

"Governor in Council from time to time, "by Proclamation in the *Government Gazette*, extends the provisions of this "Act; and 'destructive animal' shall "mean any animal to which the Governor "in Council from time to time by like "Proclamation extends the provisions of "this Act." Thus it will be seen that for the present this Act will only refer to sparrows; but, if the necessity arises, any other bird or animal may, at any time, be proclaimed "destructive." When once a bird or animal is proclaimed to be destructive provision is made to prevent such from being imported, and by clause 7 any person may be authorised to enter upon any lands for the purpose of destroying any such bird or animal. The Bill also contains certain penalties for importing or keeping birds or animals proclaimed to be destructive. I now, sir, move that the Bill be read a second time.

Question—put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 2:55 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 18th July, at 2:30 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 11th July, 1893.

The Local Press and Foreign Telegrams—Engine Sparks Fire Prevention Bill: first reading—Return showing names, salaries, &c., of officers appointed under Loan Estimates—Return showing amount realised by issue of Treasury Bills—Correspondence re introduction of Smallpox—Presentation of the Address-in-Reply—Treasury Bills Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 2:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

THE LOCAL PRESS AND FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: I should like to ask the Government whether they are

aware of the terrible calamity and inconvenience that is likely to be felt by the community, in consequence of the announcement made in this morning's paper that foreign telegrams, in future, will not be published by the local Press; and whether the Government will at once introduce some legislation into Parliament, either by imposing a small poll tax on sheep or an import duty on newspapers, to make up for the deficiency in the revenue.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I think the hon. member had better give notice.

ENGINE SPARKS FIRE PREVENTION BILL.

Introduced by the ATTORNEY GENERAL, and read a first time.

RETURN RE SALARIES, ETC., UNDER LOAN ESTIMATES.

MR. R. F. SHOLL, in accordance with notice, moved, "That the following Return be laid upon the table of the House:

A list of all officers whose salaries and allowances are provided for in page 4 of the Loan Estimates ending 30th of June, 1893, containing the following particulars:

1. Name of each officer.
2. Title of each officer.
3. Amount of salary and allowances.
4. On what work employed.
5. When appointed, and term of his engagement.

Question put and passed.

ISSUE OF TREASURY BILLS: RETURN SHOWING AMOUNT REALISED, ETC.

MR. R. F. SHOLL, in accordance with notice, moved, "That a Return be laid upon the table of the House, showing,—

1. The amount realised by the sale of Treasury bills, issued by the Government in May last, and to what purpose have the proceeds been applied.
2. If Post Office Savings Bank funds have been applied, showing the amount.
3. Any other trust funds at the disposal of the Government, and the amounts.
4. The necessity for the issue of Treasury bills.

Motion put and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE *RE* INTRODUCTION
OF SMALLPOX.

MR. SOLOMON: I beg to move the resolution standing in my name—"That there be laid upon the table of the House all papers and correspondence in reference to the recent smallpox inquiry, including the correspondence which passed between the Government and the agents of the s.s. *Saladin*, in reference to the introduction of smallpox into the colony." In moving this resolution, I much regret that it has fallen to me to do what I am doing, for I should have thought that under the circumstances, taking everything into consideration, the Government would have made public every matter in connection with the introduction of smallpox into this colony. If a crime of any note whatever is committed within the colony means are always taken to make public full particulars of the crime, and every effort is made to get justice done, both as regards the perpetrator of the crime and those who may have suffered through it. In this instance what was introduced into the colony was, in my opinion, worse than a crime—a loathsome disease, which not only cost the colony thousands of pounds, but also had a most direful effect upon the community. We were shut out from all communication almost with the other colonies, and, not alone that—and perhaps the worst feature of it—a large number of families, children, wives, fathers, and others, were affected by the disease, which was introduced into the colony through the culpable carelessness or ignorance on the part of someone or other. I am sure it will not need from me many words to point out that, in a case of this description, the public should have been made fully aware of everything which had taken place in connection with this disagreeable matter. I shall, therefore, not take up the time of the House, because I am sure the Government will see, with myself, on consideration, that the papers which are now asked for are only what the public have a right to expect, and will convey information which the public are entitled to. I have heard it said that there should be no secrecy between the Government and the people of the colony, especially under Constitutional Government. I will not go so far as that, because I think that in

some matters, where the credit of the colony is affected, that principle may be carried too far. But in a social matter such as this, I think the people of the colony should have had the sympathy of the Government, and that the Government should have entered fully into the feelings of the community, and give publicity to all that had been done in connection with this unpleasant matter. With these few remarks, I shall leave the matter in the hands of the House. At the same time, I feel sure that the Government have no desire to withhold any papers of importance bearing on the subject, or any papers whatever connected with the matter. I only regret, as I said at the commencement, that they did not come voluntarily forward, in the interest of the whole community, and publish whatever had been done in connection with the late epidemic.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I did not intend to rise to say anything to this motion, nor do I intend to oppose it; all the papers in connection with the subject will at once be placed on the table of the House. I do not know whether the hon. member has weighed his words carefully or not, when he accuses the Government of want of sympathy with the people of the colony, because they have not published these papers. It seems to me that he hardly could have meant that. These papers, I believe, have already been sent to the Municipal Council of Fremantle for their perusal. I did read in the newspapers that they had been sent confidentially. I do not know why they should have been regarded as confidential, unless they contained some observations which, perhaps, it was not desired to make public. I remember seeing the papers myself, and, so far as I can remember, there is nothing in them which could not be published in the newspapers. But I do not see myself that any good would come from their publication; in fact, I believe none of the newspapers would have published them. They consist simply of the directions to the police where the steamer touched at, to make certain inquiries, the statement of the captain, a report by the Collector of Customs, and some remarks by the Minister. The result was, we have not been able to bring the matter home to anyone; we were not able to trace where

the disease originated. When the papers are laid on the table, I hope the hon. member for South Fremantle will closely investigate them, and see whether he can throw more light on the matter than the Government and its officers have been able to do. As for the Government having shown no sympathy or feeling with the people of the colony, I think they at any rate showed a good deal of practical feeling and sympathy in this matter, because they paid nearly all the expense incurred in connection with the epidemic. Every municipality in the colony has been repaid, to a considerable extent—almost the whole I may say—of the money they spent in this matter; and, when the hon. member said that the Government had shown no sympathy, he omitted to say that they showed a very practical sympathy when they paid out of public funds all the expenditure incurred in stamping out this terrible scourge, amounting to some thousands of pounds. The reason that the Government have not brought the matter before the House, and that no mention of it is made in the Governor's Speech, is simply this: I did not think it was wise to parade the fact all over the world that we had been visited by smallpox. I think sufficient publicity has been given to it by the newspapers, and by the fact that we were cut off and isolated from the other colonies by reason of that visitation; and I thought we had had quite enough of it, and did not want any more said about it. It appeared to me we had suffered enough already, without further parading our troubles now they are over. However, the hon. member shall have the papers he asks for, with the greatest pleasure.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: I am glad to hear that the Government are going to lay these papers on the table, because I also saw in the paper that they were sent to the Fremantle Municipality marked "Confidential"; and I thought at the time that was a little of a mistake. At the same time I think that if a proper investigation had been made by the Government, they could have easily traced the origin of the disease; and I cannot compliment the police or anyone connected with it that it was not found out, for we know that the man who first contracted the disease stated that the man on the *Saladin* who was thrown overboard had been suf-

fering from the same complaint as he was.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Whom did he say that to?

MR. R. F. SHOLL: It could be easily ascertained to whom he said it; I am not at liberty myself to give the information, but I heard sufficient to satisfy me that this Malay, who first contracted the disease, did make such a statement. With regard to the amount paid by the Government in connection with the late epidemic, I think the Government were perfectly right in assisting to stamp out the disease at any cost; but I think it would be well, in the future, when any large expenditure of this kind is likely to be incurred, that the Government should have some control over the expenditure, and not leave it entirely to the local authorities. As it was, we know that some of the Municipalities during the recent scare were spending money wholesale, right and left, getting medical men over from the other colonies, putting up expensive buildings, and, in short, putting the colony to a great and unnecessary expense, and the Government of the colony had to pay the piper. I do think that when the public funds of the colony are being expended there is a responsibility cast upon the Government to see that they have some voice in controlling the expenditure. I don't suppose these papers will throw much light on the subject; still I am glad they are to be produced.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): I hope these papers will be fumigated before they are brought into the room.

Motion put and passed.

PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

At five minutes to three o'clock, p.m., Mr. Speaker, accompanied by Members, proceeded to Government House to present the Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor upon the opening of Parliament, and having returned,—

MR. SPEAKER reported that he had, with Members of the House, waited upon His Excellency the Governor, and had presented to him the Address of the Legislative Assembly agreed to upon the

6th instant; and that His Excellency had been pleased to reply as follows:—

“MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
“LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

“I thank you for your Address-in-Reply to my opening Speech, and for the assurance of your desire to deal with all questions that come before you, in such a manner as to promote the advancement and welfare of the colony.

“Government House,
“Perth, 11th July, 1893.”

TREASURY BILLS BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

The House went into committee on this Bill.

Clause 1: “The Colonial Treasurer for “the time being of the said colony may “issue from time to time bills, to be “called Treasury bills, for the purpose of “raising any sum or sums of money, not “exceeding in the aggregate the sum of “£500,000:”

MR. LOTON said, in regard to this clause, he did not wish to say very much in addition to what had been said on the second reading. The Treasurer had told them that in the event of this money being raised by Treasury bills it would not be necessary to raise it by Loan, but, on the other hand, the hon. gentleman admitted that the power sought under this Bill was a continuous power. It would be seen, on reference to a clause later on, that this power might be exercised by the Government to use the money raised in this way for ordinary revenue purposes, to pay current expenses, in the event of there being a deficiency. It seemed to him that, even allowing there was a necessity to resort to this method of raising money, and that the Government ought to have some legal authority to raise a certain amount in addition to what had been authorised by Parliament under the Appropriation Act—it seemed to him, even allowing all this, that the amount proposed to be issued under this Bill was, at all events, an unreasonable amount, under our present circumstances, seeing that it amounted to nearly a year's revenue. He did not think such a power—the power to raise by means of Treasury bills an amount equal to about a year's revenue—existed in any of the other colonies, and

the power to spend that money, in excess of any Loan money, and to expend it for purposes of general revenue. If the Government wanted this power to issue Treasury bills at all—and it had been stated by the Premier the other evening that they did want it—in fact, they all knew that the Government had already taken on themselves to issue Treasury bills to the extent of £20,000, without the leave or authority of Parliament, and it might be necessary to legalise what was not legal at present with regard to that issue; but his point was this: admitting that it was desirable to give the Government power to issue Treasury bills, it was not desirable, in the interests of the public, to give any Government the power proposed under this Bill. They were told on the second reading that the Bill was practically the same as the Bill introduced last session; but he submitted that the power sought under this Bill was entirely different from the power proposed under the Bill of last session. The only power asked for last year was to raise money to the extent of our liability under the Loan Act of 1891, to be recouped out of the loan money when raised. But it was not so on this occasion; an extra power altogether was now sought, a power which he thought no Legislature ought to grant to any Government. He would move that the clause now before the committee be struck out.

MR. LEFROY, in seconding the motion, said that before proceeding further in this matter, it might perhaps be considered incumbent upon him, as one who had voted against the second reading of the Bill, to explain in a few words what were his reasons for taking up the position he did. Although this Bill had been given the same name as that introduced into that House last year, it appeared to him to have a much wider scope than that Bill. He did not object to the Bill because it enabled the Government to raise money by Treasury bills; he objected to the Bill because it seemed to him to give too much latitude, as his hon. friend the member for the Swan had told them, to any Government, to raise money in this way at any time they might require it for general revenue purposes. He thought that if the Government at any time got into a fix (as he might say), for want of money, they should be bold

enough to obtain the money, and then come to the House to ratify their action afterwards. There was no doubt that the Government could raise money, if there was any urgent necessity for it; and that House could not make them find it out of their own pockets. It could, of course, express its disapproval if it considered that the money had been raised for an improper purpose, or without justification. Under the Bill of last session it was distinctly laid down, he believed, that the money raised by Treasury bills was to be returned out of the Loan. If the present Bill had followed the same lines as that measure, he should have felt it his duty to support it, and to give the Government power to raise sufficient money in this way up to the amount they were already authorised to raise by loan, on condition that when the loan money was raised it should be appropriated to refund the money raised by means of Treasury bills. But, as he had pointed out, the present Bill did not go on the same lines at all as the Bill of last session. There were no such limitations in this Bill. It appeared to him that if they gave the Government of the colony permission to raise £500,000 by Treasury bills at any time they might require it, it would really affect our credit to a certain extent in the outside market, because it would be known that if the Government found themselves short of funds, and could not meet their engagements, all they had to do was to raise money by Treasury bills, without the permission of Parliament, to pay off their liabilities. He thought that would be really giving too much latitude to the Government. Although they had every confidence in the present Government, and felt that they would do all they could in the best interests of the colony, honestly and conscientiously; at the same time it must be borne in mind that this Bill would not cease with the present Government; it would still remain in force, and no Government at any time in office would ever allow such a power to be taken from them, by proposing to repeal the Bill. Of course it was very comfortable for any Government to feel that they had the power to raise money in this way; but he did not think it was a good thing for any Government to be placed in such a position. For these reasons he had felt it incumbent upon him to oppose the Bill.

Mr. SOLOMON said that on a previous occasion he had supported a Bill bearing the same title as the present one, and he would have supported the present Bill had it followed on the lines of the Bill of last session. But, with others, he thought the power given under the present Bill was altogether too much, and beyond what he considered judicious to grant any Government. If members would refer to the fifth clause of the Bill of last session, they would find this provision: "The principal sum for which any such Treasury bills may be made out and issued shall be chargeable upon and paid out of the moneys to be raised under the Loan Act, 1891, and so far as funds for the payment of any such principal sum shall, on the maturing of any such bill, not have become available under the operation of the said Act, every such sum shall be chargeable upon and paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Such last-mentioned fund shall, in respect of every such payment, be reimbursed out of moneys to be raised under the said Act as soon as the same are available." Had that clause been inserted in the present Bill he should have been most happy to support the Bill, as he did on a former occasion. But, looking at the way in which the present Bill was framed, he thought that under the circumstances he should be quite justified in opposing the Bill in its present form.

Mr. DEHAMEL said the previous speaker had anticipated him in calling attention to one clause of the Bill of last session, but, in order that the House might not go astray, he would also call attention to another clause of the same Bill, clause thirteen, which was in these words: "All such sums of money as shall be raised by Treasury bills under the authority of this Act shall be applied towards the works and services enumerated in the Loan Act, 1891." If the provisions contained in Clause 5 and Clause 13 of the former Bill had been included in the present Bill, he, for one, would not have objected to it, in fact he would have supported it. But such was not the case; and it simply came to this, that this apparently little harmless Bill was neither more nor less than a Bill for the issue of another half a million Loan for this colony. Under Clause

13 of the present Bill this money could be applied to "any works or services included in any Appropriation Act, and any charges provided by statute and made payable out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund." Therefore one could see that this Bill was very much wider in its scope, in every way, than the Bill of last session. If the Government would consent to assimilate the provisions of this Bill with the provisions of last year's Bill, he should be prepared to support it, and no doubt other members would do so; but, in its present shape, he trusted that a majority of members would decide not to allow it to go through.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said the Premier, in moving the second reading of the Bill, did not inform them what necessity there was for this measure.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): You were out, I expect.

MR. R. F. SHOLL did not think so. The Bill was a little one, no doubt, but it was a very important one, for the Government simply asked them to give them power to raise an extra £500,000 by means of this little Bill. He thought, before the House agreed to give this power to the Government, they should have some little information as to the necessity for it, more than the Premier had given them last evening. He did not see, himself, that there was any great necessity to raise money in the English market at present, and if the Government considered it necessary to obtain funds for the completion of the works already in hand, let them come to that House and ask for power to raise that money by the issue of Treasury bills, but let them provide that the money so raised shall be repaid out of the Loan money when the balance of the Loan is floated. He did not think anyone would object to that. But the Government proposed nothing of the sort in this Bill. They proposed that they should have power to raise a sum of £500,000 to be spent—

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): What for?

MR. R. F. SHOLL: Some of it for works that had been sanctioned by that House, but which did not amount to £500,000. Taking into consideration the present state of the money market, he thought the Government would show wise

policy in withholding the contracts that had not yet been let.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) was inclined to think that those members on the opposite side of the House who had spoken in opposition to the Bill had misapprehended somewhat the scope of the Bill. The Government were not asking for authority to raise £500,000 indefinitely; when that sum had once been raised, there was an end of this power. If members would look at Clause 1 they would see that the Treasury bills to be raised under the authority of this Bill must not in the aggregate exceed the sum of £500,000, and, when that was done, there was an end of it. It seemed to him that some members opposite were under the impression that the Government were to have power to go on raising £500,000 indefinitely; that, as soon as one £500,000 was spent, they should go in for another £500,000, and so on for ever. That was not the idea at all. It had been asked what this authority to issue Treasury bills was wanted for. He might be permitted to say what, in his judgment, it was wanted for. Members did not think, he hoped, that the Government were going to issue Treasury bills for the fun of the thing; there must be some reason for it. The Government readily admitted the benefit of raising money by Loan in the orthodox way, if it could be done on terms favourable to the colony. But you could not always do so; the state of the market had to be considered, for one thing. Members must be aware that those who dealt in loans on the London market had a way of combining together to prevent loans being placed on the market unless it suited them. It had been said last night that when it was advertised in London that the Government of the colony had sought for power to raise money by Treasury bills, it would have a bad effect upon the credit of the colony in the money market. He did not think so. He thought that when it went forth that the Government had obtained this power, and what the money was wanted for, it would have a good effect rather than otherwise. It would show—there was that aspect of it—those who combined together to prevent a Loan being placed on the market, unless it suited them, that the colony was not dependent entirely upon the state of the London market. They all knew

that just at present the market was not favourable for raising a loan, and that, through no fault of our own, Australian securities were not looked upon with much favour. They also knew that the colony was committed to certain large railway schemes and other works; the Government and that House and the country had entered into these contracts, and the money would be wanted, and must be found. The Treasurer would tell them that he would soon be at the end of his available funds, and, unless the London money market improved its tone—which might be any day, or it might be some time—they knew how stock fluctuated, one day it might be at 95 and next morning at par; it varied in a few hours, and we did not know what might happen. We might be able to raise the balance of our Loan in a week or two on very favourable terms, or, on the other hand, we might not. If we couldn't, the Treasurer must raise the money somehow, and the only way to do so was to have some tangible security on hand to enable the Government to do so. They were already pledged to a large expenditure, not only in connection with Loan works and railway improvements, but other undertakings, the erection of schoolhouses, for instance,——

MR. R. F. SHOLL: They can wait.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): The Government were making such works wait as they could, but they could not make everything wait, and a good many things were in hand, and this Bill simply provided means for their paying for them, if they were unable to get the money in the orthodox way. The Loan Act alone left £436,000, which would only leave £58,000 odd towards works not included in the Act. There would be £230,000 for the improvements in connection with the Eastern Railway, and £50,000 additional for the Mullewa Railway, to which the House was pledged, and the contract let. All this would make close on £800,000 that must be provided, and a great portion of which the Government was pledged to find within the next twelve months. If they found they could not raise the money at a fair price by Loan, it might be far more profitable to raise a few thousands by the issue of Treasury bills, which was a mere stop-gap. He was sorry that members oppo-

site could not take a broad view of this question. It was not a matter particularly affecting the present Government alone. He would not ask the House to consent to give the present Government any authority or power they would not give to any future Government; and, being limited as the Bill was to £500,000, he did not think, in view of the obligations they were committed to, they were asking too much when they asked for the power contained in this Bill.

MR. LEFROY said the Attorney General had made a very able speech, but he had not yet answered the objections raised to another provision of the Bill, which empowered the Government to apply this money for purposes of the general revenue.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): What does the hon. member want?

MR. LEFROY said they wished provision made that all the money raised by Treasury bills should be refunded from Loan.

MR. LOTON said, that holding the view he did at present, he had no option at this stage of their proceedings than to take the step he had taken to move to strike out this clause. If the Government were willing to take power under this Bill to raise money temporarily in the present straitened condition of the money market, which they could not raise favourably by Loan, let them frame the Bill on the same lines as the Bill of last session. If they would provide that the money to be raised under the Bill shall be recouped from the Loan of 1891, or any other Loan Act to be introduced this session, the objection he had to the Bill would be in a great measure removed. But the Bill at present asked them to empower the Government to raise £500,000 in addition to the present Loan.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): To be expended on what?

MR. LOTON: Not on public works alone. The 5th clause provided that this £500,000 was to be secured upon the Consolidated Revenue, and sub-section 2 of Clause 13 provided that the money might be spent in paying any charges payable out of the revenue. It, therefore, came to this: that if there should be any large deficiency in the revenue, money could be raised under this Bill to make good that deficiency; and that was

the point he mainly objected to. If the Government would agree to amend the Bill on the same lines as the Bill of last session, he should probably be prepared to withdraw his motion to strike out the clause now before the committee; but, unless he got that assurance, he should not withdraw it, but proceed to a division.

MR. MOLLOY said, as he understood the Bill, the power that was asked for was the power to raise £500,000; otherwise, where was the necessity for such a Bill? They had already authorised the raising of a Loan of a million-and-a-third; two instalments of that Loan had been raised, but the last instalment was yet to be raised; and the House had not been told that the necessity for this Bill was because the Government had been unable to raise the balance of that Loan. They were simply asked to give the Government power to raise the money in a different way. Besides the objection to this principle, he thought it was unwise for us to commit ourselves to the raising of a further Loan of £500,000 more than already authorised, especially under present circumstances. He considered that the best method of raising money for public works was the method that had been resorted to in the past; that was by means of foreign capital, introduced into the colony for that purpose, leaving the local capital—which would be invested in these Treasury bills—free to be invested in local industries tending to promote the prosperity of the colony. He thought that all our available local capital was required for local investment in that way, in the development of agriculture, sheep farming, mining, and other resources of the colony. By offering a tempting security in the shape of Treasury bills we would be diverting into other channels the money which at present was applied in the directions he had indicated. That was one reason why he objected to the Bill. The Attorney General had told them that there seemed to be an impression on the minds of some members on this side of the House that the Bill was too indefinite. What he (Mr. Molloy) complained of was that it was too definite: it simply meant the raising of another half-a-million of money in addition to the balance of the Loan yet to be placed on the mar-

ket. The raising of this extra half-a-million under this Bill would not preclude the Government from entering the market, when they considered it opportune, to raise the balance of that Loan. It was true that the House had last session authorised an expenditure of £230,000 for certain alterations and improvements in connection with the Eastern Railway; but, surely, in view of the altered circumstances, and of the difficulty of obtaining the money at present, and seeing that the Government had not committed themselves to that expenditure by accepting any contracts for the work, it would be well for them to wait a little longer until the financial horizon had cleared and things looked a little brighter than they were at present, so far as the money market was concerned. The need for these railway improvements was not so pressing that we should rush recklessly into the market, and render ourselves liable for a large sum of money in addition to the Loan that we are already committed to. It was stated last night by the hon. member for Albany that, if this £500,000 were raised, it would bring our indebtedness up to £60 per head of the population; he was sure the hon. member would admit now that in making that statement he was in error. [MR. DEHAMEL: No.] Well, he did not agree with the hon. member; he made it about 50 per cent. less than the hon. member did. But that was not his principal objection to the Bill, that it would increase our indebtedness per head of the population. His objection to the Bill was that we wanted the money that would be invested in these Treasury bills for other purposes, and that it would be better for the country if that money were applied to those purposes, and that if the Government wanted money to carry out their Public Works policy, it should be obtained by the introduction of foreign capital.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said it appeared that most of the objections of members on the opposite side had reference to sub-section 2 of clause 13, and not to the clause now before the committee. If that was so, it would be very easy, when they came to that sub-section, to move that it be struck out. The reason he had inserted that sub-section in the Bill was this: he thought it would be well that the Government

should be in a position to offer legal and tangible security in the event of their requiring to raise money for works or services authorised under the Appropriation Act or any other statute. He could well understand, and he could well foresee, that cases might occur in which works having been entered upon and large liabilities incurred, something might happen so that the revenue would not be sufficient to meet all the engagements of the Government. He could foresee the possibility of such a state of the things. But, so far as he was concerned, he did not wish to discount the future too much; he did not wish to look too far ahead, and he was quite willing, in order to meet the views of members, and not to try to force through the House a measure that was antagonistic to the views of any section of the House if he could avoid it—he was quite willing, when they came to Clause 13, to omit sub-section 2, so that the Bill should only apply to works or services authorised by the Loan Act of 1891, or any other Loan Act passed after the passing of this Bill. That would bring the Bill altogether into accord with the Bill of last session. And he was further willing to amend section 5 of the Bill, so that provision be made that these Treasury bills should be repaid out of Loan when the Loan was raised. He thought, if that were done, the Bill would be exactly in accord with the Bill of last session, and it certainly would meet all the requirements of the Government at the present time. But he had thought that, while they were about it, it would have been better to have made provision for the future as well. If, however, such was the wish of members, he would leave the future to look after itself. He should like to impress upon some members, as his friend the Attorney General had said, that the Government had not brought this Bill forward just for the fun of issuing Treasury bills. It was absolutely necessary within the next six weeks for the Government to have a large sum of money available in London, and unless they got it by this means they would simply have to transport it to London from this colony. Their desire was to raise it by Loan, but, if they could not do it in that way, they wanted to have this legal security available, to enable them to raise the money by this other means. If members would

consent to what he had said he was willing to do, he proposed, when they got to section 4 of the Bill, to ask leave to report progress, in order that he might amend section 5; and, when they got to section 13, he would move to strike out sub-section 2.

MR. LOTON said that after the assurance that had at last been drawn from the Government, he had much pleasure, with the permission of the committee, in withdrawing his amendment. He did not think it ever entered the mind of anyone on that side of the House to think that the Government intended to issue Treasury bills “for the fun of the thing”; but it did dawn upon him that they were seeking a power beyond what that House had a right to give.

Amendment (to strike out the clause), by leave, withdrawn.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 4, inclusive:

Agreed to without comment.

Clause 5:

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that progress be reported, and leave be given to sit again on the following day.

Agreed to.

Progress reported.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at five minutes to 4 o'clock p.m.