the grant was not because it was for the metropolis. However, metropolitan members should not try to make the Committee believe that it was a grant the country people participated in more than the people of Perth.

Mr. GULL: It was extraordinary that Opposition members objected to the sum of £250 being spent in sending out boxes of books to the country institutes. Exactly the same amount for the Public Library appeared on the Estimates of the Daglish Government as in the present Estimates. It appeared from the tone of the debate that what Opposition members were trying to do was to stonewall the Estimates.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must not accuse members of stonewalling.

Mr. GULL: Well, at all events, they were putting up a scientific opposition to the vote. He had listened carefully to the arguments adduced by members, and the only impression left in his mind was that they thought the £250 spent on the circulating library was wasted.

Mr. BOLTON: The member who had just spoken was altogether wrong in his estimate of the arguments of Opposition members. Evidently he was more versed in the question of cows than of books. The discussion which had taken place round the item was very lengthy, as had been the case for several years past. If the Treasurer held his present position next year there would be an easy way of preventing the continuation of these long debates on the item; all he had to do was to increase the sum voted for libraries by £1,500. Members had informed him that to establish a free lending library would not cost more than £1,000 a year. Then again it had been said that the sum of £250 spent in sending boxes of books to country institutes was insufficient, so the Treasurer should increase that vote to £750, when the work would be able to be done well. If this course were adopted all opposition would cease. Had there not been an increase to the vote for the Perth library the discussion on the item would have been very much shorter. He supported the item

as it stood, but he could not help thinking that the Treasurer would be wise if next year he adopted the course suggested.

Mr. BATH: As to the remarks made by the member for Swan (Mr. Gull), if the question had been one of taxation he would have been the first to rail against the action of the Government, but as it was a question of asking for a reasonable and just distribution of the vote that hon. member forgot all his plea for economy of administration in order to avoid taxation, and supported the vote. All members wanted was a fair distribution of the money, and so long as the microbe of centralisation continued to afflict the Treasurer there would be long discussions on this item, and members would continue to ventilate their grievances on the question.

The TREASURER: It was a matter for regret that so many personalities had been introduced into the debate instead of discussing the item. Members, and more especially members of the Opposition, had been discussing the brains of the Treasurer, the skill of the member for Swan to judge cows, and various other attributes applied more particularly to members on the Ministerial side of the House. He deprecated remarks of that kind for they were offensive, and did not help members to arrive at a direct decision on the vote under debate. There had been a lengthy discussion, and the Leader of the Opposition even could not complain of the time taken up by the Government members. He could not understand the argument of the member for North Fremantle, to the effect that if the Treasurer brought down a vote next year for £1,500 in excess of this year, so as to create a free lending library in Perth, and to send out books to the country districts, Opposition members would be satisfied. [Mr. Bolton: The Treasurer did not know what he was talking about.] That was another offensive interjection. The hon. member said that next year the Treasurer should increase the vote by £1,500, of which sum £1,000 should be spent in establishing a lending library in Perth, and £500 in extending the circulating library in Perth. He doubted very

much whether other members of the Opposition would consider that a good solution of the difficulty. When the Labour Government were in power they did exactly what the present Government were doing. They maintained the library because it was a Government institution, and provided exactly the same amount that appeared on the present Estimates. The Government were doing better than the Labour Government did, for they were distributing the vote for the out-back institutions on a proper scientific scale instead of according to the friendly feeling a Minister might have towards members representing certain districts. The vote was now allocated on a sliding scale, for according to the manner in which the people of the various districts helped themselves, so did they receive a proportion of the vote. The vote now was the same as it was when the Labour Party were in power, although they had £170,000 more revenue at their disposal.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr. BATH moved an amendment—

*That the item be reduced by £250.*

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

Ayes	..	..	..	14
Noes	..	..	..	23

Majority against .. 9

AYES.  
Mr. Angwin  
Mr. Bath  
Mr. T. L. Brown  
Mr. Collier  
Mr. Heitmann  
Mr. Holman  
Mr. Johnson  
Mr. Scaddan  
Mr. Stone  
Mr. Stuart  
Mr. Taylor  
Mr. Walker  
Mr. Ware  
Mr. Underwood (Teller).

NOES.  
Mr. Barnett  
Mr. Bolton  
Mr. Brabber  
Mr. H. Brown  
Mr. Davies  
Mr. Draper  
Mr. Ewing  
Mr. Foulkes  
Mr. Gordon  
Mr. Gregory  
Mr. Gull  
Mr. Hardwick  
Mr. Hayward  
Mr. McLarty  
Mr. Male  
Mr. Mitchell  
Mr. Monser  
Mr. N. J. Moore  
Mr. Price  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Veryard  
Mr. P. Wilson  
Mr. Layman (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

Item—Law Library, £150:

Mr. HOLMAN: Why was this amount placed on the Estimates? Last year an amount of £150 was voted and not spent.

Was it intended to spend the money this year?

The TREASURER: Evidently there was a printer's error, because he thought the amount was spent last year. Previously it cost the Government £170 for a librarian; now the Government paid the Barristers' Board £150 per annum. The explanation might be that the system had not come into vogue last year and the librarian might have been paid from another vote. The amount would be expended this year.

Mr. HOLMAN: Perhaps the member for West Perth (Mr. Draper) could give some explanation of the item. There was considerable discussion on the item last year. He did not object to the money being voted, but there was no necessity to vote it if it was not to be spent.

Mr. DRAPER: There must be some mistake in reference to this item. Until last April he was a member of the Barristers' Board, and recollected the time when the question of an amount of £150 to the law library was raised. The grant was made with a view of enabling the Barristers' Board to provide an adequate salary for the librarian. The Judges of the Supreme Court, the profession and members of the public used the library, and the librarian, in a sense, was a public officer. The salary of the librarian exceeded £150. He thought that the amount was spent last year.

Item—Perth Museum and Art Gallery, £3,800 :

Mr. HOLMAN: There was a large increase in this item, and he failed to see the necessity for it. Time after time we were told that we must curtail expenditure, and while people in the back country were suffering for want of schools, roads and assistance in every direction, the Government were spending thousands of pounds on the museum and art gallery. He would be the last to object to this expenditure if funds were available; but we should open up the country first. The grant to roads boards and hospitals had been curtailed, but this item was increased. The sum of £3,500 was ample for the art gallery. Last year that institution had a balance in the bank; they did not use all

the money granted. He entered a strong protest against increasing this item. It was a standing disgrace to increase the votes to the caves board, the library, the art gallery and the museum while the country outback was being starved. He understood there were many specimens which the Museum authorities were not able to exhibit and which were allowed to waste away, but the board in charge neglected their duties. Before we increased this item we should have sufficient money to carry on necessary public works. He moved an amendment—

*That the item be reduced by £300.*

The TREASURER : The last speaker's statement that we were starving the country districts to support the museum could not be supported by a scintilla of evidence. [Mr. Walker : What about hospitals ?] They could be disbursed at the proper time. The museum was an institution of which we should be proud, and the vote was necessary because last year's allowance proved totally inadequate. The report and accounts of the board showed their indebtedness as £700, including a bank overdraft of £300, though they had done their best to economise. The trustees gave their services free, and deserved thanks rather than condemnation. Something must be done to meet the debit balance, and he allowed £300 extra this year, at the same time requesting the board to economise so as to make ends meet. It was true, as an hon. member (Mr. Holman) said, that many specimens were hidden away for want of room. The building of the art gallery was delayed for some six years, and pictures and statuary now occupied a considerable portion of the museum building. The art gallery, now approaching completion, would relieve the congestion, and permit thousands of museum exhibits to be properly displayed. The amount of the item was absolutely necessary, and we were doing only what other Governments had done in maintaining a valuable State institution.

Mr. ANGWIN supported the amendment. The museum and art gallery were necessary, but in view of our financial position the vote should not be increased this year. As the Treasurer said, the

trustees were not paid, but neither were municipal councillors and road-board members ; yet such bodies were set down for decreases while this vote was increased. It was the duty of the Treasurer to insist that the museum trustees should not exceed the vote.

Mr. JOHNSON : Items like this proved that Ministers' repeated public boasts of economy were so much wind. Here was an increase for a pure luxury. It was nice to have an art gallery and museum, and without them Perth would be incomplete. But in a time of financial stress we could not afford such increases. Government supporters pretended to oppose fresh taxation because we were not economising ; yet the same members voted for these increases. They talked simply to mislead the public, and the Opposition must therefore protest and divide the House to demonstrate how Government supporters' practice differed from their preaching. The Treasurer made the remarkable statement that because the board had exceeded the allotted amount, and had a debit balance of £700, he was economising by giving them an increase of only £300 this year. The Treasurer said the board could get a bank overdraft by pledging the people's asset.

*The Treasurer :* No such statement had been made.

*Mr. Foulkes :* The trustees had pledged their own credit.

Mr. JOHNSON : Had the board personally guaranteed the overdraft of £700 ?

The TREASURER : The hon. member must not misrepresent. The statement was not that the board had an overdraft of £700, but of £300 odd ; that, with the liabilities unliquidated at the end of the year, made their total indebtedness over £700. It was never stated that the Government property was pledged. No board could pledge Government property to a bank.

*Mr. Walker :* What security did the bank hold ?

The TREASURER : That he did not know.

Mr. FOULKES : The amount of the board's indebtedness was immaterial ; but the member for Guildford (Mr. John-

son) was quite justified in asking how the overdraft was incurred.

Mr. JOHNSON: The Treasurer's statement was not as plain as he would like members to believe. According to the report of the Museum, there was £316 14s. 10d. due to the Western Australian Bank. Evidently the bank looked upon the Government as responsible for that overdraft. If the board could get this sum they could get more; and there was a possibility that the board, realising that Parliament would make the overdraft good, would increase the liability to the bank and there would be an appeal to Parliament and Parliament would be compelled, out of sympathy with the institution, to pass the money. That was a state of affairs we should not tolerate for a moment. The Treasurer should not only impress on the board the necessity for economy, but should point out that they must not overdraw their account, and that if they did so the bank must understand that the board alone was responsible and that the action was not endorsed by Parliament. It was time we changed the personnel of these boards. We found the same names in connection with the Public Library, the Museum, the Zoological Gardens, and King's Park. It was utterly impossible for those gentlemen to devote that time to the administration of those institutions that was needed, and it came back to the fact that the civil servants ran them, and the members of the boards were figure-heads. Thus the public were not getting that return for the expenditure they should get, or if they were, it was not due to the efforts of the boards. There was one statement made that was not incorrect. It was a fact that the Government had reduced the subsidy to hospitals from 20s. to 15s.; but on the other hand we increased luxuries. That was not economy.

Mr. HOLMAN: It was absolutely correct that the Government had reduced the subsidies to hospitals, roads boards, and municipalities, and that they had failed to carry out works in schools and in opening up roads in the back country, thus inflicting hardship on those in the back country, and crippling the development of the State.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	17
Noes	..	..	..	20

Majority against .. 3

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Angwin	Mr. Barnett
Mr. Bath	Mr. Brabber
Mr. T. L. Brown	Mr. H. Brown
Mr. Collier	Mr. Cowcher
Mr. Foulkes	Mr. Davies
Mr. Holman	Mr. Draper
Mr. Horan	Mr. Eddy
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Ewing
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Gordon
Mr. Scaddan	Mr. Gregory
Mr. Stone	Mr. Gull
Mr. Stuart	Mr. Hayward
Mr. Taylor	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Underwood	Mr. Monger
Mr. Walker	Mr. N. J. Moore
Mr. Ware	Mr. Price
Mr. Seitzmann (Teller).	Mr. Smith
	Mr. Verryard
	Mr. F. Wilson
	Mr. Layman (Teller)

Amendment thus negatived.

Item—Mechanics Institutes, Workmen's Associations, Art Societies etcetera, £2,000 :

Mr. BATH: What was the scientific basis that was adopted for the distribution of this vote? Was there any proviso that the whole of the money must be expended in books, because institutes which received contributions had no books in the premises; also, did the Treasurer intend to take out of this grant the £250 devoted to the travelling library? As the institutes had to pay railage on the books, perhaps if they received the £250 in direct grant, at the end of a few years by purchasing books themselves they would be better off.

The TREASURER: The scale on which this grant was allocated was on a membership basis. Institutes with up to 10 members received £5; with from 11 to 25 members, £7 10s.; from 26 to 50 members, £15; from 50 to 75 members, £25; from 75 to 100 members, £35; and over 100 members, £50. Since the Estimates were brought down the suggestion had been considered and approved that the scale should be extended so that institutes with a membership of 100 to 300 would receive £75; and those with over 300 members would receive £100. The financial accounts for the last year showed payments to the institutes on that scale.



*Mr. Scaddan* : Why had the Kalgoorlie institute received £100 ?

The TREASURER : Half that sum was for a special grant, an old promise redeemed some months ago. Kalgoorlie had over 600 members, and the old scale was somewhat unfair. The sum of £100 was a reasonable amount to pay, and that was why Kalgoorlie got that amount. The sum of £250 for the lending library would be taken out of the grant for mechanics' institutes as in the past. The institutes considered that the money expended was in the interests of out-back districts. The member for North Fremantle had approved of it and had advocated the increase to £500.

*Mr. STUART* : How much of the sum was likely to be devoted to art societies, and what entitled them to receive any contribution at all ?

The TREASURER : No art societies made claims on the vote last year. The amounts were distributed as follows:—Mechanics' institutes, £755; miners' institutes, £210; literary institutes, £765 (including the £250 for the circulating library); farmers' clubs etcetera (including agricultural societies), £187. [*Mr. Scaddan* : The W.A. Society of Arts received something.] Yes, he had overlooked that amount; they received £25.

*Mr. ANGWIN* : Grants should not be given to those institutions which did not have a free reading room attached to the building. Until recently he had imagined that no State funds were granted to institutes which did not have those conveniences for the general public.

Item—Zoological Gardens, £3,600 :

*Mr. H. BROWN* moved an amendment—

*That the item be reduced by £10.*

He moved to reduce in order to show his disapproval of the financial management of the Zoological Gardens. During the past few years the gardens were practically owned by three trustees; and in addition to the £3,000 which they had obtained originally, they gave a second mortgage of £2,000 to the National Bank, and also allowed a *caveat* to be lodged for a farther advance of £2,000. Was it fair that Parliament should vote £3,600

to an institution that might be foreclosed on at any time? The land should not be permitted to be retained in the hands of three trustees.

The TREASURER : It was well known to every member that the ground was vested in trustees, and had been from its inception. The Zoological Gardens had been in existence for eight or nine years. *Dr. Hackett* was at the head of the board of trustees, and the other trustees were *Sir Edward Stone*, and he thought *Mr. George Throssell*. The Government, however, had not interfered with the position. The ground was vested in the trustees by the Forrest Government; they had the power to borrow money for the purpose of establishing the gardens. [*Mr. Bath* : They had done good work.] There was no doubt about that. He agreed, however, that the position was not altogether satisfactory. He had already intimated to *Dr. Hackett* the views that the member for Perth had enunciated, namely that they should not be beholden to an outside institution to advance money for what was practically a Government institution. He had suggested that it was bad finance to be paying perhaps six per cent. or even seven per cent. on the overdraft when he, as Treasurer, was anxious to lend money from the Savings Bank at five per cent. or six per cent. [*Mr. Scaddan* : Why did they go to that institution?] He presumed because they could not get the money out of the Government of the day. The bulk of the overdraft was spent in connection with the gala celebrations when the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall visited the State six years ago. A very large expenditure was necessitated then, for in addition to the cost of the reception a deal of money was spent in hurrying on with permanent improvements within the Gardens. The trustees owed £2,044 5s. 9d. to the bank in addition to £3,000 which they owed to the Savings Bank on a first mortgage. [*Mr. Johnson* : Did the Minister intend to try and make the Government the only creditor?] Yes. The Government should, in his opinion, advance the total sum. There was good value for it in the Gardens. *Mr. Le Souef*, who was in charge, had put in very good work. He

had been placed at a great disadvantage recently, for the receipts, which used to total £2,000 a year, a sum equal to the gate receipts of the Melbourne and Sydney Zoological Gardens, had dropped off owing to the fact that, through the river requiring dredging, steamers which previously had brought numbers of people from Fremantle to the Zoological Gardens were unable to reach the wharf at South Perth now. Consequently, the societies who used to hold their picnics at the Zoological Gardens had found other grounds, and the takings had decreased in consequence. Mr. Le Souef anticipated that, as soon as the dredging of the river was completed and steamers from Fremantle were enabled to go to South Perth, the visitors would return to the Gardens, and the takings would approach the £2,000 which used to be received there. The receipts for last year totalled £1,346 12s. 9d., which compared more than favourably with the takings at the Adelaide Zoological Gardens, where a great deal more money had been spent than at South Perth, but where the takings for last year only amounted to £900. That was an excellent testimony of the good work the director had put in. He had been compelled to reduce the vote for the Gardens by £300 this year, but he hoped that the dredging operations of the river would be carried out this summer and that the takings would consequently increase.

Mr. SCADDAN: Last year he had occasion to draw attention to the fact that the gardens had developed into a huge recreation ground, and he wanted information again this year as to how the lawn tennis players obtained admission in order to obtain their sport. Those indulging in sports who used the recreation grounds in Perth had to pay 33 per cent. of the takings to the trustees; what arrangements were made at the Zoological Gardens? Another complaint he had was that no report or balance-sheet had yet been presented to Parliament by the trustees of the Gardens. This same complaint was made year after year, but the position was not remedied. He had been informed that the employees at the Zoological Gardens, who were engaged to do

artisan's work, painting and gardening there, had been told off to attend to the lawn tennis players and cricketers, and were thus prevented from doing the work for which they were paid.

*The Treasurer*: They charged the tennis and cricket clubs for the use of the ground, and obtained good receipts for them.

Mr. SCADDAN: Year after year complaints had been made that the report was not on the table when the Estimates were being considered. Last year the report came down just before the Estimates were taken into consideration, but this year the report was not ready.

*The TREASURER*: The accounts had not been audited, and could not be placed on the table before they were completed. He had a draft balance-sheet before him, but he could not lay it on the table. Members might see the draft.

Mr. SCADDAN: The Treasurer had pointed out that two years ago the takings had amounted to £2,000, but now, after considerable expenditure had been made in laying out a beautiful sports ground for cricket and lawn tennis, the receipts had fallen off. He thought the Zoological portions of the grounds had been neglected for the purpose of making the sports ground. There was no proper management if the takings were less year after year.

*The TREASURER*: The South Perth Tennis Club paid £100 per annum; the Tennis Association £50, and the members of those associations had to pay entrance fee if they wished to go and play on the ground, so that a very good bargain had been made so far as the director was concerned. An expert who recently visited the grounds said that the tennis courts were the best he knew in the world. They were a great attraction to the public; numbers of people went to see the tennis tournaments. If the member visited the Zoo when the tennis courts were in full swing he would agree that it was one of the best works that had been carried out in that institution.

Mr. SCADDAN wished to know whether the outlay on the grounds had been justified by the returns. In other recreation grounds the trustees had to

pay for the making of them out of the receipts; yet we found that at the Zoo, after making the finest tennis courts in the world, the actual receipts from the entrance gates was less this year than previously. That was not as it should be. The lawn tennis clubs contributed £150 towards the upkeep of these grounds; but that did not furnish members with the total amount of the upkeep of the lawn tennis courts. The balance-sheet should show the cost of upkeep of the tennis courts.

Mr. TAYLOR: The hon. member evidently wanted to know the capital cost of laying out the tennis courts and cricket ground to see whether the income warranted the large outlay. From recent visits to the Zoo he agreed that the director deserved great credit for the way in which he had conducted the Zoological Gardens. Preparations had been made to accommodate twice the population of Perth, and the director was handicapped in not having sufficient money to carry out all the arrangements.

The TREASURER: The balance-sheet did not disclose the amount which had been expended in laying out the tennis courts.

Mr. HOLMAN: In the past he had strongly advocated throwing open the Zoological Gardens to school children free of charge. Although we could boast of up-to-date Zoological Gardens we did not utilise the place sufficiently. School children came to Perth from various parts of the State, and they should be admitted free to the gardens. The expense was too great for a man to take his wife and family there. The question had frequently been raised as to the undesirable exhibits in the gardens which had kept numbers of people from going there. Members knew what he referred to, the monkeys and apes on exhibition. At times there was no doubt the antics of these creatures were degrading. The animals should be removed. The management deserved encouragement for doing so much to make the gardens pleasant and educative. In this item the Government had shown some desire to economise by a reduction of

£300; and if school children were admitted free and allowed to attend free lectures, much more assistance would be forthcoming. He would oppose the amendment, as mortgaging the property would entail a big interest bill, and might not achieve the object sought. He hoped the State would soon be in a position to increase this item. Why should it be decreased while an increase was given to the Perth museum? More could be learnt from live than from stuffed animals. What was the annual revenue from admission fees, and what proportion was contributed by children? The charge for admission prevented families from visiting the gardens.

The Premier: The hon. member had said that two or three times.

Mr. HOLMAN: And might have to say it again to wake up the Premier and the Treasurer.

The Treasurer: Such repetitions were out of order.

Mr. HOLMAN: One could understand that the Premier and the Treasurer did not desire the poorer children to visit the gardens. Year after year he had mentioned this matter, and would mention it as often as possible.

Mr. ANGWIN: What were the liabilities of the trustees?

The TREASURER: The balance-sheet, dated the 30th June last, showed liabilities amounting to £2,300 odd, including bank overdraft; and there was the mortgage to the Savings Bank of £3,000. Thus the total liabilities were £5,300.

Mr. ANGWIN: If the revenue had fallen off, why was the grant reduced? Should not the gardens be kept up to the mark? It would be better to cut down other grants and maintain this grant at its previous standard.

The TREASURER: It was hoped that the dredging of the channel to Mends Street would enable the picnic parties from Fremantle that formerly used the ground to again take advantage of the exceptional facilities the gardens offered for picnics. It was owing to the falling off in the attendance of picnics that the revenue had decreased, and if it had not been for the tennis courts the revenue

would have still farther decreased. The vote was cut down, because it was anticipated that the gardens could do with the lesser amount by exercising the strictest economy, though no doubt the grounds would have to be starved.

*Mr H. Brown:* If the trustees wished to increase the overdraft they could not be stopped.

The TREASURER: Exactly.

*Mr H. Brown:* The sooner it was stopped the better.

*Mr. Heitmann:* It would be better to give the £300 than have an increased overdraft.

*Mr. SCADDAN:* The Treasurer should not take too much notice of the suggestions to increase this item next year. It was a subterfuge, spending money on recreation grounds at the Zoological Gardens when there were places that could not get money for recreation grounds or even sufficient to fence in recreation grounds for the purpose of obtaining revenue from them. Probably the major portion of this grant was spent on the tennis courts. Last year the receipts from the sports ground amounted to £204, while the maintenance cost must have been something like £500. The account for the sports ground should be kept separate from the account for the other portions of the gardens. [*Mr. Stone:* Get a new board.] It was a peculiar thing that the reports of all these boards were so similar. They all regretted the fact that Parliament in its wisdom had not seen fit to pass sufficient money to enable them to do this or that.

The TREASURER: The similarity of the reports was due to the fact that the same gentleman was at the head of all of them, and it was to be hoped that when we had not the services of that gentleman any longer we could get someone equally as good.

*Mr. SCADDAN:* The world went on very well, notwithstanding the departure of all the great men before us. We might give younger blood the opportunity. If the trustees of the Cricket Association ground asked for a grant, the Treasurer would be the last in the world to agree to it; yet under the subterfuge

of the Zoological Gardens grant, we were spending probably £1,000 a year for the upkeep of a recreation ground at South Perth.

*Mr. STONE:* We should not pass this grant so long as there was necessity for assistance outside the city of Perth. The Government were too lavish with expenditure in Perth. Where these recreation grounds were situated in municipalities, the municipalities should be asked to contribute something, because the expenditure greatly increased the value of property in the district.

*Mr. HAYWARD:* The formation of grounds at the Zoological Gardens cost a considerable amount last year, but it was not anticipated the upkeep would be anything in comparison, so the expenditure this year could be considerably cut down.

The TREASURER: The member for Ivanhoe, in objecting to the tennis courts, condemned the fundamental principle of the Zoological Gardens, namely to provide enjoyment for the public generally. In condemning one sport, which was a considerable source of profit to the gardens, the hon. member condemned all other sports and attractions there, which were very numerous.

*Mr. STONE:* The whole thing was too big and overdone, and too expensive. The State was like a man with a silk hat, a frock coat, and no boots.

*Mr. H. BROWN:* These gardens, as he had said, were mortgaged to the Treasury for £3,000, also to the National Bank as a second mortgage for £2,000, and there was, in addition, a caveat for a farther advance to the extent of another £2,000. Although the vote had been reduced, we had no guarantee that the trustees of the gardens would not increase their overdraft by the specific £300. A change as to the title of the gardens was badly needed, and he hoped the debate would induce the Minister to bring before Parliament an amending measure effecting this object. It was unfair that Parliament should vote a large sum of money, such as was done annually, to what was really a private institution; for the trustees could allow the gardens to become the property of

private owners under a foreclosure order. Mr. Le Souef had done splendid work and the gardens would compare most favourably with others in Australia, but there was no getting away from the objection to the title.

Item—Acclimatisation of fish, birds, and animals, £200:

Mr. HOLMAN: At various times reports were published stating that certain fish and birds have been imported to the State, but owing to the fault of someone or other they had since died. What had been done with the money voted annually by Parliament for acclimatisation purposes? It was in connection with the acclimatisation of fish that good work could be achieved, for there were many streams throughout the State which could be stocked with suitable fish. In connection with the importation of birds, great care must be taken, for there was always the danger that birds would be imported that would prove a great pest, such as was caused by the introduction of the sparrow to Australia. On various occasions ostriches and antelopes had been imported, but nothing had been heard about their progress. He would be in favour of stopping the vote altogether unless some good could be done with the money.

The TREASURER: If the hon. member turned his attention to the annual report of the Acclimatisation Society, he would have full information with regard to the work which was being carried on. The Acclimatisation Committee, who practically controlled the Zoological Gardens also, had been very active in putting fish in the different waters of the State. In various rivers, pools, and reservoirs, numbering as many as 44, in all portions of the Southern districts of the State, perch, carp, and tench had been placed, and the reports showed that the fish were doing remarkably well. At Chidlow's Well, for instance, the perch had multiplied in an extraordinary manner, and during the last year fish to the value of hundreds of pounds had been taken from the reservoir there and distributed throughout the State. From Monger's Lake, large quantities of tench

were obtained, and there were now in the State breeding grounds which would ensure the stocking up of all the fresh water streams in Western Australia. With regard to the deer, it was reported that they were doing very well in the South-Western portions of the State. Angora goats had also been imported and were flourishing at Chidlow's Well; while the antelopes liberated at Mount Morgans had become thoroughly acclimatised and were frequently seen in the district by travellers. He had no recollection of ostriches ever having been introduced to the State. Birds had been liberated with great success; English pheasants, partridges, quail, guinea fowl, doves, and many other varieties flourishing. The swans in the river were increasing in number, and the general tone of the report was most encouraging, and showed that the small amount of money voted annually to the society was being wisely expended.

Mr. HAYWARD: Samples of the English perch caught at Chidlow's Well had been shown to him, and they were larger than any he had ever seen in the old country. Tench up to two pounds in weight had been liberated in the various streams in his district. He had introduced the perch into a number of rivers, and he believed they were doing well; recently a number of people had obtained perch in nearly all the rivers of his district. Some years ago it was suggested that the starling should be introduced here, and he was glad it was not, for it would have become a great nuisance. As to the ostriches, he did not know how they had turned out. It was a waste of money to turn out feathered game, for the domestic cat was killing off all the wild birds in every district. The quail had nearly gone, also the wild pigeons. It was a waste of money to turn out partridges and pheasants; 20 years ago some pheasants had been turned out but they had all disappeared. In a few years' time we should have tench and perch very plentiful in our rivers.

Mr. HOLMAN: The information which had been placed before the Committee had proved to his satisfaction that

the acclimatisation of fish had been a great success. At Chidlow's Well very heavy fish had been caught, larger than were generally obtained in the old country. If we could stock the rivers with fish it would be money well spent. The information given as to the introduction of game such as quail and pheasants showed that these birds would do well here. He understood it was intended to bring some ostriches into the country at the back of the goldfields to see if they would thrive there. If these birds turned out a success it might open up a good industry in the State. To his mind the information which had been given justified his bringing forward the question. As long as good work was being done the money spent was not wasted.

Other items agreed to; vote put and passed.

Vote—*Lithographic*, £5,334:

Mr. SCADDAN moved—

*That progress be reported.*

[Mr. Daglish resumed the Chair.]

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

Ayes	..	..	..	11
Noes	..	..	..	26

Majority against .. 15

AYES.  
Mr. Bath  
Mr. Bolton  
Mr. T. L. Brown  
Mr. Holman  
Mr. Horan  
Mr. Hudson  
Mr. Scaddan  
Mr. Stuart  
Mr. Walker  
Mr. Ware  
Mr. Troy (Teller).

NOES.  
Mr. Angwin  
Mr. Barnett  
Mr. Brebber  
Mr. Cowcher  
Mr. Davies  
Mr. Draper  
Mr. Eddy  
Mr. Gordon  
Mr. Gregory  
Mr. Gull  
Mr. Hardwick  
Mr. Haywood  
Mr. Johnson  
Mr. McLarty  
Mr. Male  
Mr. Mitchell  
Mr. Monger  
Mr. N. J. Moore  
Mr. Piesse  
Mr. Price  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Stone  
Mr. Veryard  
Mr. A. J. Wilson  
Mr. F. Wilson  
Mr. Layman (Teller).

Motion thus negatived.

Item—Government Lithographer, £405:

Mr. JOHNSON: This item was increased by £30, and as a protest against the increase he moved—

*That the item be reduced by £30.*

The Government were not treating all officers alike. They had singled this officer out for the full increase recommended by the Public Service Commissioner. The increase was not justified from any point of view. Why could not the lithographic branch be amalgamated with the Government Printing Office? The best way to economise was to centralise, but the Government were enlarging the building used by the Lithographic Department. Instead of doing this they should have closed it up and carried on the work at the Government Printing Office.

The TREASURER: This officer was in charge of a very important branch under the Treasury; he had to carry out important work and had made considerable economies in the administration of his department. The work which at one time was distributed over the Lands, Mines and Works Departments at a cost of £9,000 or £10,000 was now being done for half the money. The work which was carried out in this department was the preparation of maps, diagrams, sectional drawings, plans, cheques, promissory notes, Commonwealth, Treasury, Railways, Savings Bank and excise stamps, and other work. The lithographic work was very important, and it would be absolutely impossible to put this section into the Printing Office building, enlarged as it would be; there would be no room for it. It was an important branch, and the head of that branch had for many years been promised an advance. He was an expert draughtsman, and ought to have received a greater advance than was shown on the Estimates. This was a special case. The officer had been put on his classification as disclosed by the Public Service Commissioner's report; he ought to have had more considering his position and the important work which he carried out.

Mr. SCADDAN: The Public Service Commissioner fixed the maximum salary for the Government Lithographer at £405, his previous salary being £377. In all other instances the increases had been spread over a period of five years, but in this case the full increase was made in one jump. The head draughtsman, Mr.

James Michael Kennedy, was receiving £250, and the maximum for his position was fixed by the Public Service Commissioner at £288. No increase was provided for this officer on the Estimates. Why did the Government select the head of the department for an increase and allow other officers to remain at their old salaries? Why was there this favouritism?

Mr. BOLTON: The explanation of the Treasurer was not satisfactory. Where decreases had been recommended by the Commissioner the Government had spread them over a period of years, and where increases were recommended these increases were made gradually, but here was a case in which the whole increase was made at one jump. What economies had been effected by this officer? Was it like the retrenchment effected by some officers in reducing the wages men?

Mr. ANGWIN expected to hear that this officer was exempted from the Public Service Act. The Public Service Commissioner did not say that the full salary should be paid to this officer this year, but he recommended the £405 as the maximum salary. It was to be regretted that the Minister had seen fit to make flesh of one and fish of another. When one officer was picked out for special consideration it was time that members saw that fair play was meted out to other officers. There must be a special reason why this full increase had been made. What were the special qualifications of this officer?

The TREASURER: It was waste of time for one member after another to ask for the same explanation. He had tendered the explanation that successive Ministers had recognised that this officer was underpaid. For several years he had been promised an increase, and viewing all the circumstances of the important work carried out by the officer, Cabinet decided to give him the amount of his classification set down by the Public Service Commissioner; the Government thought that he was entitled to more. Members might agree or disagree with the explanation, but if they disagreed with it then they could vote against the

item. He did not intend to repeat his explanations in the future.

Mr. BATH: The question asked by members had not been answered by the Treasurer. All that needed elucidating was not what were the reasons that actuated the Government in giving the maximum salary to this officer, but why the distinction had been made between this officer and scores of other officers included in the Commissioner's report, who were on exactly the same level. The draughtsman in charge was in exactly the same position. There should be some explanation of the differential treatment meted out.

Mr. BOLTON: Was it the intention of the Government from this day to jump to the maximum salary recommended by the Public Service Commissioner? The Treasurer had not given the information asked for, why this officer had been given the increase in one lump sum while others had their increases spread over a number of years.

[12 o'clock midnight.]

Mr. BOLTON (continuing): If the Treasurer had not the information, let it be procured. Why was this officer singled out from the others recommended for increases by the Commissioner? He (Mr. Bolton) would support the item if the answer was satisfactory.

*The Treasurer*: The hon. member was stonewalling.

Mr. BOLTON was determined to have the information.

Mr. ANGWIN: The Treasurer had said he was not here to give information.

*The Treasurer*: Nothing of the sort.

Mr. ANGWIN: The Treasurer could not deny stating on the previous vote that the Government had decided to spread over a period of five years increases and decreases of salaries. Why was this officer singled out? We were told past Governments thought him deserving of an increase; but why was it not given by instalments?

Mr. JOHNSON: The Public Service Commissioner recommended that another officer in this branch should receive an increase of £35. If there was good work done in this office, Mr. Kennedy was en-

titled to as much credit as Mr. Pether. In many departments the head got all the credit, however much was due to the subordinates. Here was a draftsman in charge at £250 and a draftsman under him at the same salary. Surely the man in charge deserved an increase. There was some political or other influence at work. It was useless to say these increases had been promised, for many other officers had not received promised increases. He (Mr. Johnson) resented the insinuation that the Opposition were stonewalling. They asked for equal justice to all. If increases were to be given by instalments, let that system be adopted in all cases.

Mr. STONE : While not advocating increases of salaries exceeding £200, he thought we had as much light as we were likely to get on this item, and would move that the question be now put.

Mr. HOLMAN : Could the hon. member, after speaking on the question, move that it be put ?

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No ; but he could move that the Committee do now divide.

Mr. STONE would move—

Mr. Scaddan : The member for the Murchison was on his feet.

The Premier : There was a Chairman here, and the hon. member (Mr. Scaddan) need not take charge of the House.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN did not need assistance from the Premier or anyone else. The member for the Murchison could proceed.

Mr. HOLMAN : Why this increase of £30 to an officer at the head of a small staff, especially in view of our financial position ? Large pensions and retiring allowances were being paid to printers and lithographers, probably more than to the other officers. This increase would entitle the officer to a pension or an allowance. Why should such a highly-paid officer have an increase, to place him beyond the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commissioner ? The present salary was £375.

The Premier : If in a private capacity he would be ashamed to pay the officer so small a salary.

Mr. HOLMAN : Then there would be no sense in giving him a paltry rise of £30. If worth much more, why did he not obtain private employment ? We should protest against some officers in this branch being allowed to work for other departments, thus keeping men out of jobs. Hon. members gave their whole time to the country for £3 17s. 6d. a week, and worked harder than this officer. Last year some officers of this branch were receiving salaries like £240, in addition to large payments from the technical school.

Mr. SCADDAN : It was rumoured about town that this increase was due to political influence. He hoped that was untrue. Why was the increase paid in full while the draftsman-in-charge received the inadequate salary of £250 without the increase recommended by the Commissioner, whose classification was thus ignored ?

The PREMIER : It was evident that the Besses o' th' Barn Band had only to come to the House if they wanted long-winded recruits. Mr. Pether was specially singled out for his exceptional ability as Government Lithographer. Such experts were not picked up on gooseberry bushes. There was probably no other man in the service so capable of filling the position, for this officer had not only to be a printer, but must have a good knowledge of a draftsman's work. In this position Mr. Pether had served the State faithfully for many years ; and having been more than once promised a rise, he was entitled to the increase of £30.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—(Drafting Staff), Draftsman-in-charge, £250 :

Mr. JOHNSON : A draftsman under this officer was receiving a like sum, whereas the Commissioner recommended that the superior officer should have an increase of £35. Surely the superior was worth more than his subordinate. Would the Premier look into the matter, referred to on page 43 of the Commissioner's report ?

The PREMIER understood that the draftsman referred to was Mr. Kennedy,



but it did not appear why the increase recommended by the Commissioner, making £285 in all, had not been granted. The matter would be looked into.

[Mr. Daglish resumed the Chair.]

Item—(Drafting Staff), Litho. draftsmen £1,080 :

Mr. SCADDAN : In 1906-7 there were six men employed, and one extra this year, making a net increase of £173.

The PREMIER : No appointment had been made ; but it was proposed if possible to arrange for a cadet. .

Other items agreed to ; vote put and passed.

Vote—London Agency, £6,298 :

Item—Secretary, £650 :

Mr. ANGWIN : Should not the secretary be frequently changed, each new appointment being made from the officers in the State ?

Mr. JOHNSON : On page 43 of his report the Commissioner suggested that the Assistant Inspecting Engineer or the Engineer-in-Chief might act as secretary also. In 1904 the Government sent home Mr. Palmer as inspecting engineer, and somehow Mr. Salter, a capable officer, was sent as his assistant. Mr. Salter might well act as secretary, thus dispensing with one officer. The officer concerned was a man with a great record, and was capable not only in engineering but in office work generally, and was highly esteemed in the Public Works Department for his ability. However, we had in the London Agency the Secretary, Mr. Hare, also Mr. Palmer, one who was competent enough to be Engineer-in-Chief in this State, and Mr. Salter ; but there was not enough to keep all three going. Here was an opportunity for effecting economy as the Public Service Commissioner had pointed out.

The PREMIER : Though there was much in the contention raised, the remarks of the member for East Fremantle could not apply to the secretary, who, on account of long experience in the London Office, was of great value and assistance to the Agent General in financial matters. However, there were three small subdepartments in the London

Agency, and probably by an amalgamation a reduction in expenditure could be made. As a matter of fact, the Agent General's estimate had been cut down by hundreds of pounds, the Government being of opinion that by an amalgamation some economy could be effected. The matter of sending to London officers better acquainted with the local conditions than those who had been in London for years was now being considered. The Agent General had been requested to use every possible economy and no doubt would do so.

Item—Income tax, £130 :

Mr. ANGWIN : Was this income tax paid on the salaries of the officers ?

The PREMIER : Yes.

Mr. SCADDAN : Why should officers in London receive more consideration than public servants in Western Australia ? It was unfair to pay the income tax for officers in the London Agency while public servants within the State would have to meet the local tax. He moved an amendment—

*That the item be struck out.*

The PREMIER : This had been the practice adopted all through. The officers were engaged on the understanding that the income tax would be paid for them. It would not be fair to send a man home and have him subjected to a varying impost of from 6d. to 1s. 2d. in the pound, and it would be a breach of faith if we interfered.

Mr. ANGWIN : When we engaged officers for the public service there was no income tax in force. Consequently, if there was justification for paying the income tax on salaries of officers in London there was every justification why we should pay the income tax proposed to be levied on officers in the State ; and conversely, seeing that we were about to impose an income tax in Western Australia there was no longer need to pay the tax for the officers in London.

Mr. WALKER : If an act had been wrongfully done in the past there was no need to continue doing it. If we paid the income tax for the officers why should we not pay their municipal taxes ? No one living in England should be-

grudge paying the income tax. One would like to see the contract by which we agreed to pay this income tax for these officers. If they were engaged in England, it was absurd for the State to enter into a contract of the kind.

The TREASURER : All civil servants were subject to municipal taxation whether in London or in Western Australia. Under the proposed income tax measure these officers in London would be called upon to pay the Western Australian income tax, so that it would be unfair to mulct them in the British income tax as well. They were sent to London at the salary they were entitled to draw in Western Australia, and it had been held for years that the British income tax due on their salaries should be borne by the Government.

Mr. STONE : The item should be struck out. It was not possible that these officers should pay the British and the local income taxes.

Mr. TROY : The tax should be paid by those in receipt of the salaries.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—Extra assistance, £50 :

Mr. TROY : Sir Walter James on returning had said that economies could be effected in the London Agency, and that Mr. Rason would assuredly effect them ; but instead of economy, there was extra expenditure. [*The Premier* : To the extent of £1.] What good was the London Agency to the State ? We had a few immigrants assisted here.

The CHAIRMAN : The hon. member was not keeping to the item.

The PREMIER : During the year something like £5,000 had been saved by the officers of the London Agency doing the inspecting of the various importations of material for the Railway and other departments, which work had previously been done on commission by a consulting engineer.

Mr. BATH : If adequate provision was made for the inspection of goods on arrival in this State, as was disclosed to be the case with certain truck wheels recently imported, where was the necessity for inspection at the other end ?

The dual expenditure seemed unnecessary.

The TREASURER : The hon. member would not suggest that we should do away with the inspection in the old country, and it was also advisable to have inspection at this end. In the past we had paid £10,000 or £12,000 per annum in commissions to a consulting engineer to do the work which was now done by Mr. Palmer.

Mr. Bath : Would not effective inspection at this end be sufficient ?

The TREASURER : It was doubtful whether the testing could be done as well here as it could be done at the works. It would be dangerous to do away with inspection in the old country.

Mr. HORAN : People visiting England had gone to libraries in provincial towns in Great Britain and had been unable to obtain any information concerning Western Australia. It would be as well to arrange to have some Western Australian publications distributed among the provincial towns of Great Britain.

Other items agreed to ; vote put and passed.

Vote—Printing, £28,400 :

Mr. BATH : The vote showed a net decrease of £1,550. Did this really represent a saving on the total expenditure in which we were involved for printing for the various departments, or was it a fact that more work had been given out to private firms and a larger expenditure involved in that direction, thus setting off the apparent decrease on the vote ?

The TREASURER : Not only was the saving an actual fact, but there had been an enormous saving during the term of the present Government Printer. During 1905-6 it cost £36,362 to run the Printing Office, whereas in the following year it cost £30,256, a saving of over £6,000 ; and about a third more work was turned out. The *Votes and Proceedings* of Parliament covered 2,374 pages in 1905-6 and 3,466 in the following year the *Government Gazette* covered 2,070 pages in the one year as against 2,381 last year, while *Hansard* last year covered 3,861 pages as against 1,793 in the preceding year. *Hansard* had been reduced

in cost by 1s. 2d. per page, representing a saving of £225, though there were 801 pages more than in the longest session previously held in Western Australia. The cost of printing the *Government Gazette* was now £1 7s. 3d. per page. The previous cost had been £1 12s. a page, so that there was a saving there of £508. Setting was done by hand in 1905-6 and for nine months of 1906-7. Now linotypes had been established and it was anticipated there would be a considerable farther saving this year to the extent of £1,550 in these costs. The vote for 1904-5 was £34,030 and the expenditure £38,782. The vote for 1905-6 was £37,412, the expenditure being £36,362. Last year the vote was £31,839, and the expenditure was £29,959.

[1 o'clock a.m.]

The TREASURER (continuing): The vote for the present year was £28,409, showing an actual saving of £9,000, as compared with the year 1905-6; although one-third more work was turned out last year than in the preceding one. This change had not been brought about without the expenditure of a considerable amount of money, for the office had to be reorganised and compensation granted for loss of pension rights to a number of men. The total cost had been something like £6,000. Previously the employees had been working haphazard; there was no time check and the arrangements generally were altogether incomplete. This, however, had now all been altered and the employees now worked the regulation 48 hours a week, and the department had been put on a proper footing. A charge was made against the Government Printer last year that he was using boy labour in order to effect economies. That statement was not correct. In 1905-6 the men over 21 years of age employed in the department numbered 157, while those under 21 numbered 30; there were 20 female workers. In the year 1906-7, notwithstanding the fact that a greatly increased quantity of work was turned out, the men employed totalled 107, showing a decrease of 50, while the youths under 21 numbered 17, or 13 less than the previous year; the female

workers had been increased by 15. [Mr. Bath: What work were the females doing?] They were probably employed in the binding department. It had been said that Mr. Simpson was in very bad health, but he was glad to be able to inform the Committee that the Government Printer was in perfectly sound health, was always at his office, and was giving personal attention to the work. He (the Treasurer) was highly satisfied with the result of Mr. Simpson's management.

Item—(Salaries) Foremen, compositors, etcetera, £17,000:

Mr. BATH: Was anything being done to enable the employees at the Printing Office to acquire knowledge of the linotype machines?

The TREASURER: The men working the linotypes at present were all old employees who had been trained in the office. It was not likely that the department would continue to train operators when the men now undertaking the work had become proficient, these being previously hand compositors.

Mr. Bath: Was there any overtime at the Printing Office now?

The TREASURER: The overtime was only necessary earlier in the session, at a time when Parliament was sitting late, and *Hansard* was accordingly very heavy. There was no overtime which could possibly be avoided.

Item—(Contingencies) Stationery for Public Service generally, £7,000:

Mr. BATH: In the last issue of the *Government Gazette* there appeared a lengthy advertisement occupying one-half a page, giving a notification of the closure of a road. Surely there was a great deal of unnecessary verbiage in the notice and too great an expense was incurred. It was probably necessary by Act of Parliament that these notifications should be published in the *Government Gazette in extenso*, but if arrangements could be made whereby the bulk of these notifications was decreased, then a great saving would be effected. In connection with the issue of the *Gazettes*, it was apparent that there were still more free copies sent out than there should be. For a long time

he had received two copies, one being sent to Parliament House, and the other to his private residence. He had written to the Government Printer, pointing out that as a file of the *Gazette* was kept at Parliament House it would only be necessary to send him one to his private residence.

The TREASURER: Care was now being taken to prevent the unnecessary issue of copies of the *Government Gazette* and recently as many as 221 copies had been taken off the list. With regard to expensive advertisements published in the *Gazette*, he fancied that it was necessary to publish proclamations in full, but he would make inquiries and see if the notices could be curtailed.

Other items agreed to ; vote put and passed.

Vote—Public Service Commissioner, £730:

Mr. BATH: The prevailing impression with regard to the Public Service Commissioner was that although the protestations of Ministers were in the direction of making economies, in actual practice the recommendations of the Commissioner met with scant attention at the hands of the Government, and in fact, the officer was hampered in his work of trying to get rid of unnecessary officers, and effecting savings. It would be well for the Minister to inform the House what was the real attitude of the Government with regard to the question. It was evident, as set forth in Mr. Jull's report on the Public Service, that his views were not regarded with great favour by the Government. As a matter of fact in most cases his views were disregarded, and his recommendations were not adopted. Apart from the Auditor General, the Public Service Commissioner was really responsible to Parliament in a greater degree than any other officer, and so long as the position existed we should see either that the recommendations of the Commissioner were adopted or that the Ministry should bring down a Bill for the purpose of repealing the Act. Either the officer was performing a duty which was to the benefit of the State and his recommendations should be adopted, or else he was doing no good and his services

should be dispensed with. At present it was impossible for the Commissioner to take any steps in the direction of carrying out his duties, for his recommendations were disregarded by the Government.

The PREMIER: In one or two cases the Government had differed from the recommendations of the Public Service Commissioner, but he could not agree with the statement that that officer's recommendations were disregarded. There was one particular instance, which was in regard to an officer whose position was that of clerk to the Minister for Lands. The Public Service Commissioner maintained that under that position the officer was not entitled to the remuneration he was receiving, and that his salary should be reduced by £20. On appeal, however, it was agreed that the officer should continue to draw the salary of £250 while the Minister for Lands was also the Premier. The Commissioner stated that that office was not required, but members must know that if there was an officer absolutely necessary in a department it was the clerk to a Minister, and more especially the clerk to the Minister for Lands, as he came more into contact with the public than any other Minister. The office was an important one, for when a member of the public sought to interview the Minister the official immediately took steps to obtain all the information bearing on the subject, with the result that the matter was dealt with much more speedily by the Minister than otherwise would be the case. The Public Service Commissioner had recommended that it would be advisable to have an amendment of the Public Service Act. He quite agreed with that, for he considered it would be advisable to place the Commissioner more in an advisory capacity than at present. [Mr. Heitmann: Then you would take no notice of him at all.] He could be employed very usefully in the reorganisation of departments. He (the Premier) had suggested the adoption of certain decentralisation proposals, but the result of having a Public Service Commissioner was that the question was hung up for months. A Minister was

placed in the position that if he did not want to take any interest in his department the Act was all that could be desired, but if he manifested interest in his department and was prepared to make inquiries concerning the officers who were really doing good work, he was not able to do so to the extent he desired.

*Mr. Johnson:* The Minister should work harmoniously with the Public Service Commissioner.

The PREMIER: When the position arose that a Minister had one opinion, and the Public Service Commissioner another, there was no likelihood of the work between the two being harmonious. He had endeavoured to work amicably with the officer, but when he had certain ideas as to the capabilities and worth of certain Government officials, which opinion was not held by the Public Service Commissioner, he did not hesitate to see that those officials were rewarded. In many cases a Minister was in a much better position to judge the officials than was the Public Service Commissioner.

*Mr. JOHNSON:* It was necessary that every Minister should take a keen interest in the organisation of his department, but there was no reason why he could not work with the Public Service Commissioner, make recommendations, and discuss questions with him. If that course were followed better results would accrue. It appeared from the report of the Public Service Commissioner that the Government and he did not work well together. In his report he outlined seven different instances where evasions of the Act had been made by Ministers. Where the Government thought fit they ignored the Commissioner and carried out their own desires. There was one particular officer to whom he wished to refer, that was Dr. Lovegrove, and he had been astonished to find that that gentleman had been appointed to the high position he held. No Minister having an intelligent interest in his department would have an officer of the age of Dr. Lovegrove head of the department. The results had proved the accuracy of this argument. If the Public Service Commissioner was right in his opinion with regard to Dr. Lovegrove then the ap-

pointment should not have been made. Here was the case of a man who had grown old in the service, who was out of date and was not competent to deal with the department, and the result of the appointment was that difficulties existed. Dr. Lovegrove appointed an officer who, Mr. Jull said, should never have received the position, and dismissed a man who had successfully run the gauntlet of an examination test. An assisted immigrant, a friend of a Minister, had been put in his place. Such a thing as that should never have been tolerated. While Ministers and the Commissioner were pulling one against the other there could never be a competent and satisfied public service.

*Mr. WALKER:* There was an absolute necessity for doing away with the Public Service Commissioner. He did not mean that they should resort back entirely to the old condition, but that they should rid themselves once and for all of the notion that any individual was capable of judging the respective merits of every person in the civil service. It was absolutely impossible to get any person qualified to judge the value of the various professional men in the departments, as well as the officers who ranked as the clerical staff. Yet this was what the Commissioner was expected to do. How could he be expected to say, after five or ten minutes' conversation, exactly what the various civil servants were worth? The State committed a grave blunder by appointing the officer, but it was merely following the custom which now seemed to be adopted by Ministries, of getting rid of responsibilities and placing them on the shoulders of someone else. [*The Premier:* The present Government did not appoint Mr. Jull.] He was referring to the tendency of Australian Governments generally, to rid themselves of all the responsibilities they could. Injustices innumerable had been perpetrated in the various departments by the public service classification, and a curse had been placed over the public service owing to the introduction of the measure. One result had been that all spirit and all hope had been taken out of civil servants. Another result was that under the

classification scheme, once a man entered a particular groove he could never expect to leave it. [*Mr. Troy*: The old system was just the same.] He was arguing that the old system with all its faults was preferable to this dead, inelastic system. In other parts of the world, in England for instance where Ministerial responsibility was graduated right up to the Ministerial head, one would find some of it, but not to the same extent as here. We were taking an exceedingly serious step in fixing upon our civil service a dead level, making it impossible for the best to rise one single step above the level of the worst. Everyone in a class was on the same level. There might be some political patronage existing, and where it had asserted itself it had not been for the general good of the people; but when the Ministry had recognised one case where it had been advantageous to ignore the recommendations of Mr. Jull, they had not the courage to apply that principle all round. Where breaches of the Act had taken place at the instance of the Minister, in most cases it had been shown to be of benefit to the State. They had wisely taken the power out of the hands of the Commissioner. If that was beneficial then the system of political management or Ministerial responsibility was beneficial. If there were any at all who should know what officers were needed or capable of carrying out the policy of the Government, it was the Government, and it should not be within the possibility of any outside genius or person to say you shall not have this man, or if you have him you must pay a heart-breaking rate of wages. All should not be placed on the one level; these were things for a dead country—for Russia. What was the secret of Russia's down-trodden position? that she absolutely had this independent department or independent commissioner. Russia was ruled by no sense of responsibility to the people; there was no responsibility to anybody. Mr. Jull had this excuse, he had been given the authority to judge every officer in the State; the Government was powerless and Parliament was powerless, by the law he was supreme. It was that kind of supremacy that they had in Russia,

and that kind of supremacy that had kept Russia in her humiliating and down-trodden position. It was the hope of every Britisher that he should be able to rise to the highest position in the land. The evil we were doing in our civil service was not to be counted in a day or two, it was a disaster that would grow on us. The Commissioner had broken the heart of many men in the civil service who no longer were the men they previously had been. What did it matter to an officer whether he did excellent work or inferior work? If he filled the position and could do the work that came within that position, that was the pay he would get. He had nothing to spur him on, nothing to make him feel he was a factor in the development of the State, in making it what he hoped it would be in days to come. The man who was clever and honest was not one whit ahead of the position of the man who was a dullard and was unscrupulous.

*Mr. Gordon*: The hon. member would never be a socialist.

*Mr. WALKER*: Absolutely this was socialism. It was the fact of the recognition of the brotherhood in humanity, the recognition of the good qualities in everyone. There could be no socialism that did not recognise in one's brother the best qualities that brother had, and did not give to that brother the best opportunity of developing those qualities, not for selfish good but the good of the State and everyone else; that was socialism. He trusted there would be some alteration made in the civil service. He was not saying one word against the integrity of Mr. Jull; he was convinced he was a man of considerable ability, more than ordinary ability, but he was not a man of universal ability, and it would take more than ordinary ability to enter into the springs of human nature and judge a man's deserts. Lord Clive, who gave us India, in one moment of despair tried to take his own life. Lord Clive had no knowledge of his great capacity, and those around him utilised his services as a clerk; they knew nothing of his hidden capacity, his hidden genius, but he gave to us an empire. If there had been Mr. Jull to classify Lord Clive what would

have happened? We know not how many Lord Clives there might be in a general sense, but we need not go to extreme cases: let us look at the facts. Mr. Jull had to go through the whole civil service; he might know something about the Lands or the Works Department, but when he entered the Treasury or the Attorney General's Department, there the whole set of principles was different, but he made no difference between one person and another. We required, instead of Mr. Jull, a Minister, a man capable of exercising responsibility, capable of doing the work and knowing the work that was required. If a servant was worthless the Minister should take the responsibility and get rid of him, but if the servant was doing good work and the Government did not recognise it, the Ministry must take the responsibility. Mr. Jull was a Philip all the way through; Philip drunk or Philip sober, it was still Philip. There had been one or two appeals upheld, but that had always been at the instigation of the Ministry. That was because some Minister took a firm stand. But in the many cases in which the appellants had to fight their own battles, did they succeed? The appeal was a farce. The Commissioner's task was impossible. Appellants had no chance. Members should protest against any longer playing with the Act, either by allowing undue influence, as in the case instanced by the Commissioner, or by evading the Act as in the case of Mr. Prinsep, or by appointing political friends, as in Mr. Isdell's case. Either repeal the Act or obey it, regardless of consequences. The existing procedure placed the Commissioner, the Minister, and the public service, in a false position. The Government should as soon as possible draft a Bill to retrace the steps they had taken.

[2 o'clock a.m.]

The PREMIER: The hon. member in his eloquent speech undoubtedly pointed out many defects in the Act, but considered there was no middle course; that the Act should be supported *in toto* or else repealed. Last year he (the Premier) indicated that though Ministers

were not at all satisfied with the Act, it should have a fair trial. There were many occasions when they could not agree with Mr. Jull, and with certain items in the classification he (the Premier) totally disagreed. For instance, the Engineer-in-Chief received £1,200 per annum, and the Commissioner recommended a reduction to £1,000, though this officer was responsible for all large items of expenditure such as the spending of the recent loan of 2½ millions. He should therefore be encouraged to do his best for the State, and a reduction of £200 would hardly encourage him. In two matters he (the Premier) was in sympathy with the Civil Service Association. The appeal was undoubtedly from Cæsar to Cæsar, inasmuch as the Commissioner, who was responsible for the classification was also chairman of the Appeal Board, just as a police-court magistrate in this country frequently committed a prisoner, and presided as chairman of the quarter sessions when the prisoner was tried. The Act might be altered on the lines already indicated. The hon. member (Mr. Walker) said rightly enough that it was practically impossible for one man to judge of the qualifications of all officers of the service. The Commissioner might be competent to classify the Works Department, without being able to decide on the qualifications of a solicitor or a medical man. The principal argument for the Act was that it would avoid political patronage; but in these days of free Press and parliamentary criticism no man would be prepared to appoint a friend to a position unless satisfied that the friend was qualified.

Mr. Scaddan: The Commissioner gave instances on page 14 of his report, where he referred to a man who had never seen a jarrah tree or a timber mill being appointed a forest ranger at Collie.

The PREMIER: That gentleman, a Mr. Williams, was some four years ago appointed to a position at Northampton. The then Minister transferred him from Northampton, where he was recruited, to Collie. Was there any great crime in Mr. Williams's not knowing a jarrah tree? If we imported a Conservator of Forests, we should probably im-

port a man who had never seen a jarrah tree. Mr. Williams was originally engaged to act for the department in the Northampton district, where the timber was entirely different. The fact that he knew nothing of jarrah did not prove his incompetence. The Commissioner had made no great point there. Mr. Williams was charged with some irregularity, and at his (the Premier's) request Mr. Jull went to Collie to make inquiries. Mr. Williams, it was found, had been guilty of some slight irregularity, and his resignation was accepted. The case of the caretaker of an important building had never been brought under his (the Premier's) notice. Seldom would a Minister dream of making an appointment which he could not justify ; and it was generally much easier to do a favour of that kind to an enemy than to a personal friend. The hon. member (Mr. Walker) drew attention to the fact that the classification tended to reduce a man to a machine, and there was something in that contention. No doubt a junior must serve a long time before securing a well-paid position. The regulations for the promotion of officers in the service before the Act came into operation required adjustment. He (the Premier) had seen examination papers set for such officers which neither he nor some heads of departments could pass. It was right to keep up the standard of the entrance examination, but to subject officers for some years in the service to a test requiring a long course of recent scholastic study was quite unnecessary. Some officers had failed to pass the examinations and had therefore missed promotion, because, for instance, they could not solve certain geometrical problems or analyse certain sentences. The Government were now consulting the Commissioner, with a view to making amendments. Queensland found certain difficulties in its Public Service Act, and took the rather drastic step of amending the Act by inserting "Executive Council" in lieu of "Commissioner," thus practically reverting to Ministerial responsibility and control. It was here thought advisable to amend the Act in other respects also, and the whole matter was receiving attention.

Mr. TROY : Both the Premier and the member for Kanowna had condemned the Commissioner and the Act ; but not a word was said of the action of the Government in repealing public service regulation 141, which was responsible for all the trouble. When the Commissioner classified at say £200 an office paid at £250, then by this regulation the officer would not be reduced to £200, but would be transferred to another position carrying £250. The repeal of the regulation compelled all such officers to accept a reduction of £20 per year till the specified salary was reached ; and that was the reason for the discontent in the service. He (Mr. Troy) knew dozens of civil servants who were faced with such reductions for the next five years, during which time they could not improve their positions. How could such men feel satisfied ? The regulation was not repealed by the Commissioner but by the Government. We were told that the Commissioner would prevent political patronage ; but the Commissioner's will had been flouted. For instance, he pointed out in his report that within the last year the merits of a would-be Government clerk were placed before the Commissioner by several of our foremost citizens, who evidently believed the clerk would be an acquisition ; and probably under the old system of recruiting he would have been appointed to a good position, perhaps above more expert officers in the service. But an examination being held, this applicant, out of 37 candidates, was almost at the bottom, while the candidates who headed the list were quite unknown to the Commissioner. Here was proof that people had solicited even the Commissioner to secure appointments for their favourites ; and the Commissioner reported that persons were still being appointed to the service without his consent. How did Mr. Thomas McHenry become inspector of factories under the Early Closing Act, while another inspector was sacked ? Mr. McHenry had arrived as an assisted immigrant. Yet we heard of this humbug about no political influence. There was political influence ; the Commissioner, having to fight Ministers, could not do his work. No Min-



ister had the manliness to tell the House the truth, but would lead members to believe that the Act was not a success. Possibly the Act required amendment, like most other Acts. We could not hope for a perfect Act all at once. It was not likely that the Commissioner knew the whole service from A to Z; but he had evidently done his best, though he had made some glaring mistakes. He had done some fairly good work, and if given a free hand he might do better. In many instances the professional classification appeared unwise. The goldfields officers, as compared with the coastal, were heavily penalised. The member for Kanowna spoke of broken-hearted civil servants; and certainly we should not get from a disappointed man as good work as we could from a man who was satisfied. The dissatisfaction was due to officers' being faced with gradual reductions of salary for the next five years. Would any hon. member be satisfied in like circumstances? For this the Government and not the Commissioner were responsible. Political influence was still apparent in many appointments made by Ministers. The Premier mentioned a forest ranger who did not know a jarrah tree. But quite recently a man was appointed as a boundary rider for a section of the rabbit-proof fence. He was to ride a camel, but had never before seen such an animal, and had to be taught to ride. However, he was doing his best, and would make a good officer. The Honorary Minister (Hon. J. Mitchell) was surely not responsible for this appointment, but officers in his department knew the ropes and secured vacancies for their friends. Competent boundary riders in the Mount Magnet electorate had been discharged from the same work because the sections had been lengthened. Some of the best bushmen in the State were thus dismissed and new chums substituted. Yet we were told there was no influence in the service, and no appointment made without the Commissioner. That was all humbug. There would always be such appointments so long as officers of the department knew how to bring in their friends. Ministers should be just to the Commissioner, be candid with the House,

and not try to ascribe to the Commissioner's maladministration the discontent in the service, which was due to the repeal of regulation 141.

[Mr. Hudson took the Chair.]

Mr. UNDERWOOD agreed to a great extent with what had been said by the member for Kanowna. If the public service had ever been in a worse condition than now it must have been something awful. The men who had the responsibility should control the departments. It was impossible for a Minister to do good work when the responsibility for appointing officers was handed to someone over whom the Minister had no control, and it was impossible for the Minister to stamp his office with any individuality or to be more than a mere rubber stamp. Provision should be made so that a capable Minister could do good work, but it was absolutely impossible to do it with the Public Service Act on the statute-book. It was pointed out by speakers that political influence was still used in the appointment of public servants and that the object of appointing a Public Service Commissioner had not been attained; so the Commissioner was a failure. It was said that many of the complaints arose from the fact that the Commissioner had classified public servants at lower rates of salary, but in many cases, particularly in the Agricultural Department, some public servants should be faced with the difficulty of seeking fresh billets. It was evident from the discussion on this vote that the Commissioner had not done many things he should have done, but that was because Ministers were not controlling the departments properly. If we had good Ministers there would be no need for a Commissioner. If Ministers could override the Commissioner, what was the use of having a Commissioner? The Commissioner had not classified the officers but had classified the positions, and it was impossible for some public servants to give satisfaction in the positions in which they had been thrust. One man had been put at the head of his class with no possible chance of rising beyond it. There were men in the service receiving

merely a minor's wage with no possible chance of rising into positions in which they could do good work for the State. The Commissioner did not seem to realise he was dealing with human beings and not with machinery.

Mr. HORAN regretted some remarks that were made. Members had worked hard to bring about a Public Service Act. At the time it was passed the extreme delicacy of the position of the Minister in being responsible for the actions of an officer in his department without having any say in the appointment was recognised; and it was farther recognised that naturally at the outset Ministers would feel a little irritation. In his report the Commissioner had laid stress on the fact that the section of the Act dealing with political interference in appointments, for which section he (Mr. Horan) had been responsible, had not been carried into effect. It was regrettable that members when approached in reference to these matters had not taken shelter behind that section of the Act which had been taken from the Railway Act. The Government were wrong in not appointing assistant commissioner's to assist in the classification.

*The Treasurer:* The Commissioner had never asked for them.

Mr. HORAN: It was not essential for the Commissioner to ask. The Government should have given the assistance in order to carry out the intention of the Act.

*The Minister for Mines:* Then it might have been said the assistants had been appointed to override the Commissioner.

Mr. HORAN: Denunciations of the Commissioner should be tempered with a consideration for the many difficulties the Commissioner had to face.

Mr. BATH: The logic of the member for Pilbarra was bad. The remarks made to-night had not shown that the Commissioner was a failure, but it was proof that Parliament was not giving the Commissioner a fair show in regard to the administration of the Act. When the Act was passed it was to insure a fair deal and to eliminate as far as pos-

sible influence in making appointments. All we asked was that the Commissioner should bring a reasonable amount of zeal and a measure of probity to the consideration of those matters. That was all we could expect. The trouble was that the Commissioner and the Act had been ignored in regard to appointments, but that was not the fault of the Commissioner. It was time to condemn the Commissioner when we were assured that, having been given a fair opportunity, he had failed. The fault so far was not with the Commissioner but with the administration, and it was for Parliament not to condemn the Commissioner, but to stand up for him and give him a fair chance in the future.

Mr. JOHNSON: The Premier should not be encouraged by the remarks of the members for Pilbarra and Kanowna to follow out the intention of bringing in an amendment to the Public Service Act. One was opposed to any such intention, who knew how rife political patronage and influence were in the past. That it was that had created the demand for the passing of the Act, but political patronage still existed in opposition to the wish of the Commissioner. It was not true that the Government were hampered in their desire for economy by the Commissioner. That gentleman said in his report—

“Can one single instance which will bear investigation be pointed out where economy has been recommended and not put into effect by the Commissioner?”

The Commissioner believed in concentration to attain economy, such as by amalgamating the Lithographic branch with the Government Printing Office. The whole endeavour of the Commissioner was to bring in economies, and if Ministers would assist him the Commissioner would proceed without delay in that direction. One could not tolerate any tampering with the Act. It was not true to say there was discontent in the public service. The majority of public servants were contented. Men had been retrenched who should have been retrenched years before the advent of the Commissioner, and while that work of re-

trenchment was going on we should encourage the Commissioner and not discourage him. Had the members for Kanowna and Pilbarra known of the political patronage that existed in the old days, they would not have condemned the Commissioner as they have done.

Mr. TROY : Did the Government intend to adopt the Commissioner's classification ?

The TREASURER : That was under consideration.

Mr. TROY : When would it be known ?

The TREASURER could not answer that question.

Mr. STUART : One must sympathise with the Commissioner, who had been set such a heavy task and who was doing his best. Had the wishes of the Commissioner in regard to Dr. Lovegrove been honoured, the State would have been saved a great deal of past friction and future expense as well, because if Dr. Lovegrove remained in his position much longer, the Government would need to take over 100 hospitals that were now trying to work in harmony with the Chief Medical Officer but could not do so. Dr. Lovegrove was responsible for the reduction in the subsidy paid to hospitals. The effect of the reduction would be that the Government, instead of saving 5s., would be saddled with the whole of the upkeep of the institutions.

*The Minister for Mines* : Probably the Government would find it cheaper to do so than to pay the subsidy. Dr. Lovegrove had done good work.

Mr. STUART : People were not going to be flouted by this gentleman to whom the Commissioner had taken exception. If the Commissioner considered it advisable that departments should be amalgamated to effect economies in administration and that a number of superfluous officers should be dismissed, he would not be so tied down as a Minister, who would be afraid of losing supporters.

*The Minister for Mines* : Dr. Lovegrove was kept on instead of being pensioned off. When the Colonial Secretary's estimates were reached, figures

dealing with the hospitals would be produced.

Mr. STUART : As Ministers had not seen fit to adopt recommendations the Commissioner had made, the only inference was that they were afraid to. Though not believing in delegating responsibility, yet since Parliament had seen fit to pass the Public Service Act, the least we could do was to give it a fair trial and to give the Commissioner something less hostile than had been given to him since the Government had entered office. The member for Kanowna spoke as if the heart of every civil servant had been broken, but there was nothing so discouraging to one's efforts as to find that his merits were overlooked because another man had a friend at court. That was the sort of thing that existed. He (Mr. Stuart) would sooner take his chance of promotion at the hands of an expert like the Commissioner than at the hands of a Minister who might have reason for promoting someone else.

[3 o'clock a.m.]

Mr. STUART (continuing) : The friendship which had been shown in the public appointments throughout Australia had come to be a by-word and a reproach. The Attorney General, speaking in Kalgoorlie, placed the blame of the discontent and confusion in the service on the Public Service Commissioner's shoulders, and this statement and others of a similar kind clearly showed that Mr. Jull had been forced to fight every Minister. The officer was not getting fair play and it was the duty of the House to see that the position was remedied. Members would not be doing their duty if they did not defend Mr. Jull in the action he had taken. It was a most objectionable system to put a man into a certain position in order to formulate a scheme, and then when he has completed the work, that those in authority should refuse to carry it out.

Mr. HORAN : There had been a great deal of criticism with regard to Dr. Lovegrove, and he desired to know whether it was a fact that that gentleman went to England some time ago to enter for a public health examination,

but failed to pass. He had been assured by several doctors that such was the case.

The TREASURER : At the present stage he was not prepared to give detailed information on the subject of the Principal Medical Officer. Dr. Lovegrove visited England comparatively recently, and when there passed all his examinations with great credit to himself, and returned with splendid testimonials. Dr. Lovegrove, although advanced in years, was practically a young man, being full of energy and a desire to serve the State. Whatever his faults might be, and everyone had faults, and whatever his shortcomings might be, it was unfair for members to condemn him practically unheard. Last year he had to reprove some members for doing the same thing. If there were a charge to be brought against Dr. Lovegrove, let it be made ; but it was most unfair to have insinuations made against the officer. If a charge were made, then Dr. Lovegrove would be given an opportunity of replying to it. He was a faithful servant to the State of Western Australia and had been in the service for a long time. He should be treated better than some members had treated him in the House to-night.

Mr. UNDERWOOD : The Public Service Commissioner was a stranger to him, and he had no intention whatever of being abusive towards that officer, but he desired to attack the system. The men who should be dealt with were those who had been connected with the importation of certain camels to Western Australia. Whether those persons were the Minister, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Public Service Commissioner, or Mr. Weir he did not know, but whoever had made the mistake should be dismissed from the service.

Other items agreed to ; vote put and passed.

Vote—*Refunds*, £2,500 :

Mr. JOHNSON asked what the refunds represented.

The TREASURER : The provision was inserted in the Estimates every year, and the vote represented over-payments or incorrect payments for rents of leases

or other licenses which were paid into the office and had to be refunded.

Vote passed.

Vote—*Miscellaneous Services*, total £115,048 :

Mr. BATH, speaking generally, said there were two items for which no authority was granted last year and for which money had been expended. He could only refer to them on the general discussion, because the items were not mentioned in the Estimates. One of them referred to the recouping of an amount twice paid to a man for certain repairs to the South Perth school.

The TREASURER : There was a Treasurer's advance account of £150,000 for the purpose of supplying unforeseen expenditure. When the Excess Bill was brought down the member would be able to discuss the items to which he now desired to refer. He did not object to reference being made to those items now, but was inclined to think it would be out of order.

Mr. BATH : There was no necessity for him to refer to them now if he were given an opportunity later on.

Item—*Children's Hospital*, grant for building, £1,000 :

Mr. TROY asked whether the building was to be erected in connection with the public hospital.

The TREASURER : Members would remember that recently a deputation waited on the Premier with regard to the erection of a Children's Hospital. Mr. Charles Moore took a prominent part in the movement and was at the head of a committee which had been in existence for some years. Mr. Moore promised £1,000 if the Government would find the same amount ; at least that was one's impression of the offer made by Mr. C. Moore. The Premier thereupon promised that a sum would be provided for the erection of a children's hospital, and therefore it appeared on the Estimates.

Mr. JOHNSON : The understanding was that the Government grant should be in the nature of a subsidy, according to the amount which was raised by private subscriptions. The State had had ex-

perience in the past of similar transactions, and cases had arisen where the subsidy had been collected from the Government and spent before it was ascertained that the private subscriptions had not been forthcoming. In the present case the Government should see that the private subscriptions were all received before they paid the subsidy.

Item—Home for Friendless Women, Boulder, £100 :

Mr. JOHNSON : Some doubt seemed to exist as to where the institution was. Personally he knew Boulder well, but he had never heard of such an institution.

The TREASURER : The sum had been granted for the Home for Friendless Women every year for some time.

Mr. Scaddan : There was no such place at Boulder.

The TREASURER : The institution was in existence and the sum of £100 was paid to it each year.

Mr. STUART : There was a home on the goldfields that looked after that work, and he believed it was conducted by the Salvation Army.

Item—Royal Humane Society of Australasia, £20 :

Mr. BATH : A couple of months ago the Melbourne *Age* published a scathing indictment of the Royal Humane Society of Australasia. The ground of objection was that over £1,000 had been received by the society in one year, and that between 80 per cent. and 90 per cent. of the sum had been expended in administration. There was only about £200 spent for the purpose desired. If those allegations were correct this State should not subsidise the society to the extent of £20.

Item—Rescue and Prison-gate Work, £400 :

Mr. HEITMANN asked how the money was allocated.

The TREASURER : The sum of £400 was divided equally between the Salvation Army Home and the Home of the Good Shepherd at Leederville. The latter looked after the women while the former cared for the men. The object of the homes was to provide persons with

a shelter immediately after being discharged from prison. They were kept employed at the homes and rightly so too.

Mr. HEITMANN : Recently a man, who had been discharged from prison informed him, that after being in gaol for a good many months, there was money due to him at the rate of 6d. a week for work he had done. This sum was paid on his discharge, not to him, but to the Salvation Army authorities. It was altogether wrong that a man, after earning a little money in gaol, should be deprived of it on his discharge, and that it should be paid to the Prison-gate Home.

Mr. PIESSE : If they got money they would do no good with it, and would probably be sent back to gaol again.

Mr. HEITMANN : There were as good men in the gaol as there were here.

Mr. PIESSE : Yes, if the hon. member judged members by himself, there were.

The TREASURER : In nine cases out of ten, if money were given to the prisoners when they were discharged they would get on a "spree," be arrested and return to gaol again. That had happened time and again. Under the present system the money could be paid to a magistrate or any responsible person, to be ultimately expended in the interests of the prisoner. That was a very just and proper course to adopt. If there were a case where the system had been abused let it be brought before the Minister controlling the department and it would be inquired into.

Mr. Scaddan : Would the Treasurer give information as to the method of distributing the money ?

The TREASURER : The sum of £200 was given to the institutions irrespective of the number of discharged prisoners they looked after. Any prisoner who cared to do so could take advantage of the shelter offered by the Homes.

Mr. ANGWIN : Some time ago mention was made of another institution of a similar character, and a request was made for land on which to erect a building. The Treasurer then promised to

make inquiries as to how the discharged prisoners were being attended to by the societies already in existence.

[Mr. *Daglish* resumed the Chair.]

Mr. STUART : If the statement made by the member for Cue were correct a wrong was done to prisoners. If the authorities thought a man would make had use of the money which he had earned while in prison, it should be handed over to somebody for him ; but those people who received the grant should provide vouchers for what they obtained on behalf of the prisoners. A similar system of rescue homes was in existence in Brisbane, and people on leaving those homes had said they were worse treated there than they had been in gaol. He knew of the case of a woman who said she would prefer to go back to gaol rather than to work 13 or 14 hours a day, which she was compelled to do, in the home. If the superintendent of the gaol paid the money to someone else, he did what he had no right to do. A prisoner was entitled to a gratuity for good behaviour, and the money should be paid to him, no matter what he did with it subsequently. Very often on a man coming out of the gaol the reception he received decided whether he would go back again or not. The item of £400 should be subject to audit by the Government auditor the same as other Government grants were.

Mr. SCADDAN protested against the system of handing over to institutions sums of money without knowing how that money was spent. He knew the Salvation Army did a great deal of good in rescuing prisoners coming out of prison, but he protested against money being voted to these institutions which came into competition with legitimate traders. These institutions came in contact with laundries, and it lead to sweating. There should be some inquiry as to how the money was expended.

The TREASURER had made a note of the objection. It was impossible to audit a sum of money granted to such institutions as these, for the institutions carried out certain work, and they got a grant towards their institutions for

carrying out that work. The Colonial Secretary had received no complaints with regard to the method in which the work was carried out. He (the Treasurer) made inquiries at the time to which the member for East Fremantle referred, and was satisfied that both these institutions were carrying out the work satisfactorily. He had no reason to support a third institution, and he wrote to the secretary of the ladies who wished to move in the matter and gave the result of his inquiries. At present there were only two institutions carrying out this work and they were doing it well. Instead of the member for Leonora making a long speech on supposition he should go and see these institutions for himself. The sisters in charge of the Home of the Good Shepherd, and the officers of the Salvation Army would be only too glad to give him all the information he required. If there was anything they desired to complain of then they could come to the Government.

Mr. TROY : With some of the laundries there might be sweating, but a good deal of this work was done throughout Australia and there had been no cause for complaint; if there had been we would have heard of it. The sweating select committee saw sufficient of the laundries to know that no harm was being done. In connection with these institutions there might be persons who might not be the most charitable, but in all bodies one found that the majority were willing to do the best they could for all concerned. The vote should be made more liberal, for the institutions were doing all they could to assist these people. When the Sweating Committee were holding their inquiry they did not find any evidence of sweating in connection with the laundry trade.

Mr. HORAN presumed the Government granted the money on the understanding that these two institutions were of a reformatory character?

The Treasurer : Yes.

\*Item—Victoria Institute and Industrial School for the Blind, Upkeep, £500:

Mr. BATH: Had any decision been arrived at with regard to the movement in favour of the compulsory education of the blind?

The TREASURER: No definite decision had been arrived at. The matter was under the consideration of the Premier, and probably some legislation would be brought forward in connection with the matter. The figures showed that there were only two totally blind people in the State at the last census, that was five years ago, outside of this institution. People who could afford to keep a blind child would be loath to part with the child, and if they could give the necessary instruction to that child at home we ought to give permission so that such a child need not be sent to the school. Hardship might occur in compelling every child that was afflicted in this way to go to an institution, but so far as the Government knew there was no number outside the institution.

Mr. BATH: There was a good deal undoubtedly in the objection mentioned by the Treasurer in regard to the reluctance of parents to send their children into an institution. It was not so much the disability of the child when it was under the care of the parents, but it was in after life when the parents were dead that the disability arose, when through lack of whatever facilities could be provided for the blind, they went through life without that alleviation that could be provided. If it were possible to ensure that the education would be given to the child under the parental care he would say by all means make provision in that direction, but what we wanted to ensure was that in the interests of the people themselves they should have the attention we could give them, it would lighten their burden, and we should, by some slight amendment of the Education Act, ensure that it would be given. The difficulty was that there would have to be an inspector, and there would be some difficulty in seeing that these persons got the education at home. It would not require a very extensive Bill, and if the Government saw fit to introduce a measure this session, no

doubt members would ensure its passage. He had before him the Tasmanian Act with six subsections, making the whole provisions for the deaf dumb and mute children in Tasmania, where education was compulsory. He hoped the matter would be settled this session.

Item—Waifs' Home, Parkerville, pound for pound up to £800 towards upkeep, £800 :

Mr. ANGWIN: This item was growing year by year; there was an increase of £300. Who had control of the home, and were the accounts audited?

The TREASURER: The home was controlled by an undenominational committee comprised of some of the leading citizens of the State, the member for Perth being the treasurer. The home was established about four years ago by the advent of some sisters from the old country bringing some orphans with them. They established a home in Perth, and some sisters selected a place at Parkerville where they fashioned a home for destitute infants. They had a hard time in making a beginning in a ramshackle shed, which one of the sisters described as not a suitable place for a self-respecting English cow. These ladies had done excellent work, and had made most wonderful progress against untold obstacles and trials of every description. These good women at one time had not sufficient food for themselves and the infants under their care. They depended entirely at first on the money that was sent out from home and from contributions from the sisters who established a college in Perth, and moneys that the sisters themselves actually provided from their own private purses; they gave their labour for nothing and gave as much as they could from their slender means. They went on expanding, and it was soon found that applications for sixty infants were made. These were not infants healthy and strong, but in many instances infants pretty well dying from consumption and other causes, infants of all ages up to seven years. They had in the institution when the report was issued some 60 infants, and 40 of these

were under three years of age; a very large number of the 40 were under 18 months, being practically babies. The home had cost £4,000; about £1,200 had been subscribed by the general public, and £1,350 given by the late Mr. Walter Padbury, so that the balance of £1,500 was actually subscribed by the women themselves. The father of one of the sisters sent out enough money to build one of the wards. It was practically a village settlement doing excellent work, and it would ultimately come under the control of the officials under the Bill which was now being discussed in another place—the State children Bill. It was estimated that the work in hand would cost £750. The grant of £500, pound for pound up to £500, had been increased on the promise of the Premier when a deputation waited on him and pointed out that they were absolutely unable to make both ends meet. At the time there were 75 children in the home. The Premier then promised, and rightly, that he would provide on the Estimates that they should receive up to £800, pound for pound. A large body of the public were interested in the movements of this institution, and he hoped the Committee would see fit to pass the item so that this institution could have the assistance that had been meted out to other institutions.

Mr. GULL could fully substantiate the remarks of the Treasurer. This institution was in his electorate, and he had many opportunities of seeing it, and he could say without hesitation it was one of the finest institutions one could possibly conceive. He had been there on many occasions and seen the unfortunate youngsters, and had always felt sympathy not with the children altogether, but with the kind-hearted women who had taken charge. No doubt they had gone through very great privations in the beginning, and this was one of the best institutions from a humanitarian point of view that the Government could assist.

Mr. BATH: This item had his cordial support. He did not know if any phase of modern society reflected more discredibly on us than the universal way

in which some unfortunates were treated. There was always in the minds of people an element of doubt as to the work carried on being undenominational. So long as society failed to recognise its obligations and there was provided by a society the means necessary to carry on this work he was going to support such an institution; he would support it if it were carried on by Normans or Latter Day Saints. He had not visited the place, but from many who had visited it he understood the sisters were doing a grand and noble work, and deserved the assistance of every citizen in the State.

Item—Fire Brigades Board and Fire Brigades contribution and subsidy, £1,750.

Mr. TROY: Last year a fire brigade from the Murchison left this State to compete in the Fire Brigades Demonstration at Bendigo and did very well. The following year a brigade from Victoria came to this State. The visit of these fire brigades brought about a Federal spirit, and assisted to advertise the State considerably. The team was going East again this year or early next year, and should receive some assistance either in reduced fares or in free passes from the Murchison to Perth. Both distinguished and undistinguished visitors received free passes, and the increase in the item might well be devoted to this team of firemen.

[4 o'clock a.m.]

Mr. SCADDAN: The amount of the item would be inadequate, particularly if the proposed Fire Brigades Bill came into operation early in this financial year. He hoped that would not happen till the close of the year. He was one of a deputation that asked the Premier to obtain passes for the Boulder brigade team, and he hoped the Cue brigade also would be favoured. The interchange of visits by firemen did much to advertise the State, and engendered a Federal spirit. We frequently heard how the Victorian Press attempted to belittle Western Australia. The visits of the Eaglehawk and Bendigo brigades



to this State had removed many false impressions disseminated by Victorian newspapers. Those brigades were a good advertising medium, and were able to refute many Press misstatements, the Eaglehawk team having brought with them a Bendigo newspaper representative who sent back very good reports of this State.

Mr. ANGWIN moved—

*That progress be reported.*

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

Ayes	..	..	..	13
Noes	..	..	..	25

Majority against .. 12

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Angwin	Mr. Barnett
Mr. Bolton	Mr. Bath
Mr. T. L. Brown	Mr. Brebber
Mr. Heitmann	Mr. Cowcher
Mr. Holman	Mr. Davies
Mr. Horan	Mr. Draper
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Eddy
Mr. Scaddan	Mr. Ewing
Mr. Stuart	Mr. Gregory
Mr. Underwood	Mr. Gull
Mr. Walker	Mr. Haywood
Mr. Ware	Mr. Johnson
Mr. Troy (Teller).	Mr. Layman
	Mr. Male
	Mr. Mitchell
	Mr. Monger
	Mr. N. J. Moore
	Mr. Piesse
	Mr. Price
	Mr. Smith
	Mr. Stone
	Mr. Vervard
	Mr. A. J. Wilson
	Mr. F. Wilson
	Mr. Gordon (Teller).

Motion thus negatived ; discussion continued.

Mr. TROY : Would the Treasurer give any encouragement to the teams going East ?

The PREMIER : At the request of a deputation he had agreed to give free passes to the Boulder and Mount Magnet teams of fifteen members each. The Cue team had never asked for anything, and presumably did not need passes.

Mr. HOLMAN : The Cue brigade would have to leave a month or six weeks before the annual Western Australian demonstration was held, and would then go on to Boulder. They ought to receive their passes in good time. There could hardly be any difficulty.

*The Treasurer* : Would the association make the advance out of the £1,750 provided ?

Mr. HOLMAN : Yes. Time after time we had been promised some alteration in the system of allocating fire-brigade contributions. The report for last year showed that the system was unsatisfactory. Of some 30 brigades in the State only 17 received any subsidy.

*The Treasurer* : The subsidy was pound for pound.

Mr. HOLMAN : Yes ; and on last year's Estimates the Treasurer promised to arrange to give every fire brigade some portion of the grant.

*The Treasurer* : If the brigades applied.

Mr. HOLMAN : Under the pound-for-pound system brigades had to go about cap-in-hand to the townspeople, municipal grants not being recognised by the Government. The subsidy should be distributed *pro rata* among the brigades ; but some of them received £300 or £400 each. Last session the Treasurer said he would consider how to assist the brigades, and would confer with him (Mr. Holman).

*The Treasurer* : The hon. member had not seen him.

Mr. HOLMAN : The Treasurer had promised to let him know when he could see him, and he (Mr. Holman) had offered to call. For years we had been promised a Fire Brigades Act, but the Bill introduced was a farce. Last year £1,662 was spent on "contribution and subsidy," and insurance companies had not paid a penny towards the upkeep of the brigades. The only insurance contribution was one of £5 5s. which he had secured some years ago. In every other State the cost was borne in equal shares by the insurance companies, the local public, and the Government. Here, though the companies made enormous profits, they contributed nothing. He congratulated the Treasurer on making subsequent provision for some brigades which had not hitherto been assisted. The contribution to the annual demonstration went far to keep up the firemen's enthusiasm. We had nearly 500 firemen always ready ; and some brigades trained.

not only as fire-fighters but as riflemen—a practice which should be extended. These young men devoted their leisure time to protecting life and property, and the assistance they received was inadequate.

*The Premier :* What was the result of the select committee on the Bill ?

Mr. HOLMAN : The committee died a sudden death at the close of last session. A Bill satisfactory to the brigades could be easily introduced and quickly passed, if the Attorney General would forget that he represented Kalgoorlie. A better provision would have to be made for protecting the large buildings now springing up in Perth. There was no authority to make proper regulations. The Perth Fire Brigade had done as good work as any other in the world ; but the general public did not know that the best work of a brigade was achieved by preventing fires. People were apt to judge of the work by the size of the blaze. Owing to yesterday's fire at Waroona about 100 men would be thrown out of work for two or three months. At that place there was no fire brigade available.

Item—Claremont Fire Brigade, initial expenses £150 :

Mr. SCADDAN : This item could be bracketed with the next, "Guildford initial expenses £150." Last year £75 was given to the Brown Hill fire brigade for a similar purpose. Grants of £75 were the general rule on the goldfields. Why should Claremont and Guildford get more ? The brigades in those places should be run more cheaply. Who asked for this grant for Guildford ?

*The Treasurer :* Probably the secretary of the proposed fire brigade.

Mr. SCADDAN : What was to be done with the money ?

*The Treasurer :* To build a brigade station and equip it.

Mr. SCADDAN : Buildings on the goldfields were more inflammable than those in the metropolitan area, and it was difficult to get them insured. In Guildford and Claremont it was easy to get buildings insured, so that the insurance companies should be called on to contribute something to the equipment of the local fire brigades in such places. In

view of the probable passing of a new Fire Brigades Bill, it might be well to hang up these items until the new board were appointed.

*The TREASURER :* If we were to pass the Fire Brigades Bill and all the measures on the Notice Paper, we would be sitting until November in next year at the rate of progress we were making. Members might try to assist in making progress by shortening their remarks. To the best of his judgment these grants for initial expenses of fire brigades were fixed according to the relative size, population, and importance of the district. Another consideration was the proximity to Perth, where there was an efficient fire brigade whose services could be utilised. That was why Maylands received only £75 for initial expenses. Another matter also was what progress the brigades proposed to make in the matter of buildings and equipment.

Mr. Holman : Why had not North Perth received more ?

*The TREASURER :* North Perth received two grants of £75. In every instance these matters had been fully considered.

Mr. Scaddan : The goldfields could not get consideration.

*The TREASURER :* The goldfield received every consideration. In connection with these institutions £100 had been spent on goldfields for every £10 spent in coastal districts. The member for Murchison could not accuse him (*the Treasurer*) of breaking any promise with regard to the allotment of money for fire brigades. He had intimated to the hon. member that he was prepared to receive any suggestion from him, but did not remember the hon. member having brought under his notice any scheme. After giving the matter due consideration and seeing the amount of money at his disposal, he found it necessary to either abandon the pound-for-pound subsidy and dole out the money to the different brigades, or, as he decided, adhere to the pound-for-pound subsidy pending the passing of the new Bill.

Mr. HOLMAN was surprised at the remarks of the member for Ivanhoe when in times past heavy special grants

were given to goldfields fire brigades. Boulder received £2,000, Menzies £500, Cue £500, and Kalgoorlie £1,000 ; also Albany and Bunbury each received £500 for fire engines. The sum of £150 was too small for initial expenses.

Mr. STUART : The long discussion seemed unjustifiable, except to point out that the Treasurer should learn how to say "No" when occasion arose. The Government had given a grant for £500 for a fire engine at Boulder, but the engine for a considerable time was not used, and when started nearly blew up the place. Better use might have been made of the money. If the passing of the new Fire Brigades Bill would obviate the recurrence of such things in the future, the sooner we had the Bill the better.

*The Treasurer* : Why was not the engine sold ?

Mr. HOLMAN : It could not be sold. The expenditure on fire engines in almost every case had been a waste of money. The fire brigades board would take care that only necessary fire appliances were purchased.

Mr. ANGWIN : It was refreshing to coastal members to hear the admission that the goldfields had received some grants from the Government.

Item—Detective Kavanagh, Services in connection with Royal Commission on Gold-Stealing, £50 :

Mr. TROY : Why was this given ? Who recommended the grant ? No doubt the detective had done some work, but it was questionable whether the grant was merited. The detective had not sheeted home the charge of gold stealing to anyone. No one was prosecuted. What was the result of the investigation ?

Mr. SCADDAN moved an amendment—

*That the item be struck out.*

Detective Kavanagh had made certain statements to "Scare" Scantlebury, of wild-cat fame, and a Royal Commission was appointed to give the detective a chance of proving his statements, which the detective failed to do ; but undoubtedly he had maligned the miners on the goldfield. The detective had been

given every facility to work up his case ; but if any hon. member made charges, instead of getting facilities to work up the case, the possibility was that the Government would put obstacles in his way. Detective Kavanagh had gone to Victoria at the expense of the State.

[5 o'clock a.m.]

Mr. HOLMAN : The Royal Commission found that a certain amount of gold had been sold, which had not been reported to the Mines Department, and the inference was made by the Chamber of Mines that it had been stolen. A great number of mines had failed to report the gold won therefrom, and he could quote an instance, the Mulga Queen mine, which had failed to report some 3,000 or 4,000 ounces of gold. If Detective Kavanagh had done his work properly he would have ascertained what mines had failed to report, and then the Chamber of Mines would not have been able to accuse the miners on the goldfields of being thieves.

*The Treasurer* : Did the hon. member think that no gold was stolen by the miners ?

Mr. HOLMAN : Stealing went on in every walk of life, but in his opinion 98 per cent. of the working miners were honest men and should not have been accused of being gold thieves to the extent they were. Gold to the value of some £50,000 or £60,000 had been won on various mines on the fields in the course of a year, and had never been reported, but this was all included in the estimate of the Chamber of Mines as stolen gold. The work which was done by Detective Kavanagh did not entitle him to any honorarium. It must not be forgotten that he was doing his duty and performing work for which he received a large salary. If he had prosecuted his investigations among the salaried staffs of the mines instead of only among the working miners, he would have accomplished more good. Certainly Detective Kavanagh attacked the receivers, but the suggestion was made that it was the working miner who was in conjunction with the receiver. The whole question had been brought

up with the object of trying to obtain a staff of detectives on the Eastern Goldfields. He regretted that Detective Kavanagh had been lent, as it were, to the Chamber of Mines, to try and besmirch the characters of the working miners.

Mr. STUART: Although he understood it was not allowable for even an officer of the police force to receive a gratuity, he had been informed that Detective Kavanagh had received 200 guineas from the Chamber of Mines. Did the detective obtain permission to take that sum? He would also ask whether the detective had received promotion to the extent of £50 a year for the services he rendered in connection with the inquiry. A result of the detective's inquiries was that in not one instance did he succeed in besmirching the characters of the miners on the Eastern Goldfields.

The TREASURER had no knowledge of any application having been made for authority for Detective Kavanagh to receive a gratuity from the Chamber of Mines. If an application had been made Cabinet would have been advised of the fact by the Minister in charge. A gratuity of £50 was recommended by the head of the department and by the Minister to Cabinet. The recommendation had been fully endorsed by Cabinet, and if it had been £100 he, personally, would have thought it little enough to pay Detective Kavanagh for the arduous work he had carried out in connection with the inquiry. The inspector did not set out with the object of trying to besmirch the character of anyone; but his duty was to try and sheet home the fact that gold stealing went on on the fields. This he had succeeded in doing, for he brought clear evidence before the inquiry, and had put the fear of the law in the hearts of the illicit gold buyers. These were the men whom he chiefly attacked. Detective Kavanagh proved that large sums of money had passed through the banking accounts of these gold buyers, and every reasonable man must be satisfied that thieving had gone on to a very great extent and that the detective did very good work

for the State. He would be glad if the detective received promotion, for he carried out his work fearlessly and regardless of the section of the community which had committed the offence. He hoped the result would be the appointment of a special department to cope with the trouble and watch those who helped themselves to what did not belong to them. Detective Kavanagh would be expected to watch everyone about the mines from the manager to the boy. [Mr. Troy: By whom were the wages of the special staff of detectives to be paid?] The State was going to pay a portion of it, and the Chamber of Mines two-thirds. This was a very proper arrangement as it was a case of special service for special work in order to protect special property. He trusted the member for Ivanhoe would be more accurate in his statements, especially those affecting a man in the position of Detective Kavanagh. The hon. member had charged Detective Kavanagh with having made a statement to Mr. Scantlebury about gold stealing. The detective had said he had never made that statement, but that it was Warden Finnerty. The evidence before the Commission was very clear on this point. The hon. member should be fair to an officer who was doing his duty to his country, at a moderate rate of remuneration. He hoped Detective Kavanagh would be able shortly to put a stop also to the pearl stealing which was going on in the North-West. He had it on very good authority that not 50 per cent. of the pearls obtained in the North-West reached their rightful owners, the balance being sold illicitly.

Mr. HEITMANN: Before the Commission was appointed it was the general opinion that the man who stole the gold was the miner. Anyone, however, who read the evidence given before the Commission could see that it had been proved in the first place that the gold had been stolen to a very large extent, but in the second that it had not been stolen by the working miner. It was more the men engaged on the staffs than the miners who were guilty. Every facility possible was given to Detective Kava-

nagh to prosecute his search, and to conduct investigations, and it was to be regretted that he did not make his search through the bank books of some of the officials of the mines on the Golden Belt, for if so he would have discovered that large sums had been paid into their credit. That would account for a good deal of the missing gold. He admitted that some miners were guilty, but there were guilty men to be found in every walk of life. He honestly believed the miners had not stolen anything like the quantity of gold they were credited with.

Mr. COLLIER had nothing to say against Detective Kavanagh, but he was opposed to the grant. In connection with the inquiry the detective had only done his duty, for which he was being paid a liberal salary of about £26 a month. It was a wrong principle to adopt to place on the Estimates a reward for persons who had performed meritorious service but still their duty.

*The Treasurer :* It was a common practice in private life, and even members of Parliament received rewards at times.

Mr. COLLIER: In all probability the detective would be rewarded for the work he had done by promotion which, after all, was much better than a monetary remuneration. The detective did no more than any uniformed constable would have done. It would be unjust, considering the low rate of wage paid to constables on the goldfields, for this special grant to be made to Detective Kavanagh.

Mr. HORAN: Detective Kavanagh conducted the case with great ability, and the remuneration should have been greater than the sum mentioned on the Estimates.

Mr. SCADDAN: When he previously referred to Detective Kavanagh and Mr. Scantlebury, he forgot that the detective was written to by the department and asked whether he had given Mr. Scantlebury any information. It came back to one's mind now that the detective had denied it, and had endorsed the statement made by Warden Finnerty at the inquiry. The present position was that

the department knew no more as to the actual stealers of the gold than they did before the Commission was appointed. If his previous remarks had tended to convey the idea that Detective Kavanagh had suggested that the miners stole the gold, he would withdraw them. With regard to the appointment of the local detective staff on the fields, the actual method of appointing them led to the inference that the miners were the thieves, for it was the Chamber of Mines who were paying £2,000 towards the cost of the staff. The Chamber of Mines consisted of mine managers and their representatives, and as they were paying a large sum for the detection of the criminals, it was the only inference that the miners were the guilty persons. He did not accuse the mine managers or their staff of stealing the gold, but it was not a fair thing to lay the blame on the working miners. He was not accusing the mining managers or their staff of stealing the gold. The inference to be drawn from the way in which the special staff had been appointed was that the miners were responsible for stealing the gold. If the staff watched carefully it would be revelation to the State as to how the gold was stolen and disposed of. He was satisfied that the State was not called on to appoint any special staff of detectives for any special industry. There was gold stealing going on, but there was stealing going on in other industries, and we did not appoint a staff to watch the stealing of fabrics in Foy and Gibson's. He was opposed to the item. He thought Detective Kavanagh had done his duty, and his reward would lay in the fact that he would receive almost immediate promotion.

*The PREMIER :* Owing to the fact that there were several other officers senior to Detective Kavanagh in the service, to promote him to the commissioned rank would be doing an injustice to others. This was a very small recognition, and he was glad to see that one of the goldfields members (Mr. Horan) recognised the services Detective Kavanagh had rendered.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—C. E. Norman, Report on Railway yards, Fremantle, £52 :

Mr. HORAN : Why was Mr. Norman asked to report on the railway yards ?

The PREMIER : This gentleman was engaged to come here to give expert advice on a matter about which there was a difference of opinion between the engineers connected with the Railway Department and the Public Works Department. When Mr. Bent was passing through Fremantle the matter was mentioned to him, and he agreed to place the services of an engineer at our disposal to give expert advice on the matter in dispute.

Mr. Horan : Did this gentleman's opinion alter the condition of things here ?

The Minister for Mines : He supported the Railway Department.

Mr. Angwin : Had the Minister any objection to laying the report of the officer on the table of the House ?

The PREMIER : No.

Item—Free passes over Midland Railway line for Members of Parliament, £530 :

Mr. HORAN had complained previously about the amount of money paid to the Midland Company for passes to members of Parliament. Was this really the correct amount ? It seemed to be large for conveying members to and from the Northern portion of the State. A promise was made by Mr. Rason that instead of issuing passes that some ticket orders should be made out so that he could ascertain the actual amount. Had that been done, and had it been ascertained that £662 was the amount ?

The PREMIER : Five quarterly payments were included in this item which accounted for one-fourth of the increase in the expenditure. This item was restricted to Northern members alone, but all members of Parliament were entitled to travel over the Midland Company's lines, and all Federal members as well.

Mr. ANGWIN moved—

*That progress be reported.*

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

Ayes	..	..	..	8
Noes	..	..	..	25

Majority against .. 17

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Angwin	Mr. Barnett
Mr. Bath	Mr. Brebber
Mr. Bolton	Mr. Cowcher
Mr. T. L. Brown	Mr. Davies
Mr. Holman	Mr. Draper
Mr. Scaddan	Mr. Eddy
Mr. Walker	Mr. Ewing
Mr. Troy (Teller).	Mr. Gregory
	Mr. Gull
	Mr. Hayward
	Mr. Horan
	Mr. Johnson
	Mr. Layman
	Mr. Male
	Mr. Mitchell
	Mr. N. J. Moore
	Mr. Piesse
	Mr. Price
	Mr. Smith
	Mr. Stone
	Mr. Stuart
	Mr. Varyard
	Mr. Ware
	Mr. F. Wilson
	Mr. Gordon (Teller).

Motion thus negatived.

Mr. COLLIER : On what basis was this money paid to the Midland Company ? Was it handed over in a lump sum, or according to the miles travelled ?

The PREMIER : A lump sum was paid to the company.

Item—Ministerial and Parliamentary Visits, State Ceremonials, etc., £500 :

Mr. HOLMAN : Last year the Treasurer promised that a return would be furnished showing how this money was spent, why was not that return supplied ? Last year £727 was spent, and the excuse given was that the Governor General had visited the State in that year.

The TREASURER : No promise was made last year to bring returns down with the Estimates. If members consulted *Hansard* they would see that he (the Treasurer) told the member that he could move for a return at any time. It was impossible for him to bring down the details of the vote of £727 which might run into hundreds of items. As the member was aware it consisted of Ministerial and Parliamentary trips throughout the State ; State ceremonials including such trips as the Minister for Mines made to the Pilbarra district, and such as the Premier made to the Black Range district

Mr. SCADDAN : Members had to visit their electorates frequently, would the Government consider the advisability of giving country members some concession similar to that given by the Federal Parliament, allowing members to convey their wives to their electorates once a year, to and fro.

The TREASURER : In the early days it used to be the privilege of members to frank their wives over the railways whenever they travelled. In Victoria they did it to a large extent and abused the privilege. When he (the Treasurer) was travelling in the Eastern States with his wife the other day he had to pay for his wife's ticket everywhere. He believed no such privilege was granted in Victoria to-day, but he would make inquiries. The Government had already made some concession to those who lived away from the railway system, those members had their steamer and coach fares paid once in a session each way. From the head of the line to the nearest point on the railway system the coach fare was paid.

Mr. UNDERWOOD : Last year, when discussing the Estimates the Treasurer gave a promise that members' coach fares and steamer fares would be paid.

*The Treasurer* : That was carried out.

Mr. UNDERWOOD : Later on the member for Dundas and himself interviewed the Treasurer on the matter, and were given to understand that the promise would be carried out. He visited his electorate in March and put in an account for his fare to Nullagine during March and April, and received the account back saying that the Executive Council minute was only passed in May. He received a deliberate promise that his fare would be paid, but the promise had been broken. Parliament was supposed to meet in June, the minute was passed on the 8th May, and it would have been absolutely impossible for him to go to his electorate between the 8th May and June, so that the minute was evidently passed so that he could not draw his expenses.

The TREASURER had fulfilled his promise to the hilt. Last year he promised to take the matter into considera-

tion and did so and recommended it to Cabinet, and in May last it went through. Any application prior to May would be refused by the Treasury officials, but if one member had received his expenses prior to May it was an oversight that another member had not received his. He had some recollection of an account from the member being shown to him. The member charged his expenses to Fremantle instead of to Geraldton, and the account was returned to him for correction ; had the hon. member corrected and returned it? [Mr. Underwood: No.] Then how could the hon. member complain? He (the Treasurer) had fairly performed his promise, and if the hon. member furnished a correct account, it would be paid.

[6 o'clock a.m.]

Mr. SCADDAN : It was not a privilege but a right of members to have their fares paid when visiting their electorates. The member for Kimberley had as much right to a free pass to his electorate as a member living close to a railway. Country members wished to live, when possible, in their electorates; and their wives should, once in every year, have free passes from Perth to any stations in the particular electorate. This concession was given in New South Wales. A letter from that State mentioned that, if applied for, a pass was given to the wife when she travelled with her husband. In Victoria a first-class pass was granted at the opening and closing of each session to the wife of a member, to and from any station in that State. Queensland and South Australia did not grant this privilege, but members' salaries were higher in Queensland, and their letters were franked as in South Australia.

The TREASURER had promised to ascertain the practice of other States.

Mr. HOLMAN thanked the Treasurer for promising to pay members' fares for one trip a year to their electorates. In the past he (Mr. Holman) had paid considerable sums for railway freight on his motor bicycle.

Item—(Municipal Grants)—Erection of town halls, twenty per cent. towards, £9,500:

Mr. ANGWIN asked for information.

The TREASURER: Personally he thought the item was much larger than it ought to be. It represented the usual grant of 20 per cent. towards the cost of erection, and was based on the notices received of town halls in course of construction or intended to be built during the financial year, including Kalgoorlie, £5,000; Boulder, £2,000; Broome, £500; Leonora, £400; Bunbury, £100; Kookynie, £200; Collie, £422; and certain others, £900. It was about time we abolished these grants.

Mr. TROY agreed with the Treasurer; but the vote for miners' and mechanics' institutes should not be affected.

[Mr. Daglish resumed the Chair.]

Item—Subsidy to Municipalities on General Rate, £55,000:

Mr. ANGWIN: There was a great reduction this year. All municipal councillors were unpaid; and some did good work, and were entitled to consideration. The reduction would prevent certain municipal works. The Act fixed a maximum rate, and many councils could not increase local taxation. It had been hoped that in view of the land tax the subsidies would not be reduced. Most of our municipalities were in their infancy, and constructing their works.

The PREMIER: Some of the municipalities were in their second childhood. As a rule, they had been liberally treated. The £9,500 just passed represented 20 per cent. of the total cost of certain town halls. Last year municipal subsidies were reduced by 20 per cent., and the Treasurer then intimated that this year the item would be reduced by a similar amount. That accounted for the reduction from £68,000 to the £55,000 appearing on the Estimates.

Mr. WALKER protested against the reduction. We had spent a night discussing increases to all kinds of public institutions, and were now reducing subsidies necessary for the benefit of the country. A request for a road from Broad Arrow to Orabanda, some 20 or

30 miles, had been refused. There was a special grant for Kalgoorlie; but precisely similar circumstances in Kanowna were not recognised. In the populous centres there might be some slight justification for curtailing subsidies; but to treat all municipalities and roads boards alike was a suicidal policy, blocking the development of the country. A road in some mining districts was as valuable as a main trunk railway. In this country we had few industries we could afford to neglect, and the mining industry was not one of them. Pioneer municipalities like Broad Arrow and Paddington, with roads to make or maintain, should not be compared with Kalgoorlie and Perth, for the former had no property to rate. Yet applications for special grants were met with the cry of an empty Treasury.

The Treasurer: Yet municipalities received £98,000 last year in grants alone.

Mr. WALKER: And a score of square miles around the metropolitan area had received four-fifths of that sum. The expenditure was needed in pioneer settlements which were creating the wealth of the country.

Mr. STUART: Cutting down last year's vote by £43,000 must inflict great hardship on outlying municipalities. Before doing that a reduction in the number of local governing bodies should be attempted, making a Greater Perth instead of a number of suburbs each with its multiplicity of officers and its "three per cents." The Government should not proclaim townsites close to one another. Had Kalgoorlie and Boulder been one municipality the joint subsidy could have been reduced by half, and so with Cue and Day Dawn, Paddington and Broad Arrow. The same applied to roads boards.

Mr. TROY protested against the reduction in the vote, particularly on account of the harm to municipalities in the back country. Last year, out of £98,183 eleven municipalities took £17,902, the remaining 34 receiving only £18,000.

The Treasurer: What was the population of the eleven?

Mr. TROY: Most of the eleven had done the greater part of their initial work, unlike the small municipalities



which were of recent origin. Perth and suburbs were last year responsible for nearly £30,000 of this vote; yet here was a large grant for maintenance of roads in those municipalities, while the gold-fields roads boards were starved, the only item being £200 for Black Range. The large districts ate up 75 per cent. of the municipal vote. The municipality of Mt. Magnet was growing and considerable work must be done, so that the municipality would feel this parsimony to a considerable extent. The reduction would not affect the metropolitan area where the population was large and the people could rate themselves; but in the outlying districts with small municipalities the reduction would be an injustice. Those outlying districts did most for the development of the State but received the least attention. On the Works Estimates he would move to strike out these special grants for roads in metropolitan areas.

The TREASURER: Members travelled all round the subject without touching the item under discussion. Did members want £98,000 to be distributed among the municipalities the same as last year? If so, as long as he was Treasurer it would not be done. It was iniquitous for the funds of the State to bear such an enormous drain upon them as the sum we were forced to give away last year. The real reduction on last year's vote was £13,000, but the municipalities received £30,000 more than the vote last year, and to get that amount must have collected £30,000 additional rates for the year, so the ordinary funds of the municipalities last year must have been swollen by an additional £60,000. Therefore the municipalities should be well able to afford the proposed reduction. They should learn to look to themselves first and not to the Government to construct roads within their boundaries. Many municipalities were recognising that this was a fair position the Government were taking up. When Kalgoorlie, which received £10,246 subsidy last year, circularised the other municipalities to protest against the unfair treatment from the Government in reducing the vote, the Victoria Park Municipality, a small municipality, had

the courage to reject the proposition and say the municipalities had had too much spent for them in the past. [Interjections.] Victoria Park was not a spoon-fed municipality. It had received barely more than it was entitled to. The main Government road was made by the Government to a certain extent, but as a matter of fact Victoria Park had to pay rental for the Causeway. It was to be hoped whatever Government was in power this subsidy to municipalities would be gradually reduced in the future until extinguished, except in the case of new municipalities.

Mr. GORDON: The Victoria Park Council paid interest on the amount expended on the Causeway.

Mr. BATH: It was easy to understand why Victoria Park opposed the proposal of the Kalgoorlie Council, because the main road passing through Victoria Park, with the chief ratable properties of the municipality on either side of it, was maintained by the State.

*The Minister for Works:* Not wholly.

Mr. Gordon: Was this road under discussion?

The CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition was in order in replying to any remarks made by the Treasurer touching this point, but not in going into a lengthy discussion with regard to the relations of the Victoria Park municipality and the Government.

Mr. BATH: What other municipalities were in the same position as Victoria Park? One could agree with the Treasurer in knocking off these grants if we had a decent measure of local government and if we said that we would hand over to the local governing bodies the power to rate on frontage values, and if we gave them what was purely and simply local revenue. In the old country the revenue derived in the municipalities was handed over to the municipalities; that was the revenue derived from fines for breaches of the by-laws and such like.

*The Minister for Works:* That was a trivial amount.

*The Treasurer:* In the old country the municipalities maintained the police.

Mr. BATH: If there were a totalisator tax collected in England the re-

venue raised in a locality would probably be returned to the locality.

*The Treasurer :* One did not know of any tax in the world that was returned to the localities.

*Mr. BATH :* In New Zealand the revenue derived from the sale of land was handed over to local bodies for municipal purposes. In England a large proportion of the revenue derived from localities was handed over to the local governing bodies, but here we brought everything to the Treasury and left it to the Treasurer to allocate the money so as to sweeten particular constituencies that might happen to support the Government. That was a policy which destroyed independence and self-government and made the allocation of grants in this State entirely dependent on the log-rolling instincts of Government supporters. It would be necessary for the Government to come to the rescue of new and struggling municipalities, but in the districts like Perth, Fremantle, Northam, Kalgoorlie and Boulder, fairly well established, if we gave to them the revenue that should belong to them, we could say to them in all good conscience that they should be content to see the subsidies greatly reduced or abolished altogether, and that we would give them the right to rate on frontage values. The present trouble was that outside municipalities had no opportunity for pressing their claims, so that the apportionment of the grants was unfair.

*The MINISTER FOR WORKS :* The municipalities of Great Britain received practically no Government assistance. They certainly had some local taxation, but in many municipalities the cost of the upkeep of the police more than covered any of these extraneous sources of revenue. The apportionment of the subsidy was not a chance business. The subsidies paid to smaller municipalities were at the rate of 25s. in the pound, whereas those paid to larger municipalities like Perth were at the rate of 10s. in the pound. A careful examination of the accounts would show that the outback municipalities had been extremely well treated.

*Mr. ANGWIN :* The one great trouble was that while the Government reduced the subsidies the municipalities already rating to the maximum had no power to augment their revenue, and that would mean that the necessary works must be hung up.

*The Treasurer :* Could not loans be raised and loan rates struck?

*Mr. ANGWIN :* It was often inadvisable to raise a loan because of the interest to be paid and because the municipality did not receive £100 for every £100 of the issue.

Other items agreed to; vote put and passed.

Vote—*Advance to Treasurer, £150,000 :*

*Mr. Bath :* Could this be discussed?

*The CHAIRMAN :* It was not the practice to discuss a division when the total was not carried forward, but if the hon. member desired to discuss the division he could do so.

[7 o'clock a.m.]

*Mr. BATH :* The Treasurer had informed the Committee earlier this morning that certain sums which had been paid and about which he desired to make certain inquiries, could be discussed when the present division was reached.

*The TREASURER :* The items to which the hon. member referred were not included in the vote this year on the present head. There was a provision made whereby these moneys were able to be expended in excess, and when the Excess Bill reached the House the member would be able to discuss the items to which he referred, and obtain all information.

*Mr. JOHNSON :* It seemed clear to several members that the Treasurer had said, when the member for Brown Hill desired to speak to the items in question, that a discussion could take place upon the division now before the Committee.

The TREASURER had explained previously that the House authorised him by "advance to Treasurer" to meet unforeseen expenditure during the year. In connection with these transactions he would have to bring in an Excess Bill, and when that was before the House members could seek any explanation as

to the items upon which the money was spent.

*Mr. Bath:* Was it intended to bring in an Excess Bill this session?

The TREASURER: The Labour Government of which the hon. member was a member did not bring down any Bill for excess expenditure, and he had been compelled to bring one down for them. His Excess Bill would be brought down this year if the hon. member would get through the work and provide sufficient time for it.

*Mr. ANGWIN:* The sum of £150,000 was too large to place in the hands of the Treasurer to play with, and it would be wise for the Committee to reduce the vote.

The TREASURER: When the Labour Government were in power the same vote was granted.

*Mr. ANGWIN:* At that time the money was in the hands of a man who had the judgment to use it properly, and who was willing to allow the items to be discussed. The Treasurer refused permission to the Leader of the Opposition to discuss the items.

The TREASURER: The hon. member was incorrect in saying that, for he had refused no information whatever. He would leave it to the Chairman to say whether the rules of the House allowed the discussion to continue on the present division.

The CHAIRMAN: The division did not really represent a vote of so much cash to be disposed of by the Treasurer, but practically the moneys he had been utilising, before any legal appropriation was made, in order to carry out the ordinary business of the country, pending that appropriation being approved by Parliament. That was the purport of this division, and for that reason it was shown as such on the Estimates. While the Treasurer was authorised to use it, it provided him with no cash. There was no vote of money to be expended, but there was a provisional right to use £150,000. The like sum of £150,000 was shown as a *contra* entry, thus leaving an absolutely clean balance-sheet. It was merely provisional expenditure and was accounted for in many cases in the items

members had already discussed. There was really no power to discuss the division.

Question put and passed.

This completed the Treasury Estimates.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (Hon. Frank Wilson, Minister).

Vote—£179,834:

*Mr. TROY* (generally on Education): Attention should be drawn to the way people were treated in regard to schools in the back country. The department were doing their best to provide schools where they were needed, for a number of new schools were opened last year, and preparations were now being made to open many more; but in out-back localities serious trouble was caused owing to educational facilities not being afforded to the children. It was all right so long as there were sufficient children to meet the requirements of the regulations, for then a school would be established; but in many localities there was not sufficient children to make up the required number, and the result was that the youngsters were reared in ignorance. The residents, who were in nearly all cases the pioneers of the back country, were expected to provide their own school and bear the whole burden of educating the children.

*The Treasurer:* The State paid £5 per head.

*Mr. TROY:* That was nothing when a comparison was made with the people living in more favoured localities.

The TREASURER: Would the hon. member advocate that a school should be established in all the communities of the State in which there were not more than three or four children?

*Mr. TROY:* Yes. In one locality in his electorate there were eight children of a school-going age; the parents were willing to provide a building, but they could not afford to pay for a teacher; surely in a case such as this the Government should assist by providing the teacher? Where there were six children or upwards of a school-going age, the department should pay the salary of a teacher if the people provided a school building. The

people in those districts suffered very great disadvantages and should certainly be enabled to get their children educated.

Mr. HORAN : Something should be done in order to meet the requirements of the children in the outlying districts, and he agreed with the previous speaker that action should be taken irrespective of the regulations. Recently he had heard from Higginsville, a portion of his electorate, that a school was badly needed and that there were enough children of a school-going age there to meet the requirements. The parents were willing to provide a building in which the school could be held; but, on applying for a teacher, they ascertained that one could not be procured as the staff was so short. At Greenmount a difficulty had arisen owing to the fact that the teacher who had been there had recently been removed from the district, as the number of children of a school-going age had been reduced to ten through one of the mines in the district having been shut down; consequently there were no longer in that locality the educational facilities previously enjoyed by the children.

Mr. HUDSON : So far as he and the district he represented were concerned, they admitted that the department and the Minister had done all that could reasonably be expected of them in endeavouring to meet educational requirements. At Hopetoun, Cundip, and Ravensthorpe, provision had been made for the education of children, and that within a reasonable time.

Mr. BATH : So far as the Education Department were concerned, the Government should recognise the necessity of dealing liberally with the vote, and members would notice that there was a considerable increase necessitated owing to the fact that the population of children of a school-going age was considerably on the increase. There were one or two points which he would like to refer to in connection with education generally. One was in regard to medical inspection of schools. Some attention had been paid by the Education Department to this, but the chief inspector pointed out in his report that the attention was slight, and that the work had

been done in a perfunctory manner. From a perusal of the report of the Tasmanian Education Department, he had ascertained that an inspection of the scholars showed a very serious state of affairs indeed. It was very alarming to find that a very large percentage of the children attending the schools suffered from one defect or another. The trouble might not be felt in the immediate present, but would seriously affect the children later in life. In Tasmania the question was taken up on the recommendation of the chief medical officer at Hobart. Before the examination was made the educational authorities were of opinion that there was no great need for alarm. This question of the inspection of scholars had also received attention from the educational authorities in Great Britain, and the same condition of things pertained there as in Tasmania. If a thorough examination were made of the school children in this State the necessity for close attention to their health would be clearly revealed. Most liberal measures were provided in the State in order to assist as far as possible the scholars to become good citizens from every point of view, but they could not be good citizens if, during their school age, they suffered from disabilities, which would subsequently make them unfitted for the duties of life. The expense of inspection would not be very great and this would be more than compensated for by the advantages that would be gained. He also desired to know what was being done in regard to secondary education. It was desired to remove from children of the State those influences which led them to take a narrow-minded view of life. They should be taught to be good citizens in the fullest sense of the word, and to that end the State could not do better than provide, not only a good system of primary education, but also a good system of secondary education. So far as technical education was concerned, the State was doing fairly well, and in fact very well in comparison with what had been done in the other States. He hoped there was a comprehensive scheme on foot to provide secondary education.

The TREASURER (in reply generally) : It was gratifying to hear the work of the Education Department met with the approval of members. The staff were anxious to provide facilities for education throughout the length and breadth of the land, and wherever the means could be found to establish schools and when suitable teachers could be employed, educational establishments were opened. He was sorry to say that the department had recently found it impossible to get the number of teachers requisite to meet requirements. There were now eight or ten schools waiting to be opened, but which had to remain closed for want of teachers. The member for Mount Magnet (Mr. Troy) had complained that in the sparsely populated districts the Government did not provide teachers. If the Government were to do that in every district where three or four children were of a school-going age there would necessarily be an enormous increase to the vote and the grant the State would be asked to pay. [Mr. Horan: What was the cost per head now?] The cost was £4 9s. 3d. on the average enrolment, and £5 5s. 5d. on the average attendance. There was no State in Australia where the people were better catered for in the way of educational facilities than here; and yet in no State were there more difficulties to overcome owing to the wide extent of territory. The vote for education was going up every year, and he could not but view that with some alarm considering the falling revenue, and the fact that so much money was lost to the State owing to the loss of the Customs duties. Any department that showed an increase in expenditure, as the Education Department had done, was naturally viewed with a certain amount of alarm by the Treasurer.

Mr. Bath: The hon. member did not say that on the Public Library vote, or on the Museum vote.

The TREASURER: It was said about all departments. Necessarily when he found the revenue was shrinking as it had been shrinking during the last 12 months or two years, or even during the past five years, one must view the matter with

some alarm if we were not to have other avenues of revenue available. The amount voted for 1904-5 was £148,000; the next year, 1905-6, it was £162,000; for 1906-7 the amount was £169,000, a £7,000 increase. Every endeavour was taken to get the amount as low as possible commensurate with a fair system. This year the item was estimated to be, in round figures, £180,000. He was anxious to spend as much money in connection with the Education Department as the State could afford, still we must exercise due caution. When we were prepared to provide £5 per head towards a teacher's salary for three or four children in any centre, he thought the State was acting generously and doing as much as could be expected of it. More especially when members knew where there were a dozen or 15 children in any centre, especially in settled centres such as most of the agricultural districts, where the people were fixed and the children likely to remain in that district, we immediately took steps to establish a school there by hiring a room and providing a teacher. The next complaint was in regard to Greenmount. The attendance there was 10 children, and the average attendance he believed a little over seven. The hon. member did not expect the department to keep a school teacher there for seven children? The Leader of the Opposition had congratulated the Government on having dealt fairly liberally with this vote, and he drew attention in his remarks, which he (the Treasurer) was able to indorse, for the need of medical inspection in our schools. He would remind the hon. member that we had commenced operations in this direction, and furthermore the Government had been in communication with the Government of Tasmania, or rather that Government had been in communication with the Government here with regard to a uniform system of medical inspection; and the Commonwealth Government had taken the matter up recently and had written to the Premiers to see if they could not establish a proper system of statistical records of the physical condition of the school children throughout the Commonwealth. The Government had readily agreed to fall in with that

proposal. He hoped shortly that the system would be adopted by the whole of the States so that we might have proper returns for the Commonwealth Statistical Department as to the physical condition of our children. He wished to briefly point out that the State was doing all that could possibly be expected of it, and indeed doing more than any of the other States of the Commonwealth considering the huge territory that had to be covered. The cost he was sorry to say had gone up from £4 10s. 9d. per head in 1904-5 to £5 5s. 5d. in 1906-7. The number of schools opened at the end of the last financial year was 375 as against 346 during the previous year. The number of new schools opened during last year was 35, and two old schools had been reopened. Twenty-two new schools had been built including teachers' quarters in connection with 10, the cost amounting to £12,206. The total expenditure of the Public Works Department for the Education Department was £39,237. During the past financial year no one could say the State of Western Australia had neglected the education of its children.

Mr. Troy had congratulated the department on the work it was doing, but he said the department did not provide teachers in sparsely populated districts where people were willing to provide the building.

The TREASURER was not referring to the hon. member when he made the remark. The Leader of the Opposition asked for some information as to the normal schools. Last year he announced that a normal school was to be opened in Perth for the education of future teachers. It was opened this year and 60 pupils had attended there ever since; no fees were charged, but scholarships were granted to enable out-back pupils, and those living in the country to have sufficient lodging allowance. The success of the school was undoubted and enabled the future teachers to have a sound education before they had to take on the work of teaching in the schools. After having attended the normal school they were turned into the public schools to have 12 months' training in teaching junior classes, and then they were sent to

the training college to be finished off, on the understanding that if they were fitted for the work, they would take up the position of teachers. There was a great jump between our primary schools and a university or college training which was given to some extent in the training college, and which he hoped ultimately would be given in a university in Western Australia, although it would be some time before that hope would bear fruition. He hoped it would not be many years hence before we made some advance in that direction. It had been decided to place an amount for a secondary school to complete the breach between the primary schools and the training college. If the necessary funds were passed when the Government brought down their Loan Estimates for the erection of a secondary school, it would be established in due course. It was desired to get it into working order this year by providing for the building, and the normal school he had mentioned would be merged into it, and the future teachers would go into the secondary school before going to the training college.

[Discussion on items followed.]

*Salaries generally, £136,820 :*

Item—Inspectors of schools, £2,560 :

Mr. BOLTON: Provision was made for an additional inspector; from information he had gathered this additional inspector was not required.

*The Treasurer :* The hon. member might talk the matter over with the inspector, and not take his information from the man in the street.

Mr. BOLTON: The information had been gained by him from four of the principal head teachers of the State.

*The Treasurer :* The Inspector General had been filling this position for the past two years by an acting inspector.

Mr. BOLTON: There did not seem to be any necessity for an additional inspector because there were a few more schools, or increased accommodation. In existing schools he understood this amount was increased to allow of some alterations being made amongst the head teachers.

The TREASURER: The inspectorial staff had been very heavily overworked for some time past. It was found abso-

lutely necessary to have one of the head teachers of the State as an inspector; he believed this had been going on for two years. It was true the salary of this officer was provided under the teachers' salaries, and there was an extra item for an additional inspector, but if the inspector was appointed from the teachers the vote for the teachers would be under-drawn to that extent. As soon as the inspector was definitely appointed he would be debited against this £483. It was absolutely necessary to have this inspector, but he understood that there were some teachers who were fearful that their positions would be altered, therefore they raised the cry that no additional inspector was needed. A teacher was in his own school all day and could not form an accurate judgment of what was going on in the 375 schools in this country. He (the Treasurer) was bound to take the advice of his responsible officer, especially when it was backed up by the evidence which had been brought forward.

*Mr. Bolton:* Was it to be understood that a head teacher had been acting as an inspector during the last two years?

The TREASURER: Yes.

*Mr. Bolton:* Then it would follow that that head teacher would be appointed an inspector?

The TREASURER: He would have the right to apply for the position.

*Mr. ANGWIN:* The work of inspection must have increased during the past two or three years to warrant this additional inspector, for a few years ago the inspectors did not have sufficient work. Was there any discontent amongst the staff in the Education Department, were the teachers satisfied with the treatment? We had seen of late where some dissatisfaction had been expressed about the way in which the staff was treated.

The TREASURER: Did the member suppose for a moment that a staff of 800 teachers, and a large proportion of whom were ladies, could be carried on without having some discontent? So far as his knowledge went the complaints were few and far between. Occasionally he had complaints forwarded to him; perhaps he had received a dozen within the last twelve months. Wherever a com-

plaint had been lodged against the treatment by the Inspector General and it had been serious enough for an inquiry to be held, the Inspector General had come out with flying colours. That all went to show that the department was carried on with justice to every teacher.

*Mr. Horan:* Had the Treasurer dealt with the case of Mrs. Howe?

The TREASURER: The papers in connection with this case had been before him on several occasions; he had dealt with them personally, and had been interviewed by the lady in question, and subsequently, although she agreed to drop any complaints, he granted her a full impartial inquiry by the Public Service Commissioner, who spend two or three days hearing evidence and inquiring into the charges. The Inspector General was cleared of all the charges she brought against him.

*Mr. Angwin:* Were the papers open to the inspection of a member?

The TREASURER: Yes. This lady handed in her resignation and it had been accepted. If members perused the files they would see the complaints and charges by this lady had been spread over the last 10 years, against every inspector of schools and every person connected with the Education Department. Members would come to the same conclusion that the Public Service Commissioner came to, that Mrs. Howe had been extremely generously dealt with by the department, the Inspector General and his staff.

*Mr. TROY:* Where were the manual and cookery schools situated?

The TREASURER: One was at Fremantle, one on the goldfields, also at other centres.

*Contingencies generally, £21,574:*

Item—Furniture, books, sale stock, etc., £7,000:

*Mr. STUART:* The books used in the schools were out of date and out of place. They were mostly published and designed in the old country, and were got up in such a way as to confuse the children. The books designed and produced in Australia should have a preference. The designs in the books were not correct; if they were intended to depict Australian

scenes and life, they should be somewhere near the mark.

Other items agreed to; vote put and passed.

This completed the Education Estimates.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

## BILL—NAVIGATION AMENDMENT.

Received from the Legislative Council, and read a first time.

## ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at three minutes past 8 o'clock a.m. (Thursday), until the afternoon.

## Legislative Council,

Thursday, 7th November, 1907.

	PAGE
State Children Bill, Report of Select Committee presented	604
Question: Bills and Marginal References	604
Reserve Leased (North)	604
Bills: Registration of Births, etc., &c.	604
Public Health, Committee resumed	604
Marriage Act Amendment, 1a.	610

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

## PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: Gaol Regulation 147 as amended.

## STATE CHILDREN BILL, SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Hon. W. Kingsmill brought up the report of the select committee on the State Children Bill. Report received, read, and ordered to be printed with the evidence.

## QUESTION—BILLS AND MARGINAL REFERENCES.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (without notice) asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Has the Colonial Secretary, according to his promise made during the second reading of the State Children Bill, called the attention of the Crown Law Department to the inadequacy of the marginal references in the Bill? 2, If so, with what result? 3, If not, will he take steps to do so at the earliest opportunity?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: Yes; I will again call the attention of the Crown Law Department to this, and undertake that any future Bills that come before this House will have marginal references.

## QUESTION—RESERVE LEASED (North).

Hon. J. M. DREW asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Has any farther portion of Aboriginal Reserve 297A been leased during the last three years? 2, If so—(a.) The name of the lessee, (b.) The area leased, (c.) The annual rental?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, Yes, on the 1st July, 1906. 2, (a.) F. Wittenoom; (b.) 28,000 acres; (c.) £28.

## BILL—REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES AMENDMENT.

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

## BILL—PUBLIC HEALTH.

In Committee.

Resumed from the previous day, the Bill having been reprinted with amendments recommended by a select committee.

Clause 3—Interpretation:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: In regard to the definition of infectious diseases, the select committee had recommended the striking out of leprosy, beriberi, tuberculosis, erysipelas, measles, scarletina, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, and malarial fever, because of the clause