

an Irish barrister does not say that he is a man qualified to deal with matters like this. To enable him to grapple with a subject like this he must not only be a lawyer, but he must have been in constant practice, and generally conversant with matters appertaining to this Act. As to the Hon. Mr. Wright, the Bill does not affect him. I spoke to him particularly about the 151st clause, and explained its provisions, but he did not tell me that he was dissatisfied. How could he be? The land his Company holds was surveyed by themselves, and checked by Government surveyors, and we may be sure, therefore, that they have not got less than they are entitled to. Even supposing they had, does the hon. member think that the Government would take advantage of an error of that kind?

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon. G. Shenton): I think the hon. member is travelling beyond the question.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. S. H. Parker): I will not pursue my remarks to any very greater extent. The Hon. Mr. Leake said we should wait until the Hon. Mr. Wright returned, but this Bill does not, as I have said, affect him; it rather more affects adjoining proprietors who have been in occupation according to the pegs. I ask the House to consider this Bill in committee now.

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon. G. Shenton): I think hon. members should accept the proposition of the Colonial Secretary. If members do not attend I do not see why we should not go on with the work.

**THE HON. G. W. LEAKE**: By going into committee now, the Colonial Secretary is virtually suspending the Standing Orders.

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon. G. Shenton): No.

**THE HON. G. W. LEAKE**: I say virtually.

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon. G. Shenton): The Standing Orders provide that the House may at once go into committee after the second reading.

Question—That the House do now resolve itself into committee—put and passed.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 to 101 agreed to.

Clause 102:

**THE HON. D. K. CONGDON**: Is there any shorter way of dealing with

this Bill without putting the question after each clause.

**THE CHAIRMAN** (Hon. G. Shenton): Not without suspending the Standing Orders, and there is not a sufficient number of members present to do that.

Clause agreed to.

The remaining clauses and the schedules were passed, and the Bill reported.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. S. H. Parker): In order to meet the wishes of hon. members I move that the House, at its rising to-morrow, adjourn until January 5th.

Question—put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 9-30 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Thursday, 22nd December, at 7-30 o'clock p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 21st December, 1892.

Sums paid by Government to Newspaper Proprietors—Karri Piles, Fremantle Jetty—Government Geologist's Report upon Murchison Goldfields—Scab Act, 1891, Amendment Bill: third reading—West Australian Trustee, Executor, and Agency Company, Limited (Private), Bill: third reading—Message from His Excellency the Governor: Estimates—Action of Police in recent Prosecutions of Licensed Victuallers—Cost of Government Advertisements in Perth Newspapers—Swan River Harbor Works and Tramway Bill: second reading—Bills of Sale Act Further Amendment Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

**THE SPEAKER** took the chair at 7-30 o'clock.

#### PRAYERS.

#### SUMS PAID BY GOVERNMENT TO NEWSPAPER PROPRIETORS.

**MR. R. F. SHOLL**, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Treasurer if the returns already laid upon the table, in regard to the moneys paid and due to the proprietors of the various papers mentioned, included all moneys paid or due to them for all services rendered, whether by advertisements or otherwise?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that, with the exception of the further return just laid upon the table, showing amounts paid for subscriptions to newspapers, he was not aware of any other sums paid or due to the proprietors of newspapers.

#### KARRI PILES, FREMANTLE JETTY.

MR. PATERSON, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works:—1. Whether it was a fact that a large proportion, if not all, of the karri piles that were used in the construction of one section of the Fremantle Jetty about the year 1886 were now in such a bad state of decay that many of them had to be taken out and replaced by jarrah piles? 2. Under whose advice were the said karri piles used in the construction of the said Jetty? 3. Whether the Works Department now sanctioned karri timber being used in any public works where it was either exposed to the action of sea-water or came in contact with the earth?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied: 1. It is a fact that most of the karri piles used in one section of the Fremantle Jetty, have had to be, or are now being, replaced with jarrah piles. 2. I believe that the former Director of Public Works, upon the strength of the report issued by the Commission on Jarrah and Karri Timbers, and with the sanction of the Executive, permitted karri piles to be used. 3. The use of karri is permitted for superstructures, but not where it is exposed to the action of sea-water or comes in contact with the earth.

#### GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST'S REPORT UPON MURCHISON GOLDFIELDS.

MR. R. F. SHOLL, by leave, without notice, asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands when the Report of the Government Geologist upon the Murchison Goldfields would be laid upon the table?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion) replied that he hoped to be able to lay the report upon the table when the House re-assembled after the Christmas holidays.

#### SCAB ACT, 1891, AMENDMENT BILL.

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

#### WEST AUSTRALIAN TRUSTEE, EXECUTOR, AND AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED (PRIVATE) BILL.

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

#### MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—ESTIMATES, 1893.

THE SPEAKER notified the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

"The Governor transmits to the Legislative Assembly the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the half-year ending the 30th June, 1893, and recommends an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly.  
Government House, Perth,  
"21st December, 1892."

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT—ESTIMATES, 1893.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee of Supply for the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for the half-year ending June 30th, 1893,

THE PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. Sir John Forrest) said: Sir, I rise with great pleasure to submit to this House the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the first six months of the year 1893. This is the third occasion on which I have had the honor of addressing this House on the subject of the finances of the colony. On the first occasion we were new to office, and we had had very little time to investigate or to look deeply into the finances of the colony, and we had to ask the indulgence of hon. members to a large extent in respect of the facts and measures we placed before them. On the second occasion I had a very pleasant duty indeed, because the colony had progressed in a manner unexampled in its history. To-night I have an equally pleasant task, because I think I will be able to place before hon. members a statement of affairs which, if they do not show the enormous strides that were shown between the Estimates I placed before the House at the beginning of 1891 and

those I placed before them at the beginning of this year, will at any rate satisfy hon. members that the country is in a sound state financially, and that there is no cause for any anxiety as to our being unable to meet all the obligations we have undertaken, and that we should also have every hope of a prosperous future. Hon. members will notice that the Government propose at the present time to ask for supplies for six months, and the Estimates placed before you to-night will, therefore, only show the expenditure intended to be incurred until the 30th of June next. The reason for this is that the winter is a more convenient time for this House to meet, and we shall in future be in a position to place before members the financial state of the colony after the year has closed, and not, as at present, before the actual revenue and expenditure has been ascertained. I have nothing very startling or novel to tell hon. members to-night. I feel that I have a long task before me, and I am justified in saying that the system of Government which we have inaugurated in this colony—at any rate the manner in which it has been conducted—leaves Ministers very few secrets to tell hon. members, because we live in the light of day, and if we have anything of interest to tell, we take the very earliest opportunity of telling it, be it good or bad; and, so far as the present Government are concerned, we have nothing to hide or keep back. To-night, sir, I am very glad to be able to say that our anticipations of revenue will be realised, and I have great pleasure in telling hon. members that we are living entirely within our means. The Government, and I think the country, have every reason to be satisfied with our financial position, and we have also every reason to be satisfied with the outlook for the future. But still I do not mean to say that great caution, great activity, and great energy are not necessary in order to carry on the affairs of the country in the way that we all desire.

#### *Population.*

The first point I will deal with is the population of the colony. On the 5th April, 1890, when the census was taken, the population numbered 49,782 persons, and now, at a period some 20 months

later, the Registrar General informs me that it has reached to about 58,600, showing an increase of about 8,818 souls, or of about 400 per month. I place this matter first, because I think that if we are to progress, if we are to take our place as a worthy member of the great Australian commonwealth, we must increase the population that we have at the present time. The first question asked by all those who are taking an interest in this colony or are engaged in connection with it, is: How many people are there in the colony? And when we remember the great amount of work that has been done in this colony, that we have railways throughout some portions of it, and in a short time will have railways through a considerable portion; when we remember also that we have telegraphs from one end of this large colony to the other, and many other conveniences which might be expected only in countries more fully occupied and developed, it is remarkable that all this has been accomplished with the small number of inhabitants in this colony. The great desire of all hon. members is that our population should be increased, and, what is of more importance even than this is that it may be increased with the right sort of people, because what we wish to do is to attract a worthy and useful class of settlers to this colony, who will take an interest in its affairs, will occupy and cultivate its lands, and will make homes and found families in this country.

#### *The Loans.*

The second point to which I will refer is our loans. Out of the loan of 1891, amounting to £1,336,000, we had expended up to the 30th September last, as stated in the published returns, £297,927, but there were also railway stores on hand amounting to £74,403, making the total expenditure about £372,330. These amounts are well known to hon. members, having been published in the *Government Gazette* and in the newspapers of the colony; but I have thought it well that I should refer, shortly, to the amount of money that we had expended out of the loan that was authorised in 1891. But since the 30th of September last nearly three months have elapsed, and I have to say that a

very heavy expenditure, both in London and the colony, has taken place during the last two months or more. Of the loan of £1,336,000, a total of £900,000 has now been raised, the last portion raised being a sum of £400,000, which was invited in the London market on the 22nd of November last, and was placed at par, realising £100 5s. per cent. So far as I am able to judge, I do not anticipate any difficulty in raising the remainder, when a favorable opportunity arises; and I think that the way in which Western Australia is able to place her loans upon the market shows that the Government were wise in entrusting their financial affairs to an institution which has a world-wide reputation.

#### *Indebtedness.*

The indebtedness of the colony is another matter which must interest all of us. The total indebtedness on the 31st December will be about £2,259,100, less a sinking fund in hand and invested amounting to £112,530; so that the net indebtedness will be, on the 31st December, £2,146,570, and of this amount £400,000 has not yet been dealt with. Therefore, I take it that our actual indebtedness is £1,746,570, or about £30 per head. The present interest and sinking fund, including the interest on the £400,000 which has just been tendered for and not yet paid, is £107,855 per annum, and after we have raised the whole amount of our authorised loan, that is £436,000 more, we shall have to provide for interest and sinking fund £139,655 per annum. I have no hesitation in saying that I believe we can easily do that. When I introduced the Estimates on the 4th of February, 1891, soon after I and my colleagues took office, I stated that I estimated the debt per head of the population would reach £44 when we had raised this loan of £1,336,000. But it has not done that yet, and it is a long way off reaching that amount; and I hope and believe that our population will increase in a way that will prevent our public debt increasing to a much greater extent than at present. In connection with the indebtedness per head of the population in this colony, it may not be out of place to refer to the public indebtedness of the other Australasian

colonies. The statistics are taken from our own *Year Book*, and are made up to the 31st December, 1891. At the end of 1891, the rate of indebtedness per head of the population in New South Wales was £44; Queensland, £72; South Australia, £67; Victoria, £37; Western Australia, £28 (I have shown you that at the present time it is £30); Tasmania, £46; and New Zealand, £60 per head. As I said before, we have an immense territory, and we are a growing colony, and therefore I think that our rate per head of indebtedness must, compared with that of all the other Australasian colonies, be considered not altogether unsatisfactory. There is one particular point which I think affects us more than any other colony in Australia, and that is that in counting our indebtedness we must remember that a considerable amount has been contracted recently. We must remember that £900,000 has been raised during the last two years, and during the coming year £436,000 more will probably be raised, and all this before the country has an opportunity of benefiting materially by this loan expenditure. It is all very well for us to obtain a transitory progress or prosperity, while these railways are being built, but what we look for is the prosperity that should follow after the works are completed, and not the temporary prosperity which may be felt during the time the money is being expended. All the benefits we desire, and which we expect, cannot accrue until a considerable time after the works have been completed. It takes some time for a railway running through the country to change the aspect of the country. It cannot be changed immediately. We all know what a time the Eastern Districts railway has taken to change even the fertile valley of the Avon. The time has arrived now when everyone can see the advantage of the construction of this railway, and it is only now that they are reaping the great advantage of this expenditure. But for some time the people did not realise the great facilities which the railway provided, and it is only after several years that the colony is reaping the benefit of that expenditure. It always will be so, at any rate in these early days. Expenditure on railways throughout this colony will only be

thoroughly felt some years after the railways are completed; it is only then that we shall fully realise and enjoy the benefits given to us by these railways opening up the country.

*Expenditure outside the Colony.*

There is another point which must occur to everyone, and that is that we lose a considerable amount, I was going to say half, of the good that our loans would do us if we could produce all we required in this colony. But you all know we have to spend an immense amount of these loan moneys in other places. Our loans, to a considerable extent, are spent in finding employment for others rather than for our own people. We have to send away to the old country for all our rails and rolling stock, and this causes a considerable amount of our loan money to be spent outside the colony. Again, there is another great disadvantage which we labor under, compared to some countries—I do not say the other colonies. We labor under a great disadvantage in borrowing money in another market—I was going to say a foreign market, but I do not mean foreign in the usual acceptation of terms—in the English market. We have to send all our interest away from this colony. If we were a rich community, if we could borrow our money from our own people, if we could buy our rolling stock and rails from our own people, then our position would be different, and it would do away with the great disability which we and all the Australian colonies suffer under. In the first instance, we have to borrow money in another market, then we have to send the interest away from our own country, and to spend so much of what we borrow in those countries, because we are not able to supply the articles we require ourselves. Of course this must continue for some time. We are a new community, and we have not the means and appliances, and therefore we labor under great disadvantages compared to those countries which have great manufactories, and which those countries would not experience if they had to borrow money for the construction of public works.

*Banks and Deposits.*

I now come, sir, to another very important matter connected with our

finances. This is the amount of capital that is in the colony, in the banks. On the 30th September last there was £438,321 in coin and bullion in the banks here, and there was at the same time, on the 30th September, the sum of £1,409,302 in the banks at call or bearing interest. I think, of course, these figures are known to hon. members; at the same time it does strike me that it is an immense amount of money for people to have at the banks at call and fixed deposit. I often think of this, and wonder whose money it is. Still, there it is. Of this £1,409,302, a sum of £528,863 is at call, and £880,439 is bearing interest at fixed deposit. Of this total there was £240,249 belonging to the Government. On the 31st December, 1891, there was in the banks £1,366,931 placed in the banks at fixed deposit or call. The difference between the amount then and that on 30th September, 1892, nine months afterwards, is an increase of £42,371 to the credit of the present time. When I went through these figures to-day, I could not help feeling that it was to be regretted that the system of hoarding is so much practised by people here; but after thinking over the matter, I came to the conclusion that really it does not matter, because those who hoard it are satisfied, and the banks lend the money to be used by others who are more enterprising.

*Imports and Exports.*

I will now, sir, deal with the question of imports and exports. The imports in 1891 amounted to £1,280,093, and the estimated value of the imports in 1892 was £1,200,000, or about £20 per head of the population. Perhaps some persons may think this is not a cause for regret, but I like to see both these items progressing. We don't appear to have increased our imports for 1892 over those of 1891. At the end of 1891 the value of the imports per head of the population, in the various colonies of Australasia, was as follows:—New South Wales, £22 per head; Queensland, £13; South Australia, £31; Victoria, £19; Tasmania, £14; New Zealand, £10; and we in Western Australia, £19. There are various reasons, no doubt, to be given why the imports of this colony have not increased during the last year, but there is one

great cause that must be apparent to everyone; that is the great drought in the North, and the consequent depression and reduction of the purchasing power, for that is what it comes to. This, I think, is the principal cause why our imports have not increased during the past year, for, to my own knowledge, I am positive that the drought has had a great deal to do with it. Persons largely interested in improving the country, in purchasing and importing, have had altogether to cease operations, owing to the terrible disaster that has overtaken that part of the country. I can only hope that we have seen the worst of this great calamity. I am not so positive of that; still I believe we have, and if we can only get a good season between this time and the next two or three months, I believe that all the energetic people in the North, the persons who have their all invested there, will be quite content to face again the difficulties and trials they have undergone in the past. Another reason why the imports have not increased as largely as in former years has been the stoppage of the Midland Railway, and the complications connected with it; and then again, there is the scarcity of water on the goldfields, especially the stoppage of mines at Yilgarn; although, when I come to that part of my speech, I shall certainly be able to show that Yilgarn has not been inactive. For all that, the scarcity of water on the goldfields has had a great deal to do with the cause of the depression, at any rate in Perth. Then again, we have in the other colonies a state of affairs where commercial matters are certainly in a depressed condition. This may have some effect on our imports. At any rate, there is no great cause for alarm in this matter. We have imported this year (showing that we have the capacity for purchasing) an amount almost equal to that imported last year. Probably, too, the stocks on hand may have been larger last year than at the present time. Coming to the exports, those for 1891 amounted to £788,766; and here, again, I fear the exports for 1892 will not be satisfactory, for the value of the exports will, I fear, not reach those of 1891. I have fairly good evidence of this, and, of course, it could

not well be otherwise. Sandalwood is held in large quantities here; immense stocks are ready for shipment, but the market is not sufficiently favorable; and the export of wool is very much less than last year. In dealing with the exports, it may be of interest to know the relation we bear to the other colonies in this matter. I find that at the end of 1891 New South Wales exported an amount equal to £22 per head of population; Queensland, £20; South Australia, £33; Victoria, £14; West Australia, £15; Tasmania, £10; and New Zealand, £15. It therefore appears that at the end of 1891 the exports and imports in New South Wales were about equal, in Queensland, South Australia, and New Zealand the exports exceeded the imports, and in Victoria and Western Australia the imports exceeded the exports. This want of production, and the consequent disproportion of imports and exports, is a subject, I think, deserving of serious attention, and great efforts must be made to alter such a state of things. We are building railways, and while we are building railways we must take care to develop the lands of the colony, and make them productive. We have been saying for a long time—in fact there has been an almost continual cry—that we should attract population of the right sort to cultivate our lands. I believe myself that it can be done, not by the direct means desired by some people, that of bringing immigrants here and settling them on the land, and finding them with everything; but by giving them facilities of transit, and also giving them encouragement to occupy the land. As you all know, the Government did make the attempt, but it was not considered a sufficiently good one. I do not wish to quarrel with that decision, but we did make an attempt to deal with this matter, and we were not able to pass the measure into law. With regard to this matter, I read in the *Home News* of November 11th, in anticipation of the passing of the Homesteads Bill, what I thought very reasonable and encouraging information from my point of view. It said, "Let it be once known in England that an immigrant can go to West Australia and have 160 acres of land free and a loan besides out of the public

"purse when he has made certain improvements, and settlers will quickly flock to try their fortunes there. West Australia possesses everything but an adequate population." These words seem to be so much in accord with my own views, that I thought I would repeat them for the information of hon. members. I should like to say that we in this colony are not the only persons who desire to increase our population and settle people upon the land. The great dominion of Canada has been for years and years endeavoring to induce people to go there. People from Europe can go there in a week; and Canada has for years had agents in the United Kingdom travelling about the country districts advising people to go there and settle upon the land; and in these efforts I think everyone must admit that Canada has been fairly successful. But Canada is not satisfied with what has been done, for at the present time delegates of farmers are being sent to the United Kingdom and to other countries in Europe, and are making great efforts to induce English and foreign subjects to settle in Canada generally, principally under the auspices of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company,—a railway that was built by a company subsidised by the Government with 25,000,000 acres of land and £10,000,000 in money. That great company never loses a chance of trying to induce people to settle upon its lands, and the result is that so far west as the Rocky Mountains, at any rate, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is settling people on its lands. I saw that this was being done while I was passing through Canada some years ago, and it is being done yet, with even greater energy, by sending delegates of farmers all over Europe to describe the country and try to induce people to go and settle on those lands.

#### *Gold.*

I have great pleasure in informing hon. members our greatest export this year, so far as I have been able to gather from the Customs statistics, is gold. The export of gold during the eleven months of this year has amounted to 52,861 ounces — and this, valued at £3 16s. per ounce, amounts to £200,872, being an increase of £85,690

upon the amount for the whole of last year, and there is still another month to run this year. It may be interesting to hon. members to know from what gold-fields this gold came, so far as I have been able to form an opinion from the places at which it was entered in the Customs; and I think the figures are highly satisfactory and most encouraging. From the Murchison an amount valued at £79,568 was sent, from Yilgarn £73,264, from Pilbarra £43,046, from Kimberley £4,089, and from "miscellaneous" — I don't know where it was found, but it was entered in the Customs at Albany — £905; making a total of £200,872. I think these figures are most encouraging, seeing that a very short time ago this was supposed to be a country in which no gold existed.

#### *Comparative Statement for twelve months.*

As I hinted at the beginning of my speech, I have been under a considerable disadvantage in dealing with the accounts of the colony before the close of the financial year. I hope that in future, with the change we propose to introduce in the financial year, this difficulty will not recur. But by the method of keeping our accounts under the Audit Act, we can deal with the preceding twelve months at the end of each quarter, though that is not so satisfactory as being able to deal with the whole financial year. Before dealing with the year ending December 31st, 1892, I will refer to the twelve months ending the 30th of September last. The revenue of the year ending the 30th of September last amounted to £522,782, as against £461,732 for the year ending the 30th of September, 1891, or an increase of £61,050. The expenditure for the year ending the 30th September, 1892, was £509,468 as against £431,194 for the year ended the 30th of September, 1891; an increase of £78,274. We had a credit balance on current account, on the 30th of September of this year, of £124,604.

#### *Revenue and Expenditure for 1892.*

The estimated Revenue for the year 1892 was £538,775, and I expect it to be received. Customs was put down at £250,000; and not only will that amount be received, but I believe it will be ex-

ceeded by about £20,000, so that our Customs receipts will amount to £270,000. The estimated revenue for harbor dues, licenses, postages, telegrams, and stamps—very important items as producing revenue, and as showing the progress the colony is making—all will be realised. The worst result of all will be the land revenue. The estimate of land revenue, which of course includes rents, sales, and mining, and fees of mining, was £100,000, but I don't see any chance of its being realised. The Department is increasing in size, and I may say in usefulness, but its revenue-producing powers do not seem to be on the increase. This is easily understood, though I hope to see it altered in the near future. The regulations for the disposal of land are so liberal that it takes an immense amount of land to produce a large sum of money; 40,000 acres of land leased under the conditional purchase regulations only produce £1,000 a year, and, therefore, hon. members will understand that unless there is a large increase in the area held under conditional purchase, it is not likely that the revenue will be increased to a considerable extent from this source. However, I hope there will be a large increase in the occupation of land, and although the rent is small, still it will tell. Again, the extension of our mineral industries must prove of advantage to the revenue. At the same time I need not deny that I am disappointed that the land revenue this year will not reach the estimate I placed upon it. There is, however, no occasion for anxiety, because the difference will be made up from other sources, and so long as we receive the revenue we anticipate, I do not think there is any real cause to be disappointed. I now come to the Expenditure for 1892. On the 1st of January, 1892, there was a credit balance of £107,647. This, added to the estimated revenue (£538,775) makes a total of £646,422 available for the services of this year. Our estimated expenditure for 1892 was £596,809, and of this I estimate we shall have expended £544,984; so that during 1892, notwithstanding the many calls upon us, we shall have expended about £51,825 less than we were authorised by this House to spend. I do not think it can be said we were reckless; on the other hand, I think this result shows

great care and economy. It would not be fair of me to take credit for this, without explaining the reason. The reason is that we have not been able to undertake in some cases, and complete in others, many of the works authorised by this House. Various causes contributed to our not being able to do so. One of them was that unless my hon. friend, the Director of Public Works, was prepared to enlarge his department to a considerable extent, it was altogether impossible for him to get the work done. We talked the matter over, and we came to the conclusion that it was not desirable to increase this department, and that it would be better to do the best we could with the staff available, rather than increase it for a few months for the sake of getting these works out more quickly. While we decided upon that course, every exertion was made by the department to get the works out, and I think everyone who has watched the course of events during the past two years must say the department has done a great amount of work.

*Estimates for first six months of 1893.*

I have dealt to some extent with the past, and I now propose to ask hon. members to bear with me for a short time while I deal with the immediate future, the first six months of 1893. I estimate there will be a credit balance at the end of 1892 of £101,437. I estimate that the revenue for the first six months of 1893 will be £320,417, so that we hope to have for expenditure, during the first six months of the coming year, an amount of £421,854. This estimate of revenue, although it appears somewhat high, is founded on very moderate calculations, and I see no reason to doubt that these calculations will be realised. I need hardly go through all the items of revenue, but I will refer to one or two. In the Customs I estimate an increase of only £7,466 over what was realised during the first six months of 1892. That, I do not think, is an excessive estimate. On railways, my hon. friend the Commissioner has assured me that for the first six months of 1893 he will receive £56,717, being £15,070 more than he received for the first six months of 1892. This, I think, is most encouraging, and for my



own part I think it is quite justified. The railways are being extended, and they are becoming our chief revenue producing item. I am sorry to say that, with all the exertions of the Commissioner of Railways, the expenses still figure somewhat largely, because the estimate of expenditure for the half-year runs pretty close to the revenue; it amounts to £54,671. I have no doubt my hon. friend can easily explain it, and I will do so to some extent. The main cause is the very troublesome and excessive gradients on our Eastern Railway, which contribute to a large extent to the great expenditure that is taking place in connection with our railways. We intend to place before Parliament this session an arrangement by which this terrible loss may be overcome, and I hope the result will be that instead of having a grade of 1 in 22 or 1 in 25, we will be able to have a grade not worse than 1 in 50. The expenditure for the first six months of next year is estimated to be £378,132; and of this amount the interest on loans and sinking fund will be £53,927. In this growing colony I do not think it is possible to make any great reductions. I estimate that on the 30th of June next there will be a credit balance of £43,722, and I believe that instead of there being less than that amount there will be more.

*Expenditure on Works and Buildings.*

In this expenditure of £378,132, which includes £53,927 for interest and sinking fund on loans, we have been able to provide a sum of £71,482 for works and buildings all over the colony. Included in this estimate of £71,482 for such works and buildings, I may specify the following:—Bonded stores at Bunbury, Carnarvon, Derby, and Eucla; courthouses at Albany, Bridgetown, Katanning, and York; a quarantine station at Carnac; hospitals at Katanning, Newcastle, Northam, Perth estimated to cost £7,500, Southern Cross, and one at York estimated to cost £2,000; a lighthouse at Rottnest costing £6,000, one at Carnarvon to cost £2,600, both urgently required; also police stations at Broomehill (completion of it), Bunbury, Greenbushes, and Wagin; post offices at Bunbury, Dongara; the completion of the North Fremantle Post Office, and the completion of six post offices on the Great Southern Railway,

and post offices at Northam, Northampton, Minginew, Onslow, and one at York, where we propose to spend £2,000 in erecting a suitable building. We propose to build schools all over the colony; one at Albany to cost £2,000, at Beaconsfield £1,300, at Bunbury and North Fremantle to cost £1,500 each; at Broomehill, Gingin, Guildford, Katanning, Mt. Barker, Narrogin, one at Perth to cost £1,500, and one at Wagin. We also propose to build a magazine for explosives at Fremantle to cost £1,000, to complete the public buildings at Greenbushes, to assist in the erection of a drill hall at Geraldton, to complete the new wing of the public offices in Perth to cost £8,400, to erect a museum in Perth at a cost of £2,000, an agricultural hall at Dardanup, and to buy a site for a town hall at York. Harbor and river improvements are also proposed, including jetties at Albany, Bunbury, Derby, Dongara, and Owen Anchorage to give facilities for shipping stock; also jetty improvements at the Vasse, Wyndham, and many other works; the total cost of all these works being, as I have already stated, £71,482. On roads and bridges we propose to spend £18,900 for the half-year, as against £10,000 for the whole of 1892. We propose to build bridges at Mandurah, Vasse, Quindanning (on the Williams), Tone River (Nelson), and Newcastle; also approaches to the railway station at the Greenough, improvements to the road up the Cliff at Eucla, besides many other items, which hon. members will see on the Estimates. The vote for roads will be £15,000, exclusive of the separate items for bridges, estimated at £3,900, and the amount will be apportioned among the Roads Boards for expenditure. We propose to re-vote £1,000 for the Inspector of Pearlshell Fisheries, Mr. Saville-Kent, who will soon be on his way from England to take up his duties here. We propose to ask for £500 for the representation of our jarrah timber at Chicago, also £600 to fit up the West Australian court in the Imperial Institute in London, and £5,350 for the fortifications at Albany and Fremantle. We propose to ask for sums for additions to the printing office at Perth, to repair the Perth barracks, to erect the Rockingham telegraph line—voted last year and not yet spent—to build a telegraph

line from the Bannister to Wandering; also a telegraph line from the present main line to Minginew. The House will also be asked to vote a sum of £3,000, to form part of a total amount of £20,000, which it is proposed to spend in the erection of a lunatic asylum in the vicinity of the Darling Range. The present building and site at Fremantle being, in the opinion of the Government, unsuitable, we think it unwise to spend money in increasing the accommodation for lunatics at Fremantle, seeing that in a few years we will have to remove the institution to some more suitable place. A gentleman has liberally offered to give an area of 40 acres under the Darling Range, as being suitable for this purpose; and I have informed him that I will inspect the site, and that no doubt we shall be able to accept his liberal offer. On the printed Estimates will be noticed a new column, which has been introduced to enable hon. members to see the probable cost of each public work when completed; and this will also show whether the particular sum proposed to be voted is to complete the work, or whether it is only a portion of the total amount required. In the case of the proposed new asylum, we have placed £3,000 on the Estimates to make a beginning with the new building during the next half-year. Another provision is for a sum which will provide a subsidy of 10s. in the £ for Municipalities, on the amount raised by each Municipality under the "General Rate." This action on the part of the Government, and approved by this House last session, has given a great deal of satisfaction, so far, in all Municipalities throughout the colony, and I feel that those who are helping themselves to such a large extent as the Municipalities are doing deserve to be assisted by the Government. I hope we shall be able to continue this assistance for many years to come, but I am unable to make any promise as to what may be done in the future, because we are not able to look far enough ahead to make any definite promise in this matter.

*Aborigines Protection Board.*

There is another item which, however, is not stated on the printed Estimates. This is a sum for assisting or adding to the vote under the Constitution Act, for

the aborigines. A sum of £2,500 is placed on the Estimates for the half-year for the use of the Aborigines Protection Board; but it is provided under the Constitution Act that when the revenue of the colony exceeds half a million per annum, this vote shall be 1 per cent. of the revenue of the colony. That time, I am glad to say, has arrived, and, therefore, it will be necessary to provide for the increase of this vote. For 1892, £300 or £400 more will be required, and for 1893 the amount will have to be larger. Hon. members have no doubt seen the correspondence placed upon the table with reference to the Aborigines Protection Board, and they will see the efforts of the Government to remove this unnecessary and humiliating clause from the Constitution Act. The Government have taken a great interest in the matter, and have urged in the strongest manner the advisability of entrusting the care of the aborigines to the local Government. Speaking as a West Australian, I say that the existence of this Board is a slur upon the honor of the colony, and this being so, I am surprised that any persons can be found to take the position of members of this Board. The despatch of Lord Ripon of the 6th October last in no way deals with the question, and, I venture to think, is not a sufficient reply to my memorandum of the 20th April last. I do not feel inclined to say more on this subject at present, because I feel too strongly on it; except that the 70th section of the Constitution Act is an unnecessary, unworkable clause, and that it should not be allowed to remain in the Act a day longer than can be helped. The existence of this Board is a farce, and more than a farce, for it is a reproach to the colony.

*Dredges.*

I have pleasure in informing hon. members that the Government steam dredge which was ordered in England sailed for Fremantle on the 8th of this month. We take delivery of it at Fremantle, so that we have no risk until it arrives. I am sure it will be of great use to this colony, for it is capable of raising 600 tons in an hour. If this can be done, and the dredge be taken to Princess Royal Harbor, it will be an easy

matter to deepen the passage so that the largest ships may enter with ease and safety. We have also ordered another dredge, to be used for excavating sand and mud in connection with the harbor works at Fremantle. With these two powerful dredges, the harbors of the colony should be soon much improved.

*The Midland Railway.*

In dealing with the financial position of the colony, I do not think I would be justified in omitting reference to the Midland Railway. So far as I am able to judge of the recent proposals of the Company, now before this House, I do not recognise them as any great liability. We shall be amply secured, and I do not believe that serious difficulties will arise in future. If Parliament approves of the recommendations of the joint committee appointed to consider this matter, this railway will be completed, the lands along the route will be opened up for occupation and selection at once, and it will have this great effect, greater than all the others put together, that it will show those interested in the concern—financial persons in England and others—that the people of this colony have faith in our colony, in our lands, and in our resources. It will then not go forth that we are offering an English company 12,000 acres of land per mile to construct a railway through the most temperate parts of the colony, that the company has been languishing for years and unable to carry on its work, and the Government have so little faith in their own country that they will not attempt to complete this great undertaking. After all, it is as good, if not better, for the colony to give this guarantee as to raise the money ourselves by borrowing it. There would be the same result in either case—the opening up of this Midland district to occupation and cultivation, and the providing of facilities of transit for encouraging people to become producers on the land. So long as we attain this desirable result, it does not matter much who finishes the railway—whether the Company or the Government. It will probably be said that this £500,000 which we propose to guarantee will damage the value of our own stock in the London market. The

Government are responsible for the management of the colony, and are not acting in this matter without good grounds. I have taken the trouble, in fact it was my duty to find out, from our financial advisers in London whether the giving of this guarantee to the Midland Railway Company would interfere with the value of our stock. I have had a reply from the London and Westminster Bank, and in their opinion it would not do anything of the kind.

*Future Prospects.*

And now I would like to ask hon. members to allow me to say a few words with reference to our future prospects. We will, after we have raised all of our present loan, owe about two-and-a-half millions of money, and the annual cost will be, for interest and sinking fund, about £140,000 per annum. We will require, in addition to this two-and-a-half millions, nearly half-a-million more to fully equip our existing railways, and pay for land purchased for railway extensions in Perth, and build the new railway station in Perth, and improve the Eastern Railway by altering those terrible grades and making the deviation of about 11 miles; also an additional sum of about £50,000 will be required to complete the Mullewa Railway. When all our railways now authorised are finished and the other public works are completed, we shall owe about two-and-a-half millions of money, and, as I have said, we will require about half-a-million more to put the Eastern Railway in proper working order, and complete the other works I have mentioned. We shall then have about 1,200 miles of railway running in the colony, and then we may expect that the whole face of this country will undergo a process of transformation and development, and that within a few years this colony will present a different and an improved appearance as compared with its condition at the present time. Whether we shall have sufficient faith in our own colony to be equal to the great responsibilities and the great opportunities thus presented to us remains to be seen; but I believe we will.

*Position of the Colony, Present and Future.*

I have now said nearly all I have to say; but before concluding I will ask hon.

members to look at the position of the colony as a whole, and then say whether or not we have reasonable cause to be satisfied with what has been done, and to be hopeful of the future. We have three-quarters of a million of the authorised loan yet to spend, and we have current revenue estimated at £421,854 to spend during the next six months. We shall also, I hope, have £309,000 to expend in the completion of the Midland Railway. Altogether, we have one-and-a-half millions available for the public works of this colony, and what does it all mean? As far as our actual money responsibility is concerned, it means we shall have to provide about £140,000 a year as interest and sinking fund. I told you the other evening that in order to complete the railway extensions and station buildings in Perth, and to put the Eastern Railway in a proper working condition by improving the grades and fully equipping the line, a sum of £300,000 would be required, and I said I proposed to ask for authority to spend that amount out of current revenue and recoup it afterwards. Certain hon. members, who are rather of a timid and fault-finding disposition—I say this without intending to give any offence—seemed then to be astonished at that statement of mine. Why they should be astonished I am at a loss to know. Why they should be astonished that money is required to pay for the lands we have been compelled to purchase in Perth for railway station and other purposes; for improving the grades on the Eastern Railway so as to make it safe, and enable us to earn a larger proportion of revenue from the traffic, is to be accounted for only by supposing that some persons move about this city and this country with their eyes shut, their ears shut, and their ideas shut; because otherwise how could they possibly think that the Government had money to do these works, with the money already at their disposal? After all this astonishment, how much does the sum amount to that we require for these necessary purposes? It means only a payment of £12,000 for interest. You might have thought those timid fault-finding members, being so much frightened, would have gone down into their boots—only they were too big to get into them. I say that three hundred thousand pounds does not frighten me, with Western Aus-

tralia at my back, and I hope it won't frighten the majority of hon. members, on this side of the House at any rate. So long as we see that the money is expended in a proper way, what reason have we to be frightened? Why, this £12,000 a year will be saved in one year, by the improved grades on the Darling Range and the cheaper cost of working the traffic; yet, still some hon. members will pull long faces, and make a lot of objections, because we wish to spend some money in reducing the excessive and unnecessary cost of working these steep grades. I see no reason at all for any of us to be despondent, in looking at the position of the colony; but, on the contrary, there is every reason for us to feel hopeful and confident. Our population is fast increasing, and I believe it will increase even faster than it has done in the past; indeed, I see no reason why it should not increase at a far greater rate, having regard to the great prospects of gold-mining development in this colony—such prospects as have never been known hitherto in all Australia. Fancy, in this colony we have been digging and scratching in the earth in a sort of fashion, without any great appliances for mining, and under great difficulties, and yet in this way we have raised in the past year £200,000 worth of gold! Why, the possibilities of this colony are enormous; and I think the probabilities are enormous too. We may fairly hope for good seasons in the future, and I see no reason why this terrible drought should last for ever in its far-reaching effects. I sincerely hope and pray that the drought is past, and that there are good times in store for those engaged in pastoral pursuits in this colony. But while we are doing all these things, I must impress upon hon. members the great necessity of encouraging the settlement and cultivation of the land. The members of the present Government have had an anxious and arduous duty during the past two years, but as yet we have not landed the colony in any difficulty nor brought disaster upon anybody; and I do not think it will be wrong in us to claim that no injury has resulted to the colony or to individuals from anything we have done. This colony and this Parliament are

respected in England, and I feel certain that the Government is respected there also, and respected in our own colony. And why? Simply because the people feel that the Government and this House and Parliament as a whole have devoted their energies and abilities to promoting, in every way that is possible, the best interests of the colony. We did a remarkable thing the other day, and one which is most significant. We put a portion of our loan on the London market at a time when no other Australian colony would have liked to risk the placing of a loan, and we were successful. Indeed, I almost wondered when I saw that this colony, hitherto so little before the world, was actually giving a better value to the loan stock of other Australian colonies—that this colony with only 60,000 people, this immense territory that is so sparsely populated, which had been-despised in the past—was giving a better value to the stocks of the great colonies in the Eastern part of Australia. This result shows that the people in England who have money to lend have confidence in the present Government and in the present Parliament of this country. There is one other remark I would like to make, and it is that whatever we have done as a Government, we have not yet increased the taxation upon the people of the colony. We have never yet brought in a measure, during the two years we have been in office, which had for its object the increasing of the taxation of the people.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: You could not very much.

THE PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. Sir John Forrest): I am not so sure about that. I have no doubt that if you refer to *Hansard* of two years ago—I do not recollect what the hon. member said at that time, but I have no doubt the hon. member for the Gascoyne said the Government were going to ruin the country, and that our policy would result in an increase of taxation. I say with pride and pleasure at the present time that we have not brought forward any measure having for its object the increase of the taxation of the people. I stated two years ago that I believed our line of policy would be carried out without increasing the taxation of the people; and so far, at any rate, I have

been right. I have not yet found that there is any necessity for increasing the taxation—

MR. R. F. SHOLL: You will have to retrench before you increase the taxation.

THE PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. Sir John Forrest): An attempt was made the other day, without success, to pass a measure for settling people on the land; and one hon. member stated that I had warned the House that if they did not look after the settlement of the land at the same time that they were voting money for building railways, immediate ruin would be the result. I do not think I ever said anything about immediate ruin, but I did say that if we went on borrowing large sums of money for making railways and other great public works, and at the same time did not look after and encourage the settlement and cultivation of the land, a day of reckoning would come. I say again that it will come, if you do not perform the two operations together. If you build railways and give facilities of transit, you must at the same time do all in your power to encourage the occupation and cultivation of the land. If you do not, then I say you will be acting most foolishly. Of course I do not mean to say that the hon. member for the DeGrey, who opposed the Homesteads Bill of the Government, has not reason on his side when he says that all these things will come of themselves. But, goodness gracious! Does anyone suppose that I wish to spend money in developing and encouraging things that will come of themselves. If they will do so, of course there is no need for the measure which we proposed; but my fear is that the increased settlement and cultivation of the land will not come quickly enough for the present generation. Perhaps these things may come of their own accord, and I heartily pray that they may, but I want to make certain that they shall come.

#### Conclusion.

In conclusion, I may say that I question whether any community has ever had the great opportunities and the great responsibilities that are before us. Here we have a great territory to populate and develop, and it will read like a fable, by-and-by, that 30 men in this Chamber

had the control and fashioning of this great territory as they thought best. This is a most remarkable event, and one that should give us great pride, and should stimulate us to great endeavors, in order to be equal to the great trust that is cast upon us. I advise everyone in this colony to be bold; not to be afraid of responsibilities, but also to be careful and cautious and economical. I should like to thank hon. members, especially those who sit on this side of the House, and some who sit on the other side, for the support and consideration they have given to us, the members of the Government, during the past two years we have been in office. If it had not been for their loyalty to the colony, and their patriotism, the Government could not have accomplished, and could not have done the work we have been enabled to do. It was only by their loyalty and patriotism that we have been able to do what we have done for the good of this colony. I thank the people of the colony, who are at your back as their representatives in this House, for the confidence and assistance they have given to the present Government. We will promise you—the representatives of the people, and through you the people of the colony—that we shall continue in the path we have hitherto trod; that we shall do our very best to protect the interests of the colony, and to work for its advancement and its honor.

On the motion of MR. DEHAMEL, progress was reported and leave given to sit again.

#### ACTION OF POLICE IN RECENT PROSECUTIONS OF LICENSED VICTUALLERS.

MR. MOLLOY, in accordance with notice, moved, "That the action of the Police in the recent Licensed Victuallers' prosecutions exposes an amount of want of respect for the law, they being the offenders on the occasion referred to, and that such conduct is not conducive to the interests and protection of law and order. That the attention of the head of the Police Department be called to the action of the policeman referred to, and that steps be taken to prevent a repetition of such conduct." The hon. member said: I rise with some degree of confidence to speak to this motion. I stand in the

dual capacity of a representative of the people, and of the Licensed Victuallers' Association, which has its members throughout all portions of the settled districts of the colony. I take it that, in speaking on their behalf, I do so with some degree of authority, since I have the honor to occupy the position of president of that association. Before I have done with this subject, I think I shall get the assistance of hon. members here present, and that they will see that this motion is a reasonable one, and that it is necessary that action should be taken to bring before the notice of this honorable House a matter which has had for its object a degree of persecution unparalleled in the history of this colony. It will be remembered by hon. members that some few days ago there was recorded in the newspapers a peculiar spectacle as having been presented at the police court of Perth, in which four licensed victuallers were arraigned before the bar of justice, to answer for offences which they were accused of having committed against the law. This was a peculiar spectacle, and when I relate the facts of this matter, it will be seen by hon. members that this was a thing unheard of in this colony before, and one which deserves the severest censure, in respect to the part taken by one of the protectors of law and order on this occasion. We find that several respectable citizens of Perth, men well known in this colony, appeared to answer to a charge of an offence against the law, upon this occasion, and when I mention the name of Mr. Gatwood as being one of these offenders, I think it will be known to most hon. members here that he is a person of good fame and reputation, and a person against whom an oppressive measure such as this should not have been taken. I will not say that he was blameless in this matter, but what I complain of is the action of those persons whose duty it is to see the law properly observed—that they should not be the persons to endeavor to procure the commission of an offence, and then become law traitors and informers, by giving information against the person whom they induce to commit an offence, after acting on the generous impulses of that person to convenience them. It will be known, as the fact has been related in

the newspapers, that a certain member of the police, a stranger in the colony, went round on a particular Sunday, in company with other constables, and that at each of the licensed houses which they visited they were the only persons offending against the law, that being a significant feature in the matter. I would impress on hon. members that this is not the way in which we wish the law to be observed, that persons should not go round to cause the commission of an offence, and then inform against the persons whom they induced to convenience them, in order to get these persons punished. I say it would be a matter of regret if the Government countenanced such proceedings as these—if any hulking vagabond who comes here, a stranger in the land, finds it is a qualification for employment under the Government that he is willing to play the part of a traitor and informer—I say if the Government do not take steps to discountenance these proceedings it will be a matter of regret. One glaring instance of the despicable conduct of this constable in disguise, this traitor just arriving in the colony, was his visit to the hotel of a poor unfortunate widow woman who had just lost her husband. This constable in disguise asked the man in charge of the bar if he could get a drink, and whether the man in charge understood the responsibilities of his position or not, the evidence proves that he was generous enough to be imposed on by this person, who was a stranger to him, and did that which the law forbade him to do. But it does seem hard that the unfortunate widow should bear the consequences. We find that this creature, having obtained the drink, and having committed the offence against the law, turns round and appears at the Police Court as an informer; and he, as the champion of law and order, appears there to complain that an offence has been committed; yet it is proved that he is the person who committed the offence. The woman who owns the premises did not herself commit a breach of the law, but only through her servant, she having the responsibility; and she was made the victim and fined £50. This informer, who ought to be a protector of the law, was the only real offender in this instance—he and his companions, who were also policemen in plain clothes—and the

licensee of the hotel was an offender merely in the technical sense. What I complain of is that persons entrusted with the responsibility of seeing that law and order are observed, should be the only ones to concoct a foul scheme, and then stand forth as champions of the law which they profess to be vindicating. I think it is necessary that the Police Department should be called to account, and that it should not allow such practices to prevail. This is not the way to ensure the observance of the law. Seeing the consequences which accrued to these people, of being imposed on in this way, I think it necessary to bring the matter before this House, so that a repetition of this offence should not occur. I think I have said sufficient to justify hon. members in voting in favor of the motion; and although I know there are some hon. members who have a prejudice against this particular business, and although I respect their opinions, still I think that on this occasion they, to be consistent, will hardly approve of the conduct of the persons of whom I complain. I am sure there are in this House persons who differ on this point, and some who hold that it is good for people to enjoy their free will and indulge their own tastes in this direction; but although some hon. members may disapprove of the sale of intoxicating drinks, they will agree with me that this is not the way to ensure respect for the law, and that persons who are clothed with the authority of policemen should not be the only offenders, as in the instances complained of. I take it that such hon. members will not justify the conduct of these policemen in the means which they resorted to for detecting offences on this occasion, and particularly when it is distinctly proved that, although such habits may be prevailing, yet in these instances the policemen who gave the information were themselves the only offenders. I can speak with some authority in this matter, because, although disagreeing in some particulars with the hon. member to whom I have alluded in regard to his principles, I am one with him in this respect: that I am equally a total abstainer; but I think that persons should be allowed to indulge their tastes as long as they do it within the limits of the law, and that they should not be oppressed

unduly by persons in authority, as they are respectable citizens and respectable members of the community; and I take it that the body as a whole throughout the colony do bear the character of being good colonists and willing to abide by the law. But they do resent, and I seize this opportunity of resenting, this conduct, this means of oppression to which they have been subjected; and I say these informers are looked upon as unclean things, and as not having that respect accorded to them which should be accorded to every respectable and law-abiding colonist.

MR. BAKER: I think it is wrong for policemen to prosecute hotel-keepers, because we know everybody cannot afford to lay in a stock of beer for Sunday, and if a working man got in his beer on a Saturday night he would want it before he went to sleep. I should like to see the publichouses open for three or four hours on a Sunday, as in London, where people can get their drink on Sunday if they want it; but here they can't. Hotel-keepers are charged fifty notes for selling drink on week days, and when they sell it on Sundays they are charged another fifty notes as a fine. I don't hold with selling during Church hours, but I support the motion of the hon. member for Perth.

MR. A. FORREST: All hon. members will sympathise with the hon. member for Perth in his motion; but after the able speech he has made, I think he should withdraw the motion, because I am sure the Attorney General will look at this matter in a reasonable way, and will agree that the conduct of the police who informed in these cases cannot be said to be proper. It is most unreasonable that those who are employed to uphold the law should go to these places and represent themselves in a different way and in a manner that is most objectionable. I have, during the last few days, had a conversation with these people and others, and they say they are in a very awkward position—that they are not able to discern a traveller from others living in the neighborhood. A short time ago I went to Fremantle on a Sunday, and I was asked by the landlord of an hotel, "How am I to know whether you are a traveller or not?" He said: "Look across the road, and you will see a small

shanty where liquor is dispensed at all hours on a Sunday; that is called a club; they pay a few shillings a week, and are enrolled as members, and they can get their drink at all hours." Now, what I wish to say particularly is that the hon. member for Perth having brought this matter prominently before the House, I think the Attorney General will look it fairly in the face and will do what he can to help these people in the matter of fines. I must say I am rather astonished at the manner in which the police have acted in these cases. I call it most disgraceful, and such as no citizen of this colony would like to be subjected to. The police are supposed to uphold law and order, but when they go to publichouses and represent themselves as travellers—this has been said, though whether it has been proved is another thing—the magistrate in his wisdom may believe the policemen, and others may prefer to believe the independent citizens—these convictions have been brought about in a way which is not what Englishmen call fair play. I hope the hon. member for Perth will withdraw his motion, having done all that is possible; and the Government will, perhaps, try to amend the law with reference to policemen entering bars on Sundays in plain clothes and trying to obtain convictions.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: This motion is the result of some publicans infringing the law and being found out. They were infringing the law by sly grog-selling on Sunday, knowing that the law prohibits them from doing so. Now, while the law is in force the police are supposed to do their duty; and if there is anyone to blame in this matter, it is not the police but the law. I think that, as to the statement that the police represented themselves as travellers, if they did so they behaved in a very improper manner; but the police deny that they did so represent themselves, and I do not think we should accept a mere statement that they did so. I should like to see an alteration in the Act, in the direction of making anyone found on licensed premises on Sunday, other than lodgers or travellers, liable as well as the publicans. If we are going to stop Sunday drinking, and to prevent publicans from selling to other than lodgers or travellers, the police should not be hampered in this matter,



for, if so, how are you going to get a conviction? If a constable goes to a public-house in uniform and says, "I am a policeman," do you think a conviction could be obtained in that way? No. The intention of these policemen may be very good, and I think it is hardly fair to blame them for doing their duty in trying to put down Sunday grog-selling. If the present law does not meet with the approval of the House, then alter the law, and do not blame the policemen.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): Inasmuch as the action of a department of the Government is impugned in this motion, I think it is right that some member of the Government should state the views of the Government on the question. Unfortunately, the Ministerial head of the department does not sit in this House; therefore it falls to the lot of some other Minister to give any explanation or make any defence that may be necessary. I am glad to have listened to the remarks of the member for the Gascoyne, because we do not often have the felicity of congratulating ourselves on being supported by that hon. member. Certainly, on this occasion I think he is on the right track. He put the case succinctly and truthfully when he said that some publicans have been breaking the law and been found out. That is just the whole matter, and the hon. member for Perth must know that is so. What we have to do is to look at the law before we condemn the police. This motion seems to commit the House to the proposition that the recent prosecutions by the police show a want of respect for the law on their part; secondly, that the police were offenders in the matter; thirdly, that this conduct was not conducive to the promotion of law and order, and that steps should be taken by the Government to prevent the repetition of what has occurred. That is a large and somewhat long indictment, containing four counts. In the first place, what is the law on the subject? The law is a strict one, and the Government are not responsible for it. It is that any licensed victualler who sells liquor on Sunday under his license and contrary to the law shall pay a penalty of £50. The magistrate has no option in the matter: he must impose this fine for the first offence; and for the second

offence the fine is £100, together with the forfeiture of the license if the offences be within the same year. The Legislature has said positively and distinctly that licensed victuallers shall not sell liquor on Sunday except to lodgers and *bonâ fide* travellers. I do not mind saying here that it is notorious that publicans have been selling liquor on Sunday, right and left, in the past. I have been informed that the police have very great difficulty in obtaining convictions, and that in fact it has been practically impossible to make out a case against offenders, because all those who buy drink on Sunday are in sympathy with the publican, and will not inform against him. Now, what are the police driven to do with regard to offences of this nature? Unless they take measures of this sort to obtain entrance into a publichouse, the same as the general public do when going in one after another, they cannot obtain evidence that drink is being illegally sold; and, as the hon. member for the Gascoyne said, it would be useless for the police to go in uniform and proclaim themselves as constables; therefore they have to go in like the general public. When a constable goes in as one of the general public, in plain clothes, and asks for liquor, he does not procure the committal of an offence by doing so; he goes in to see if liquor is being sold, or if it is procurable in the ordinary way; and if the licensee sells to him as one of the general public, the licensee commits the offence by selling on Sunday. What is the difference between a constable in plain clothes asking for liquor and one of the general public asking for liquor? The small difference is that one is in sympathy with the publican, and does not mean to tell, while the other is not in sympathy with him, and does mean to tell. The one man, who goes to tempt the publican in his generous impulse to sell liquor on Sunday, does not mean to tell if he is supplied—he is a gentleman. But the poor policeman, who goes in for liquor and does mean to tell if he gets it, is stigmatised as a traitor, as a skulking or hulking traitor, and it is said he has concocted a foul scheme, and that he is a foul traitor.

MR. MOLLOY: A "hulking vagabond," I said.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): Terrible adjectives, these! I may say, on behalf of the police, that I repudiate these adjectives, which are not deserved. I say that what this particular policeman did he did under instructions from the Police Department, and therefore he is not to blame at all, and I hope he will not be held up to the country as a "hulking vagabond," or as a despicable character in any sense, because he was doing that which he was directed to do by the officers over him. I say the Government must abide by what is done; and what is more, I say it is necessary to do this—that we are driven to do this. What is the detective force for? Because quite as despicable things are done every day in the work of detecting crime—schemes are laid to detect those whom it is impossible to bring to justice in any other way. The Government deeply regret that any department of the service is driven to resort to measures of this sort. This is not a measure that one likes to see attempted; but, having regard to the notorious breaches of the law that occur on Sundays, and the reiterated statement of the police that it is impossible to get a conviction in the ordinary way, I say that in this situation it was justifiable that this proceeding should be resorted to. The hon. member for West Kimberley said it was not fair-play for the police to go in and ask for drink and then inform against the publican. I would ask, is it fair for the publican, who pays for a license to sell liquor on six days in the week, and is prohibited by heavy penalties from selling on the seventh day—is it fair for him to sell on the seventh day? Does he not know that he is committing an offence? And why should that publican turn round and say it is not fair for a person to inform against him?

MR. MOLLOY: The publican does not profess to be a protector of law and order.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): The policeman's duty is to see the law carried out—he is entrusted with that duty—and if he cannot carry it out without disguising himself, then he is driven to that. The publican knows he is breaking the law, and why should he break it at all? Why does not the publican keep his doors shut on Sunday? Out of the hundreds of persons who go

in and out of a public-house on a Sunday, in some cases in Perth, the publican turns round on one who happens to be a policeman in disguise, and calls him a traitor because he informs.

MR. MOLLOY: The policemen were the only persons drinking in these cases.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): Why should he object to the one man who informs against him when he had hundreds of others who did not inform? I could tell a story different from that which the hon. member has told to-night, if I chose to do it. I say that, having broken the law, let these publicans pay their fine and say no more about it.

MR. MOLLOY: You promised to consider an alteration of the law.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): Not at all. I say, personally, that I cannot see why the law should not allow public-houses to be open at certain hours on Sunday. I express that as a personal opinion, and I am inclined to think that public-houses might be opened in that way, for the very reason that the law is so openly broken, and yet that licensed victuallers cannot be detected in carrying on this Sunday trade. If that is so, it would be better to have the public-houses open at certain hours on Sunday, and have done with the trouble. I could appreciate an attempt made in this House to have the law altered in that respect, but I cannot appreciate an attempt made to blacken the character of the police, and to misrepresent and condemn them for having done their duty. These publicans are licensed only to sell on six days in the week, and if they sell on seven days I think we should get more money for the license. When a publican is fined £50 for selling on a Sunday, that amount is scarcely equal to £7 a week for every Sunday in the year. This motion, I think, partakes of impudence—knowing what we do—in complaining that the generous impulse of the publicans has been drawn upon; that the policemen were traitors for informing on them, and so on; that the publicans, through conveniencing the wants of these gentlemen, have suffered, and that sort of thing. I say that is not a true statement of the facts. The case of the widow was mentioned in particular. I do not know whether the hon.

member is aware, but the widow was convicted on account of the act of an agent who sold the liquor, and on an appeal to the Executive £40 of the penalty was remitted in her case. Therefore, no injustice can properly accrue in these cases when they come up for consideration by the Government. But when we find a publican complaining, I say he only pays by this fine £1 a week for Sunday trading, and he must not be caught more than once in twelve months, or he will lose his license. I really do not think the House has any reason to pass such a motion as this. A want of respect for the law has been shown, undoubtedly, by the licensed victuallers; and I say that he who sells the liquor is the offender.

MR. MOLLOY: Then a policeman is justified in getting drunk on a Sunday.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): I say that the conduct of the police in these cases was conducive to the observance of law and order; and I hope the House will not pass this motion. I say it is not the habit of the police to do these things, and that this is not such conduct as the head of the department likes to see; but when the department are hard driven, they must take exceptional measures, though I hope these exceptional measures need not be repeated. I hope the House will support the Government in this matter.

MR. TRAYLEN: I do not think I need add much to what has been said by the hon. member for the Gascoyne. I must say I was undoubtedly sceptical about that comet striking the earth, as it was said to have done a few days ago; but my doubts were removed on hearing the hon. member for Perth this evening, and I must now believe that the comet did strike the earth. I ask him whether he would like to hear epithets applied to the publicans, and which could be applied with an equal amount of justice, such as those offensive terms which he applied to policemen who were doing their duty. We know well enough that the publicans, in almost every instance, if not without exception, do sell on Sundays. They violate the law intentionally, not by being misled through persons claiming to be travellers when they are not such, but intentionally. I say that, almost without exception, they violate this law by selling

on the Sabbath day; and so little deterrent effect have these fines had, that last Sunday two drunken men were turned out of the Governor Broome Hotel, these fines having been imposed only a few days before. Such large profits are made by this Sunday selling that these fines have little deterrent effect. Some hard things were said against a particular police officer. I say that the publicans buy the silence of policemen. It is well known that as soon as policemen are recognised, the publicans treat them to beer, and many publicans allow the policemen to walk in and drink what they like, and that is the reason why so few cases are brought before the Courts, out of the hundreds which occur in Perth. If this statement will induce those at the head of the department to look a little more closely into the character of the men they employ, so much the better. I regret that it is necessary for a policeman to appear in such a character as one new policeman appeared in, to get a conviction, but it is a perversion of language to say he was in any sense of the word an offender.

MR. QUINLAN: I rise in sympathy with the motion of the hon. member for Perth, but I feel convinced his object will be gained if he now withdraws it, having brought the matter under the notice of the Government. I was not present to hear the epithets applied to the constable in question; but I am convinced that while it is not altogether a proper course, at any rate for any member of the police force to violate the law, as I claim that this policeman did, still I admit it is very hard to be fined under these circumstances. Whether this policeman had the money supplied to him by the Government for going round to these hotels, or whether he spent his own money, apparently he had some object in view, which I take to be the prospect of promotion, or, as it used to be here, getting half the amount of the fine, though I am informed this provision is no longer in force. There are other means of detecting offenders, without employing the police to induce publicans to violate the law. The suggestion of the hon. member for the Gascoyne, that all persons found on licensed premises during prohibited hours should be punished, would put an end to Sunday trad-

ing to a great extent. As one who has had some experience in this business, I speak with some degree of authority, and I can sympathise with the publican in a great degree; for his life is a very hard one, and in many instances, unless he clears out of his home on Sunday, he is continually annoyed by people requiring drink on that day the same as they do on other days. I can recall to the Attorney General's recollection that he promised to myself that he would bring in an amendment of the law; and this was one of the things I particularly pointed out to him. I hope the object of the hon. member for Perth will be gained to-night, to the extent that the Government will promise to amend the law on this subject as early as possible; and as the attention of the responsible officer in the department will be called to the matter by this motion, it might therefore be withdrawn. As the law exists at present, I should say the magistrate who tried these cases did only his duty, and I uphold the police in doing their duty, but in these cases I do think they exceeded their duty. I am pleased to hear that the Government have remitted the greater portion of the fine imposed on one of the offenders, a widow. While acknowledging that there was no option but to have fined these persons, still it seems hard that this lady should suffer through the indiscretion of a person on the premises, and the Government are to be congratulated on having remitted a portion of the fine. I hope that if the hon. member, who is the president of the Licensed Victuallers' Association, has been warm in the language used when submitting this motion, the House will give to his motion the attention which it deserves. I am thankful that I have done with that line of business, for I may say that the lives of publicans are harder than any other under the sun, and I say here that I would not undertake that work again for any amount of money.

MR. SIMPSON: We are getting away from the motion. Attention has been drawn a good deal to the Licensing Act and to some promise made by a member of the Ministry as to an amendment of it. It seems reasonable that if a publican contracts to sell on six days in the week, and he sells on seven days, he

should pay the penalty prescribed in the Act. But this motion is directed against a poor unfortunate "Bobby," when it ought to be directed against the Premier, because this action is the result of the administration of the law. This motion is directed to the extermination of a poor policeman, a man who is working long hours in a dangerous position, and getting seven shillings a day. It seems that an amendment of the Licensing Act is necessary, according to the opinions expressed by men connected with the trade; and one hon. member mentioned on the Sunday subsequent to these convictions two drunken men were turned out of a hotel. I say that this drinking on Sunday in "pubs" is a habit, a recognised institution—that is just the practical way to put it. A few Sundays ago I saw a man lying just off the verandah of a hotel, drunk. Last Sunday I noticed a man going to get a drink, and the trap door of the cellar had been left open, so that after getting his drink he fell down the trap, and had to be taken to the hospital. This motion points to the maintenance of a proper respect for law and order. We all agree that one of the supremest duties of the Government is to maintain a respect for law and order. I suppose that if a man commits murder, it is a breach of law and order; but in sending a detective to catch him, you are not particular as to how the detective tracks the murderer, nor as to the means he takes to arrest him. In the case of these publicans, I presume the department took the only means available for detecting offenders, and I am inclined to think it is impossible in any other way to obtain convictions against Sunday trading under our Licensing Act. To put the matter in a fair way, I move, as an amendment, to omit all the words after the word "that," with a view to inserting the following: "In view of the acknowledged difficulty of obtaining convictions against licensed victuallers for breach of the law against Sunday trading, this House sees no reason to express any condemnation of the action of the police in recent prosecutions."

MR. MOLLOY: Seeing that the object of the motion has been attained, in bringing under the notice of this House the conduct of the police in the cases referred to, and having heard the Attorney Gen-

eral's statement that it is not intended that such action should be repeated in the future; and also considering the expression of opinion by the Attorney General, that he thinks the law should be amended so as to provide for selling liquor during certain hours on Sundays,—

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): I said that was my private opinion.

MR. MOLLOY: Having the private opinion of the Attorney General again expressed, that he thinks it well that licensed victuallers should receive permission for the sale of liquor on Sundays during certain hours, and also the opinion that the practice referred to in the motion is not likely to be repeated, and that this will lead to an amendment of the law; and having had during this important debate the kind expressions of sympathy from many hon. members in regard to an alteration of the law which they think necessary, I am quite content to withdraw the motion.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. member cannot withdraw his motion unless the hon. member for Geraldton withdraws his amendment.

MR. SIMPSON: No, it had better go on.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): If the law were altered, it would not at all alter the case which the hon. member presents. I have not said that the conduct of the police which he complains of will not be repeated. I hope the necessity will not arise, but if the necessity does arise I can only say that the same thing will be repeated.

Question put, and amendment agreed to, and the motion, as amended, put and passed.

#### COST OF GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENTS IN PERTH NEWSPAPERS.

MR. DEHAMEL, in accordance with notice, moved, "That in the opinion of this House the amounts paid annually by the Government for advertising in the *West Australian* and *Daily News* respectively are excessive, and that in future the particulars of all tenders invited be advertised (unless under special circumstances) in the *Government Gazette* only." The hon. member said: The returns that have been laid on the table show a very terrible

waste of public money. These returns show that over £3,500 has been expended in advertising during the 23 months of Responsible Government; and of that sum we find that no less than £1,620 has gone into the pockets of the proprietors of the *West Australian* newspaper, and £1,625 into the pockets of the proprietors of the *Daily News*. If we calculate these amounts, we find that £900 a year is the rate of payment to each of these newspapers during the 23 months; and, on looking closely into the figures, we find that amongst the other eleven newspapers which have received advertisements, a sum of £130, or only £12 each, has been paid. The two Government organs—for we cannot call them anything else—have received 75 times more than the average of any sums paid to any other newspaper in this colony; and I say that, in the face of a subsidy such as this paid to these two papers—for I cannot call it anything else—it is no wonder that we find these papers supporting the Government through good report and ill report, whether right or wrong, on every single occasion. We find—to use the words of an hon. member the other night—that these papers have no less than 900 golden reasons before them for supporting the Government every year; in fact, the amount paid to these papers has been more than the amount paid to any Minister of the Crown, except the Premier. I have had some little experience myself in newspaper management: I have had a sorry experience, and should be sorry to go back to it; but I can say I have known even the editor of a newspaper to trim—I have known the editor of a newspaper to temper the wind to the shorn lamb, when the shorn lamb has been some advertiser who has given a good paying advertisement to that paper. I once thought that the *West Australian* and the *Daily News* were papers far too exalted, far too straight, to be affected by any reference to these 900 golden reasons; but in the face of the direct innuendoes which appeared in that leader of the *West Australian* yesterday, I would no longer dream of insulting either of those papers by suggesting that they were above the sordid influence of Government patronage. Of course I am aware that it was impossible for the purest Government in

the world, even in the wildest flight of their imagination, to dream of the possibility of leaders in the public Press being softened in any way, by a careful rubbing on of what we may call golden soap. Of course it is altogether impossible for a Minister to be influenced, when administering these applications of golden soap, by a knowledge of the possible effect of the very liberal dose, or overdose, of this very comforting mixture; but there is an old saying, and a true one, that Cæsar's wife should not only be chaste, but ought to be above suspicion. There are wicked people in the world, who have also some very evil imaginations, and who will talk; and when they find that the papers which invariably support the Government on every occasion receive these 900 golden reasons a year for so doing, they begin to wonder whether everything is exactly what it ought to be. I have no doubt that the Government will feel for their own salvation when they stop this abuse—for abuse and unnecessary waste it undoubtedly has been. Without imputing any *mala fides* to the Government, I hold them responsible for the most culpable neglect in allowing the subsidies to these papers to run up to such an extent as we find them, according to that return which has been placed before us. I have no doubt that, even before I commenced to speak—and I am confirmed in that view now by a remark of the Premier's—that the head of the Government is aghast himself at the astounding total to which these advertisements have amounted. But the Premier is also the Treasurer of this colony, and I say that he ought to have known, and that it was his duty to know, how these moneys were being applied. There is an old legal maxim, "*Ignorantia juris non excusat*"; so that every subject is bound to know, for instance, that "fan-tan" is a highly immoral and improper game; but the people who know that law can hear of it only in an incidental way, although all are supposed to know it is the law. The Hon. the Premier, however, being the Treasurer of this colony, stands in a different position, for as a public servant he is bound to know how the funds of this colony are disposed of; although I firmly believe that the Premier did not know, and had no idea of, the amount that was being

paid for these advertisements to these papers; for if he had known, I should say that he himself was guilty of very grave neglect in not ascertaining and checking this useless expenditure. Now, I say that nearly the whole of the advertisements that have been inserted, and for which we have paid so much, are practically unnecessary. The Press have tried—I refer to that leader in the *West Australian* of yesterday—to throw the people, and probably this House, off the scent, by suggesting some silly nonsense about the omission to advertise some railway pleasure trip somewhere, last year, not causing so many people to take the trip as was expected, because it had not been sufficiently advertised. But this motion does not refer to any railway advertisements—it refers merely to the particulars of all tenders invited, and it expressly says that, unless under special circumstances, they shall be advertised only in the *Government Gazette*. Now we have a splendid printing establishment in this city of Perth. I find that in 1891 that establishment cost us £4,800; that in 1892, if the amount voted has been expended, that establishment has cost us £7,000, and that in these two years a sum of £4,000 of the public funds has been expended in new machinery and type. I say that, under the able management which undoubtedly exists in that department, and in proportion to the population of the colony, we have a printing establishment, without exception, second to none of those in the other colonies. One of the duties to be performed by that department, and for which we pay, is the regular issue of the *Government Gazette*. I have given the cost of the establishment, but I am unable to find any mention of the receipts for this department, and the only explanation I can offer is that the returns are too insignificant to be worth bringing under the notice of this House; and this is no wonder, because although we publish every tender and every advertisement in the *Government Gazette*, we set to work to neutralise the effect by paying two newspapers this large amount of money simply for publishing these very same advertisements, and ensuring their competition with us, and doing their best to ruin the circulation of our own paper, which we pay so much to maintain. I

say it is a well known rule and a fact that large advertisers are allowed the benefit of a considerably reduced rate.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): That was done in Albany, perhaps.

MR. DEHAMEL: And in Perth too. There is not an auctioneer in Western Australia or in any part of the world who does not receive a rebate of 20 to 30 per cent. on every advertisement that he puts in a newspaper. And yet, in this instance, the Government have been the largest and best supporters of these two papers, and I will undertake to say that they have paid every charge fully, and the very fullest letter of the scale of the advertising charges. But I have something else to tell the House, and that is that the *Daily News* offered to accept a Government contract for advertising at one-fifth the rate at present charged.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion): When?

MR. DEHAMEL: I cannot say, but that fact was stated in the presence of a witness, an hon. member of this House.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion): It is not correct at all.

MR. DEHAMEL: The statement was that the *Daily News* offered to accept a contract under which it would advertise the whole of the Government work at one-fifth the rate at present charged to the Government. I say that, instead of £900 a year, as paid for the last two years, that contract rate would be £180 a year only.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion): I rise to a point of order. As a member of the Government, I beg distinctly to deny the assertion that has been made.

THE SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

MR. DEHAMEL: The Commissioner of Crown Lands has, unhappily, forgotten himself. But I ask why, having this offer made to them, they did not accept it?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): It was never made to me.

MR. DEHAMEL: The statement was made by one of the proprietors of the *Daily News* to me yesterday. I say that if we drop this needless expense in these advertisements, the effect will be that we

shall save pretty nearly £2,000 a year in advertisements, and also compel people to become subscribers to the *Government Gazette*, and thereby increase the use and advantages of our own official organ. I do not say that the alteration of trains or anything of that sort should be published only in the *Government Gazette*, because such advertisements would not be seen; but every contractor who wants to obtain a tender, knowing these were published fully in the *Government Gazette*, would take in the *Gazette* and get from it all the information he required. I say we ought to look out and stop this expenditure of £3,500 during 23 months, as an excessive sum to pay for advertising; for we are now, as it were, in the green tree—we are borrowing money and spending it freely; but the dry time has got to come, and when it does come it will not be a question of trying to lop off thousands, but it will then be a question of trying to lop off hundreds. It is the plain duty of every member to agree to this motion, which, if carried, will at all events prevent this excessive waste of public funds in unnecessary advertising.

MR. SOLOMON: I am rather surprised at the remarks of the hon. member, and I think it is a pity that any member of this honorable House should rise and accuse the Government of sordid motives in paying money to newspapers for advertising to an amount which is paltry in comparison with other expenditure in the colony. It was only the other evening that this House passed the Companies Bill, in which this House decided that, in addition to advertising in the *Government Gazette*, every such company should also advertise certain matters in one of the daily papers; and in doing that this House cast upon the public of the colony a duty which the hon. member for Albany is now asking the House not to allow the Government to do in the interest of the community. We are all aware that during the past two or three years large outlays have been made in public works, and I think that in dealing liberally with advertisements during that time the Government have acted in the best interests of the colony, in giving publicity not only to the loans we have had at our disposal, but also to the works that have had to be constructed out of those loans. And it is not only the

inside of the colony we have to study, but we have to be careful of the impression we create outside, among the people who may think it worth their while to come and settle among us; and when those people outside see something referring to Western Australia, and the works that are advertised to be done in the colony, they will be attracted to it, whereas without the publicity of these works by advertising, those people may remain in total ignorance of what is being done here. Therefore, although possibly there may have been a little excess in the expenditure for advertising, yet what the Government have done in this matter they have done with a view to furthering the interests of Western Australia. I shall certainly oppose a motion of this description, for I think we should be more liberal with a Liberal Government. The Government show a disposition to be liberal in every respect, and if we tie their hands in a matter of this kind, I say we are doing a wrong thing, and possibly injuring the colony to a very great extent. I shall certainly oppose the motion.

MR. A. FORREST: I rise only to say a few words, as a representative of one of the newspapers referred to. I wish to utterly deny the statement made by the hon. member for Albany, that the proprietors of the *Daily News*, or anyone representing it, offered to insert the Government advertisements for one-fifth of the rate now charged. I deny it totally, because it could not happen without my knowledge. I object to the hon. member making such a statement without the slightest foundation, especially as the hon. member was engaged in Press matters for many years, and should know better. Such a statement does an injury to the newspaper and to the Government, by creating the impression that these advertisements could be inserted for four-fifths less than at present.

MR. DEHAMEL: The statement was made to me yesterday, in the presence of Mr. R. F. Sholl.

MR. A. FORREST: If such a statement was made, the person referred to had no right to make it.

MR. SIMPSON: In rising to support the motion, I wish to say that I had no knowledge, and no idea, and never did imagine, and never will imagine, that

moneys were supplied to either of these papers to support the Government—and practically that is what has been suggested—but I do think there has been too lavish an expenditure in advertising in these newspapers. Last night I turned up a copy of the Melbourne *Argus*, a paper fairly well known, and the advertising space in it reasonably valuable; and I compared the space occupied by Government advertisements in that paper with the space occupied locally, and I can assure the House that where the Government in Victoria use one inch of newspaper space for advertising, we use five inches.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): They pay much more for it.

MR. SIMPSON: Excuse me, the proportion is nothing like the same. The advertisements in the *Argus* are printed in very small type. I do not say the Government should not take every reasonable opportunity of advertising, but the idea of our spending £1,800 a year for advertising in two newspapers in Perth, where about one-fourth of the population of the colony is located, would simply mean that the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria would have to spend from £70,000 to £80,000 a year if they advertised in the same proportion. It is said that the large public works that are going on necessitate this large expenditure in advertising; but how many men have we in this colony who are capable of taking up any large public work, or let us ask who have got these contracts? Would not an ordinary advertisement and a reference to the *Government Gazette* have supplied all the information necessary to any intending tenderer? I see in one of the newspapers I take up an advertisement of four or five inches, and I may say three inches of that space are occupied by the advertisement of Western Australian railways. I do think the expenditure is lavish, that much of it has grown unobserved and unchecked; and I do think the time has come when the Government should keep their eyes on matters of this sort, and practise wise economies. In connection with this matter, the last time I was over in Melbourne I asked a friend to walk to the Victoria Public Library and see the West Australian newspapers, but on finding that the newspapers



of this colony were not kept there I asked the reason for it, and was told, "We don't pay the subscription." I say, therefore, that this colony would gain more by sending out gratis copies of the local newspapers to the public libraries in the other colonies, than can be gained by spending money on these advertisements. I do think the expenditure in advertising is lavish, but I do not imply personal motives—these are better left outside. If we have a gross expenditure of £700 or £800 a year in advertising in Perth newspapers, and if we issue the *Government Gazette* free, I think that would be better. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

MR. QUINLAN: No one appears anxious to speak on this question, for reasons, I suppose, best known to hon. members. I do not speak with any authority on this subject, beyond this, that my experience of the Press has been very limited—limited but bitter to a small degree—in connection with a defunct journal known as *The People*. I do not think that journal partook very largely of the revenue of the country.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): It got something.

MR. QUINLAN: Well, I am astonished at the large amount that has been paid to the two Perth papers in proportion to any amount paid to other newspapers in the colony. I think the requirements of economy would be met by the amount being reduced in some way, on the suggestion of the member for Geraldton, that tenders for public works should be advertised in the *Government Gazette* as meeting most of the requirements, because any contractor or other person interested in tendering might at least pay 5s. a year for the *Gazette*, which I believe is now the charge. I did not hear the speech of the hon. member for Albany, but I do not agree with the view generally taken by that hon. member when he imputes improper motives to the Government. I have no hesitation in saying again that the Government, in my honest opinion, do not do anything other than that which they think is in the best interests of the country; but I do think the expenditure is extraordinarily high for these two papers, and that the motion will have some good effect in the direction of economy.

MR. DEHAMEL: I desire to say I did not impute any improper motives to the Government.

MR. QUINLAN: I said as a rule the hon. member appears to speak in that tone; but in this particular instance I support him.

MR. LOTON: Most hon. members will have been surprised at the amount of money that has been expended by the Government in advertising, and I am going so far as to say that the Government themselves must have been surprised. But we live in an age of combinations among people running in the same line of business—in an age of syndicates and unions—and while the Government in the past two years have contributed very largely in the payment of advertisements, they have not been the only people thus imposed upon. Some time ago—possibly before the introduction of Responsible Government—there was a combination between these Perth papers to put up their prices for advertising; and it is a singular fact that these two papers should have received almost exactly the same amount from the Government for advertising during that period. Therefore it is palpable at once that whatever one paper charges, the other one should do the same; and it is very likely that the Government, in the immense calls made on their finances, would not notice for some time the extreme charges that were made for this particular work. I do not say this in defence: the Government are quite able to defend themselves; but the conclusion I have arrived at is that the newspapers have combined together, I suppose to make newspaper proprietorship a paying concern, and they have not only gone to the public, but they have gone to the Government, and no doubt they will continue to do that so long as they can in their own interest. It now behoves the Government to see whether they cannot efficiently advertise, without going to this enormous expense; and I think the direction indicated by the motion is a very proper one, and shows in many instances where this inexcusable expense may be avoided. There are circumstances where the greatest publicity is necessary to be given in the newspapers; but, in connection with contracts, in many instances it will be sufficient to

merely call attention to them, and the details to be given in another way. Not having myself closely examined into the matter, I have noticed that for some six months past the length of the Government advertisements has been very materially reduced; the heads of departments have no doubt seen themselves that the charges were high; and apparently the Government have for some time taken steps to curtail the expenditure in this direction.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The amount that has been paid to these newspapers no doubt does strike hon. members as somewhat large; but we must remember that these figures show the expenditure for two years, not for one, and these big figures always look more imposing when put together; so we had better leave out the total of £3,500, and say £1,800 for one year. But, personally, I know nothing of this matter. I am not aware of any alteration having been made by the present Government in these advertisements. We are advertising now the same sort of things as we advertised in the past; and advertising is a departmental matter, which the Cabinet, as a body, have not, up to the present, had anything to do with. Each Minister advertises what he thinks necessary in his department; and from my own knowledge I know that the departments which have the most advertising, the Works and Lands, have been very anxious to reduce the expenditure; and I think that some time ago, as the hon. member for the Swan has said, the fact that the advertisements were costing too much was brought prominently before them, and I know they gave the matter considerable attention, and have reduced the size of the advertisements. Of course I am quite aware that we could do without advertising these public works, but I doubt whether that course would pay. It is generally considered now that advertising pays. We know of plenty of things that have become very prominent through extensive advertising, and as these newspapers travel to other parts of the world, I cannot but think that in a great many instances the advertising of our public works does good, by showing beyond the colony what is going on within it—showing what public works are being constructed; so that, if we pay a little

over-much by way of advertising, I am not certain that we lose in the end. The prices at which our railway contracts have been taken should also be considered, and that fact having gone abroad must certainly draw a considerable amount of attention to the place. These newspapers circulate elsewhere, and extracts are made from them, and I know they have a considerable circulation outside the colony. I am not one who wishes to spend money unnecessarily, but I do not desire to be niggardly in relation to the Press. I quite recognise that the Press in this colony is a very important estate, and that it does a considerable amount of work for the public benefit, and no doubt with the view to a commercial profit. I also recognise that the Press has been most enterprising in this colony, and I have no hesitation in saying that the most enterprising thing in Western Australia is the Press of the colony. The manner in which it supplies the public with news from places outside the colony is most creditable; and I have taken the trouble to find out how much the newspapers have paid to the Government for the news telegrams received during the last 23 months, but having forgotten to bring the return with me, I cannot state the exact amount, though I know it is something like £1,400 or £1,500 that we have received from these two newspapers for telegrams—about £900 from the *West Australian*, and £600 from the *Daily News*. These payments for telegrams show a large and enterprising expenditure, and that their receipts are not all profit, at any rate. When we open our morning paper, we expect to see not only the local news, but news from all parts of the world, and we do see it all. I do not believe in being niggardly in dealing with the Press, but the rule that has been observed in the departments is that any advertisement of general concern is published in the Perth newspapers, which have a general circulation, and that any advertisement of local concern—that is which relates to Geraldton, or Bunbury, or Albany, for instance—is also published in the local newspaper. I have yet to learn, even with all the assistance that the newspapers have received, that they are very flourishing institutions; indeed I believe they are just the opposite; and although recently

—since the establishment of Responsible Government—the newspapers in Perth have been a little more flourishing, yet I know that for years and years they languished under difficulties. So that it is all very well for hon. members, especially the hon. member for Albany, whom all the papers seem to be attacking at present, to try and run a tilt against the papers; but let us be fair to the Press, and then we may expect to be fairly dealt with by them. I do not wish to subsidise newspapers—God forbid that I should be so mean! I have not been consulted on the matter of advertising, except in the most general way, and I have not said anything more than “Do not be niggardly about a few advertisements.” It is all very well for the hon. member to charge me with culpable neglect, but if he expects the Treasurer to see every account of the colony that is paid, he expects more than he will get. The accounts are paid under the Audit Act, and under the law there is no necessity for the Treasurer to see any account that is paid by the department. The hon. member forgets that we have Responsible Government, and that the Ministers of departments are responsible to the country and to this House; and if he thinks the Treasurer knows every account that is paid for the colony, the Treasurer does not know anything of the kind, his duty being to deal with totals rather than with details. During the last two years we have had almost a revolution in this colony. Things have changed altogether from the old state of stagnation to a state of great prosperity and progress. We have had public works started from one end of the colony to the other; every district and every town has had public works carried out or commenced; and do hon. members wish to gauge the public expenditure during these two years by what it has been in the past, or what it may be in the future? The fact is that there were so many works to be done in every direction, in every town and district; and I have yet to learn that this expenditure, large as it may seem, has been in any way wasted. I believe the prices at which we have let public contracts, and the results obtained, have amply repaid the amount we have expended in advertising; and I say, further, that if we have in any way assisted

the Press in this colony, by advertising—I do not wish to subsidise newspapers—we have assisted those who are doing a good work in the colony, and are doing their best to proclaim it far and wide. In these circumstances, I very much regret that the hon. member has moved this motion. I do not wish to give a single sixpence to the Press that they do not honestly earn. I shall be glad, and I am sure my colleagues will be also, to exercise a close supervision over these advertisements, so that we shall not pay anything that is unnecessary; but I cannot agree that to advertise in the *Government Gazette* is a sufficient way of advertising what is going on in the colony. It is a retrograde movement, and is not followed in any other place that I know of.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: Yes, in South Australia; the details are advertised only in the *Government Gazette*.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I thank the Press for the support they have given to this Government, and to this Parliament, in carrying on the affairs of government during the past two years; but to say that I, or any member of the Government, have in any way subsidised the Press, is a charge which I repudiate as a base and shameless fabrication. If the hon. member had moved a resolution calling attention to the large amount paid to the Press for advertising, and asking that the Government should give attention to the matter, he would be doing what is right; but when he says we should follow another course and should advertise in some other way, I say he is interfering, and improperly interfering, with the management of Government affairs. We are here as trustees of this House to carry out the business of the country, and I do not think it is right for this House to say to us, “You should advertise only in this way or in that way.” I say the House would be taking a responsibility in a paltry detail of administration. I hope the hon. member will withdraw his motion, or at any rate leave out the last part of it, because it would be a blow to the principle of Responsible Government in saying how we should carry on the business of the country.

MR. MOLLOY: I was surprised at first on seeing the amounts paid to these

newspapers; but having had some experience in newspaper management, I consider that, having regard to the progress which the country has made and the number of public works advertised during the past two years, we cannot say these amounts for advertising are so excessive as has been stated. I think the object of the hon. member will be attained by his having called attention to this matter, with a view to greater economy being exercised in the future. But we are dependent on the newspapers for a considerable amount of the progress of the country, and it is in this way that the newspapers are deserving of a liberal support. They give us reports of our doings; they advertise the colony; they have to keep up a large staff for performing this work; and surely they cannot afford to engage a staff of reporters and a large number of printers merely to set up items of news that people may read, unless they have some source of revenue to pay for that expenditure. With the progress of the colony, these newspapers should progress, and it is only reasonable to suppose that the proprietors should have a fair amount of profit out of their venture; and if any business is deserving of support, it certainly is the Press of any country. We have in this colony a Press of which we may be proud; for, considering the population and the state of efficiency which the papers have attained, we have every reason to be proud of the Press in our colony. The progress of the colony is to a large extent due to our newspapers; they have advertised us abroad; they report our sayings and doings; they endeavor to attract population by the ventilation of public questions, and by pointing out that this is a colony where persons can live in comfort; and they tend largely to the development of the country. But it is another thing for the Government to be lavish in their expenditure to a degree of recklessness. Now that attention has been called to the admittedly large sums expended in this direction, it will direct the attention of the heads of departments to this matter, and greater supervision of this expenditure may be expected in the future. It has been pointed out by the hon. member for the Swan that other businesses have had to increase their expenditure in this direction; and

surely, if private businesses find it necessary to do so in advertising, it can only be expected that the Government should do the same. I do not think the object of the hon. member will be attained by having the tenders advertised exclusively in the *Government Gazette*, because we know the *Gazette* contains no readable news which will make it generally interesting. On the contrary, through the want of publicity in the direction of advertising, this expedient might incur greater expense in the cost of our public works.

MR. RICHARDSON: It strikes me that the practical way to look at the matter is this: the Government are large contractors in these particular items of expenditure, and they ought to do as other men do when dealing in a large way—they ought to make special contracts. If they do not do so, they depart from the rule of large business houses, for where a large quantity is required a large reduction will be expected. Let the newspapers understand that if they won't quote a reasonable rate, the advertisements should be withdrawn. I would suggest that the last two lines of the motion should be struck out, and then the motion might be agreed to.

MR. DEHAMEL: I am willing to amend it in that way.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. member cannot amend his own motion. It may be amended by some one else.

MR. RICHARDSON: I move, as an amendment, to strike out all the words after the word "excessive."

MR. LEFROY: I cannot follow the hon. member for Albany altogether in this matter. It appears to me that this is an age of advertising, and it does not behove the Government of the country to be backward in this respect. In these days we see everything advertised, and I do not think the Government would be behind the times if they stuck up bills to advertise the colony. As to advertising in the *Government Gazette*, it would be almost useless, for it is to be found only in the hands of justices of the peace and of publicans. I do not know why those persons get them; it may be that they get them free, as is suggested. The expense of advertising can be curtailed, and no doubt the Government will en-

deavor to do so now that attention is called to the matter. It may appear extraordinary that the Perth papers should receive so much more than other papers for advertising, but it must be remembered that these Perth papers are the only ones which circulate generally from one end of the colony to the other, the local papers having only a local circulation. I think hon. members should look at the expenditure in this light, and although the amount paid for these advertisements appears excessive, still it would be competent for the Government to curtail their advertising, which in these days is a necessary thing; and if they can get it done at a less cost I am sure they will try to do so.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: As I am in a manner responsible for this motion being brought before the House, I should like to say, with the hon. member for the Swan, that where there is combination there are likely to be high charges, but at the same time those charges must be resisted where possible. The means used in South Australia would be a wise one to adopt here. I do not mean to give up advertising in the newspapers, but to advertise the details in the *Government Gazette* only, and draw attention to them by advertisements in the newspapers. Then the intending contractors would obtain the *Gazette* to see what were the details.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): How does the plan work?

MR. R. F. SHOLL: I believe it works well elsewhere. The Press of this colony, prior to the introduction of Responsible Government, had very bad times; they have had an uphill game; but that is no reason why the Government should pay more for their advertisements than there is any necessity to do, nor to pay more for their advertisements than private individuals do.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Do we do that?

MR. R. F. SHOLL: Other people get an allowance of 15 per cent.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion): That is only for a certain trade.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: The Government, as very large advertisers, may reasonably expect a rebate also. With reference to the offer of a contract, I think the hon. member for Albany was

mistaken. As I understood it, the *Daily News* was prepared to enter into a contract with the Government, but there was a difficulty in the way in consequence of the proprietors of the *West Australian* being members of Parliament, and not able to make a contract with the Government. That is where the combination comes in. But on that occasion the gentleman representing the *Daily News* said that paper was prepared to enter into a contract with the Government, to insert advertisements at 1s. an inch instead of 4s. an inch. With regard to charges, I have a comparative statement which shows that the *Daily News* charges 4s. an inch as against 5s. an inch for the Melbourne *Argus*; and I have two advertisements here, one inch each in length, the one in the *Daily News* containing 45 words, and the other in the *Argus* containing 81 words. This comparison makes the *Daily News* scale about 45 per cent. more expensive than the *Argus* scale, and I believe the *Argus* is one of the most expensive advertising mediums in the world; so that the *Daily News* ought to be a very handsomely paying concern. I suppose the *West Australian* charges the same rate; so that I am not surprised at the £900 a year which has been paid to each of these papers for publishing the Government advertisements. With regard to what fell from the Premier about the large amount received for telegrams, I do not know whether that affects the question or not.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): If they were not able to afford the cost, they could not pay it.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: I suppose it pays the papers to provide this news, and to make their sheets as interesting as possible. Even when they abuse me, it may be interesting to some people. I suppose a large portion of the amount paid to the Government for telegrams has to be refunded to the South Australian Government. With regard to advertising public works, I dare say there have been a great many works advertised on that account, but if the Government accept the suggestion as to curtailing the length, and giving the details in the *Government Gazette*, that would reduce the cost in the future. I hope the hon. member will either withdraw his motion or accept the amendment.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn): As the head of the department which is largely responsible for this expenditure, I have been much surprised by some remarks made this evening, especially those of the hon. member for Albany. The Premier has answered him very fully, and has anticipated a good deal of what I should have said myself. He said that possibly, since the attention of the Government has been drawn to this matter, it will effect a change. I can tell hon. members it will not effect a change in the least; and I shall be glad to give a premium to any hon. member who can show how to advertise the same amount of information in less space. The ingenuity of officers in the department has been exercised on this very point, with a view to advertising the chief information, and referring the public to the *Government Gazette* for details. That is what has taken place for some time past, and hon. members will find that the space now occupied is as small as it can be made for the purpose. It is nonsense to say that the necessary information can be given in less space. Hon. members are running away with the idea that the amount is a large one, but if they will consider the large amount of work that has had to be done in the colony, they can realise then that the amount of necessary advertising has not been excessive. The difference between a Government advertisement and the stock advertisement of a business firm is, that the latter is a standing advertisement almost without change for a period, whereas the advertisement of a Government Department appears only a few times and may have to be broken up at any moment; and the papers have intimated to us that they would make a considerable reduction in the charge for any advertisement that could be fixed for a period, or for a fixed space to continue for a period. If we could say we would take one column or two columns of space for a couple of months, we could get a reduction, but we have adopted the principle of paying only for the space we use. The hon. member for the Gascoyne has drawn attention to the custom adopted in South Australia; but if he had noticed the Government advertisements in the Perth papers during the

last month, when any supplies have been called for, he would have seen that is the plan also adopted here; that is, attention is called to the contract, and reference for details is made to the *Government Gazette*. The absolute charges for advertising in the newspapers are altogether another matter, for the papers themselves to decide. As far as the Works and the Lands Departments are concerned, we have had this in our minds, and have endeavored to obtain a lower rate for advertising; but the rates charged to the Government are the current rates, and no difference is made whatever; and so long as the Government pay the absolute current rates in the colony for advertising, this House will have no reason to complain. If our advertisements are put in as at present—that is the type liable to be broken up at any time—we must pay the same as the ordinary public would have to pay. Attention has been drawn to the fact of some offer of a reduced rate having been made to the Government.

MR. DEHAMEL: I accept the version given by the hon. member for the Gascoyne.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn): A proposal was made to me as Director of Public Works, but no proposal has been made representing anything like the figures mentioned. There is no breach of confidence in saying that the *Daily News* and the *West Australian* work together with regard to advertisements, and if any higher charge is made during this month for advertisements, you will find that one paper does it to-day and the other will do it to-morrow. I do not find fault with that, because it is a matter of business between them. But to have it assumed that there will be going £900 a year to each of these papers from the Works Department or any other Department, as a fixed quantity, would be asking hon. members to say that the present members of the Government are not fit for their places. To-day, for instance, the Government have only three advertisements; at the end of the week we may have eight or ten. I can give no hope whatever to this House in the direction of making the advertisements smaller than they appear at present, except those particular advertisements that relate to our

large railway contracts; and I may tell hon. members that the principle we adopt is that we give as much information as we can within the least space, and we advertise that same information in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland, and I believe this publicity has the effect of bringing to this colony tenders that we would not have received if we did not give that publicity to our public works and to the colony. With reference to the motion, I am grateful to the hon. member for Albany, for I have received some good object lessons from him, and I express my gratitude to him.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS** (Hon. W. E. Marmion): I do not feel surprised at the astonishment expressed by hon. members concerning the figures placed before them in connection with the advertising expenditure. I knew perfectly well that they would be surprised, because I was aware, especially during the greater part of last year, of the heavy amounts that were being expended month after month for advertising, and particularly in the Perth newspapers. I presume the hon. member for Albany will not take credit to himself for a monopoly of all the wisdom, and all the care, and all the economy that should be possessed by members of the Government and by hon. members of this House. You all know him to be a very cautious hon. gentleman; but I trust he will give me, at all events, the credit of being as desirous of effecting an economy in the department I happen to control as he would be in that same department, and also the credit of knowing as much, if not more, about matters of business as the hon. member, and possibly knowing better how to effect a bargain. I can assure him and other hon. members that every effort on my part was made to effect economy in this matter of advertising, and if the hon. gentleman doubts my word, as I have every reason to think he will, —

**MR. DEHAMEL:** Why?

**THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS** (Hon. W. E. Marmion): Because when an hon. gentleman thinks it proper to cast a stigma, as he did, on the occupants of these benches, I am not surprised at anything he thinks afterwards. I can assure him that every effort

was made on my part to reduce this expenditure, and if the hon. member for Albany would refer to those who conduct the Perth newspapers, he would find that what I state is correct. But my efforts were in vain. It was absolutely necessary to advertise; the lands of the colony had to be disposed of to the best advantage; and I, as a man of business, knew perfectly well that it was necessary, in order to obtain the best price, that the lands should be well and properly advertised. Knowing that, I endeavored to have the work done at the lowest price possible. It was done at the lowest price possible, because it was done at the lowest price which could be obtained, after every effort made on my part.

**MR. DEHAMEL:** This motion refers to the particulars of all the tenders, and not to advertisements of Crown lands.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS** (Hon. W. E. Marmion): That is the second portion. The hon. member need not endeavor to throw dust in my eyes. I am too old a Parliamentary hand for that. The hon. member was rather annoyed at my interruption during his speech, for I doubt very much whether it can be shown now that an excessive amount has been paid to the newspapers for advertising the large amount of land which was sold last year. I may say that £25,000 worth of land was sold by auction during last year in the department over which I have control, and if you place  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on that as the cost of advertising, we have an amount of £626 for advertising the land sold in one year. I do not consider that would be an excessive sum. Then, as to the large amount paid for advertising in the Perth newspapers: they circulate through the principal centres of population in the colony, where there are the greatest number of buyers and tenderers; and wherever lands are to be disposed of, or tenders to be called for the construction of works, the advertisements are inserted in the local papers circulating there. But I do not think it is necessary to elaborate this question, for I can assure hon. members that, as far as I am concerned, every effort has been, and will be made, to reduce the cost in advertising as much as possible. But I will not be prepared to assist in the sacrifice of our lands, because it may

happen to cost a small amount of money for properly advertising them, when there happens to be a demand on the part of the public for the sale of Crown lands by public auction. The Act itself binds us to advertise in the *Government Gazette*, and in at least one local newspaper. But I wish to allude to the manner in which the members of the Government generally were dealt with by the hon. member for Albany. Speaking of this expenditure, I am pleased to find the hon. member stood alone in the opinion expressed by him; for not by the faintest echo in this House have the aspersions which he endeavored to cast on the Government been responded to. Not one hon. member has endeavored to insinuate, as was done by the hon. member for Albany, that the members of this Government had subsidised—that was the word—subsidised the Press of this colony—for what? With the idea of earning their support; with the idea of keeping the members of the Government in their seats; with the idea of keeping the hon. member out of those seats. This, sir, was the suggestion conveyed by the hon. member's remarks. We heard a great deal about golden oil or golden syrup. [MR. DEHAMEL: "Soap," I said.] Well, "golden soap,"—the suggestion of the hon. member's diseased mind. I would remind him of something else that is largely advertised in all the newspapers throughout the world, and I would advise him to read that advertisement. The hon. member's liver must be somewhat deranged, for in his proper state of health he could not have treated us to the lecture he did this evening, by which he sought to instigate and lead hon. members to believe that the members of the Government were the dishonorable persons he tried to make them out to be. I say again the hon. member's liver must be slightly deranged, and I would advise him to seek refuge in the advertisement I have recommended to his notice. I find that the hon. member alluded to golden soap—I thought he said "syrup"—and I was going to recommend him to take a very large dose of "Mother Seigel's Syrup," which I believe is a good thing for gentlemen whose livers are out of order, as I believe is that of the hon. member at the present time

MR. DE HAMEL: The question of lands was purposely kept out of this motion; therefore all those words of wisdom which fell from the Commissioner of Crown Lands are beside the question.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion): Look at the first two lines, which assert that the amounts are excessive.

MR. DEHAMEL: So far as the sales of Crown lands are concerned, for which tenders are not called, and which are bound to be advertised in the local Press, most of the remarks of the Hon. the Commissioner have been absolutely thrown away. In the face of the assurance of the Hon. the Premier, that he will direct his attention to this matter and will see that these advertisements are kept within reasonable and proper bounds, I am perfectly satisfied that the object of this motion has been fulfilled; and therefore, with the leave of the House, I beg to withdraw the motion.

Motion and amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

#### SWAN RIVER (FREMANTLE) HARBOR WORKS AND TRAMWAY BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn), in moving the second reading of this Bill, said: The clauses of this Bill explain the object. The Bill is a necessary adjunct to the resolution passed by this House last session, for the construction of harbor works at Fremantle; and the procedure in this case is the same as in the construction of railways, the Government having first to get the authority of this House for the expenditure of money on a certain work, and afterwards to bring down a Bill authorising the construction of the railway at a specified spot. The present Bill gives the Government authority to construct certain moles running out from the seashore, also a tramway leading to these moles, and gives certain powers to the Commissioner, under the Act of 1878, for the resumption of any lands that may be necessary. The Bill is a short one, and I feel sure must commend itself to hon. members. I may also say that, under a measure of this sort, it is possible that the Government would be liable at any



time for accidents that might occur to vessels or boats running against this breakwater while it is under construction. I now move the second reading of the Bill.

Motion—put and passed.  
Bill read a second time.

**BILLS OF SALE ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.**

**SECOND READING.**

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt), in moving the second reading of this Bill, said: This is a very important Bill, though short, and is very much required. There are three principles in the measure. In the first place we propose to alter the law, which now allows 60 days within which a bill of sale over chattels may be registered, and a copy, with affidavit, be filed; but this period is considered to be much too long in the case of a bill of sale executed in or near Perth. We propose to enact that a bill of sale executed within 20 miles of Perth may be registered within seven days; if executed beyond 20 miles, but within 300 miles of Perth, the bill may be registered within 30 days; and if executed beyond 300 miles from Perth it may be registered within 60 days. The object of registering a bill of sale is to give notice to creditors who may be affected by a bill of sale given by their debtor; and to allow a period of 60 days in Perth for the registration of a bill of sale seems absurd, because for 60 days the bill could be held back from registration, and thus prevent other creditors from ascertaining its existence. This amendment is supported by the Perth Chamber of Commerce, and by commercial men doing business here. In consequence of that amendment, it will be necessary to re-enact sections 8 and 9 of the principal Act, which are re-enacted in sections 4 and 5 of this Bill, because it has been found impossible to word any alteration of the second section without re-enacting the whole section. Therefore sections 4 and 5 of the Bill contain nothing new beyond a re-enactment. The second new principle is contained in clause 7, which provides for punishment in case of fraud, such as selling mortgaged sheep for the purpose of defrauding the mortgagee. This is the law in all the other Australian colonies, and had been

the law here for years; but in passing an amendment of the principal Act, two or three years ago, this provision was inadvertently repealed, and I now propose to re-enact it in the same words, and to impose a penalty on a person who sells in fraud of the mortgagee. It is an admirable provision. The third new principle is in clause 8: that is with regard to after-acquired chattels. Last year we passed a Bill for amending the Bills of Sale Act, 1879, by providing that, in the case of a bill of sale executed after the passing of that Act, the ownership of after-acquired sheep, for instance, should be deemed to pass at law to the mortgagee, just in the same way as existing property and existing sheep pass to the mortgagee. That provision was a good one, and I do not see why this principle should not also apply to bills of sale executed before the passing of that Act. We say in this Bill that, saving the rights of purchasers already acquired, this provision shall apply to these goods also, and that after-acquired chattels shall be deemed to pass at law to the mortgagee. In this Bill I have saved the rights of people who have purchased honestly before the commencement of the Act, and after the commencement of the Act they will have notice. This measure also saves the expense of re-executing bills of sale accepted before the Act. To get the benefit of the Act of last year, consent has to be obtained for re-executing any bill of sale passed before that Act; but this Bill will save that expense.

MR. LOTON: Although a short Bill, this is a very important one. I do not hesitate to say it is the most important Bill, in the interests of all people in the colony, that has come before us this session. There are various principles involved in it. The main principle is that the security which it is proposed to give to a person under a bill of sale, shall be a valid security. That security in the past has not been a valid security. The mortgagor under a bill of sale has been able to play upon the mortgagee, for, when giving certain securities under the present Act, he has been able to deal, and deal fraudulently, with the property so secured in the face of the person to whom he had professed to secure it. I am in favor of the principle of the Bill, but I have not looked sufficiently into the

details to know whether they will meet the requirements of both parties. We shall have ample time for that in committee. Although we have a very learned Attorney General representing the Government, and many able lawyers in this colony, and have been dealing with bills of sale for several years, I am afraid the legal fraternity have not given that attention in the past to the principles involved in bills of sale that the public might have expected. However, the Attorney General has given more attention to this matter than has been given in the past, and I trust that the result of our labors in connection with this Bill will meet the requirements both of mortgagors and mortgagees.

MR. SOLOMON: I endorse the hon. member's remarks, for this Bill is no doubt one of the most important measures touching commercial matters. There is one point I would like to call attention to: that is that I have known a bill of sale executed, and after a person has supplied a quantity of goods on one day they have been seized and taken on the next day under that bill of sale. I think that anything of this kind should be prevented, and that a certain time should be allowed after the execution of a bill of sale, and before a seizure can be made. I trust the Attorney General will introduce a provision to prevent that practice.

Motion—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 12:3, midnight.

## Legislative Council,

Thursday, 22nd December, 1892.

Police Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Scab Act Amendment Bill: second reading: committee—West Australian Trustee, Executor, and Agency Company (Limited) Bill: second reading: committee—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. G. Shenton) took the chair at 7:30 o'clock p.m.

### PRAYERS.

#### POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill was read a third time, and passed.

#### SCAB ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): The object of this Bill is in the first place to make more clear the term "run." In the original Act this term is used, but in a recent case which came before the Supreme Court the counsel concerned were very doubtful as to the definition of the word. Therefore, in order to make the matter more clear, it is provided by clause 1 that "the words 'in the absence of a quarantine boundary defined by an inspector in his declaration' occurring in the interpretation of the term 'run' in the third section of 'The Scab Act, 1891,' hereinafter called the principal Act, are hereby repealed." The Bill also provides that no sheep are to be introduced into any district north of the Victoria Scab District from or through an infected district. I am happy to say that, from information I have received from the Inspector of Sheep, the disease known as scab has been brought under control, and that there have been no recent cases of scab. The Government feel, and the importance of it has been strongly represented to them, that any sheep coming from the North through an infected district might bring about the absolute ruin of a number of sheep-owners; and it has, therefore, been provided by this Bill that "After the 1st day of March, 1893, all sheep before passing out of an infected district into any clean district shall be legibly branded by the owner with the letter *v* at least three inches in length, and shall be kept so branded by him and every other owner for the space of six calendar months from the time such