

head winds to deal with. I have had a little experience in open boats myself, and when I have had to pull against a head wind the progress has been very slow. Under circumstances of that kind it would be difficult to serve more than one vessel at a time. I think the best thanks of the House are due to the members of the committee who so carefully went into the matter, and have done their duty so efficiently.

Question—that the recommendations be agreed to—put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 9.9 p.m. until the next day.

## Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 14th November, 1899.

Petition (Perth Tramways Provisional Order), against certain extension of Tramways—Subiaco Tramways Bill, first reading—Seats for Shop Assistants Bill, first reading—Land Act Amendment Bill (private), second reading, in Committee, reported—Annual Estimates, Committee of Supply, votes passed for Mines, Attorney General, Colonial Secretary (to Printing), progress—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### PETITION.—PERTH TRAMWAYS.

MR. A. FORREST presented a petition from 1,300 residents of Perth against the Provisional Order for extending tramways along St. George's Terrace.

Petition received, read, and ordered to be printed.

#### SUBIACO TRAMWAYS BILL.

Introduced by the PREMIER, and read a first time.

#### SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS BILL.

Introduced by MR. MOORHEAD, and read a first time.

#### LAND ACT AMENDMENT BILL (PRIVATE).

##### REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

On Motion by MR. JAMES, report of select committee adopted.

Standing order suspended by resolution, to allow of the second reading of the Bill being taken forthwith.

##### SECOND READING.

MR. JAMES (East Perth), in moving the second reading, said: This Bill proposes to deal with certain conditional purchase leases taken up by various persons. At the time the leases were taken up, application was, I believe, made to the Government to allow the land comprised in the leases to be dealt with by way of grant to the Salvation Army, to enable that body to establish what was then called an "oversea colony." The Government were not able to see their way clear to give the grant for that purpose, and the land was then taken up by various leaseholders, all of whom belonged to the Salvation Army, and all of whom held the leases as trustees for that body. Since that time applications have been made to enable the Salvation Army to consolidate the leases and carry out a scheme by which the whole of the area could be developed and settled under authority; and the Bill proposes to give the various holders of the leases the right to transfer those leases to any person, company, or association, provided that in each case the consent of the Minister is obtained. It will be seen that before any departure whatever can be made from the provisions of the Land Act of 1898, the permission of the responsible Minister must be obtained; and in addition no financial privileges whatever are given to the leaseholders under the Bill, whether the leases are held independently or by one person, and there must be the same amount of settlement and the same amount of money spent on improvements as at present. The only variation is that if the leases remain held by various persons, the exterior fencing will have to be round the exterior boundaries of each lease, whereas if the leases are amalgamated, the exterior fencing will be round

the leases as amalgamated. With that exception the burdens and objects of the Act will have to be borne and attained as at present. Provision is also made by which, to a certain extent, leaseholders are absolved from the need of residing on each particular lease, as has to be done if each lease be in independent hands. But against that privilege, it is stipulated that at least £1,000 per year shall be expended in carrying out the improvements required under a conditional purchase lease, and that is clearly a guarantee that these leases are not held for any speculative purpose, but that the leaseholders must take the responsibility of carrying out the settlement as rapidly as possible. I am authorised to say that in addition to the obligations imposed by the present Act, the Salvation Army already have a plan drawn out for expending £8,000 or £10,000 during the first few years after the Bill is passed; that is, as soon as the leases are put in such a position as to title that the land can be used for one general scheme. The evidence given before the Select Committee on the Bill was that as soon as the Salvation Army have an opportunity of carrying out the scheme, they will proceed with the erection of permanent improvements; and under these circumstances I have great confidence in submitting the Bill to the House. It will be seen that the Bill gives no special privileges or concessions to the Salvation Army, but simply enables them to do that which they could not do unless the Bill be passed. The Salvation Army, by this legislation, will be enabled to introduce an agricultural population, and increase the number of agricultural labourers, and that will considerably develop and extend the resources of the particular district in which these leases are situated; and, feeling satisfied myself that there are no ulterior motives, but a sincere desire to carry out this work, I have great pleasure in recommending the Bill to the favourable consideration of the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

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

#### ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

##### IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Consideration resumed from previous sitting, at page 75.

MINES DEPARTMENT (Hon. H. B. Lefroy).

Vote, *Mines*, £89,193 lds.:

MR. LEAKE asked the Premier whether some arrangement could not be come to in regard to measures yet on the Notice Paper, and suggested that if not this afternoon, at any rate on Thursday or Friday, the Estimates might be given a rest and other important business be taken into consideration. There were several Bills which he believed it was intended to discuss, and if the Premier would agree to arrange with the Opposition as to what work should be abandoned and what put forward, he was sure every assistance would be given in bringing the session to a close. Another consideration was that the Government had now appropriated private members' day; and he thought the suggestion now made would be approved by members generally. No one desired this session to be unnecessarily extended, and if both sides of the House could agree as to what work should be completed, the Notice Paper might be cleared pretty quickly.

THE PREMIER expressed his readiness to meet the hon. member's wishes in every possible way. His own idea was that the Estimates might first be got rid of, if this week were devoted to their consideration, and the next week would be clear for urgent measures. He would be glad to give precedence to any Bill or Bills the hon. member thought ought to be pushed along; but if we were to devote to-day and also Thursday and Friday to the Estimates, we might get through them, and in that way one of the difficulties before hon. members would be removed. Afterwards he would be glad to take the Loan Bill or to give precedence to any other Bill the hon. member would suggest. It was rather early now to say what Bills should not be proceeded with, but this might be done perhaps at the end of next week.

MR. LEAKE: There was no particular Bill he wished to have precedence, but his suggestion was made merely to facilitate the business of the House. If the Government desired to go on with the Estimates and finish them, he would

raise no objection; but his idea was that it was always easy to fill up half an hour now and again by taking the Estimates when no other business could well be gone on with, whereas that could not so easily be done by taking up a Bill or a motion to fill up time. He did not ask the Government to come to a decision immediately, but they might consider the suggestion and decide later. The Companies Bill, for instance, ought to go through this session.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Yes.

THE PREMIER: We must get that through, and we will see about the others.

MR. LEAKE: (referring to wardens for goldfields) asked whether any provision had been made with regard to declaring the Donnybrook goldfield, also the new goldfield at Phillips River? If it was intended to declare a goldfield at either or both those places, was it intended to appoint a warden to each new goldfield? With regard to Phillips River, his constituents at Albany were interested in that goldfield, and he suggested there should be a registry office at Albany, as being the nearest place at which information could be obtained regarding that goldfield.

THE MINISTER OF MINES: With regard to Phillips River, a mining registrar had been appointed for it under the Mineral Land Act, but no goldfield was declared there at present. There was a registrar at present located at Albany, Mr. Angove performing the duty there. With regard to the Donnybrook goldfield, it was already decided to proclaim a goldfield there, and he was satisfied that the Government were now fully justified in so proclaiming it. The boundaries were all prepared, and the proclamation would be issued very shortly. He might inform the Committee that an excellent crushing had been obtained from stone at Donnybrook, the crushing appliances being a rudely constructed ball-mill made by the miner himself, and 200 ounces of gold were obtained from 80 tons of stuff. Some of the public were sceptical about Donnybrook being a goldfield, but there was no doubt that auriferous country existed there, and up to the present time the developments were very satisfactory, and quite sufficient to warrant the Government in declaring it a goldfield. Mr. Walton, the present magistrate at Bridge-

town, would be the warden for the goldfield, and a registrar would be appointed at Donnybrook.

Item, Broad Arrow goldfields, Mining Registrar £255:

MR. GREGORY: The salary put down for this mining registrar was very small in comparison with amounts paid to registrars in other districts. The registrar at Menzies had to keep two separate sets of books, one for the Menzies district and one for Ularring, yet he was placed on a lower scale as to salary than the registrar in any other district. Attention had been called to this last session, and as the salary still remained lower than that given to other registrars, the inference was that officers in some districts seemed to be favoured at the expense of others. His own opinion was that such was not the case under the present Minister; yet that inference might be drawn. Salaries should be equalised for similar duties. The registrar at Kanowna received £260, and the registrar at Norseman £300; yet Norseman was a less important district than Menzies, where the registrar was to be paid only £225.

THE MINISTER OF MINES: The mining registrar at Menzies should have some consideration on the Estimates, but it would be observed that he was receiving an increase of £25 for this year, and very few such increases could be found throughout the Estimates. The mining registrar at Kanowna, and also at Mount Malcolm, would get about the same salary as the mining registrar at Menzies. The reason for this rate of salary paid to the registrar at Menzies was that he was a comparatively young man and had not been long in the service, whereas those having larger salaries were older men who had been longer in the service. If it were found that this officer was not properly treated, his case could be further considered on a proper occasion.

Item passed.

Items, goldfield allowances to wardens:

MR. A. FORREST, referring to allowances for wardens, said the warden for Dundas received £100 a year as allowance and £600 as salary, whereas wardens for other goldfields were paid at a much higher rate. The warden for Coolgardie received £150 as allowance in addition to £700 as salary, the warden at East Cool-

gardie received £150 allowance and £750 as salary; and if these high officers were to be treated on a fair basis, the warden for Dundas was certainly entitled to more allowance than the wardens for other fields, where the means of moving from place to place were much easier and less expensive. The warden for Dundas had to travel to Esperance or to Coolgardie when he wanted information, and he was obliged to keep horses and conveyances; whereas the wardens on other goldfields need not incur this expense, because they could get about easily. An allowance of £100 a year for the warden at Dundas would not pay for the fodder required, and this warden had been longer in the service than other wardens who were paid at a higher rate, and he certainly deserved well of the country, for there was not an abler officer in the department.

**THE MINISTER OF MINES:** This allowance to wardens on goldfields had nothing to do with travelling or forage. The allowance was made years ago when the system was commenced, and was intended as an addition to salary. As to the cost of travelling, he did not see how a warden could well have anything to do outside of his district.

**MR. ILLINGWORTH:** This allowance was intended to cover hire.

**THE MINISTER OF MINES:** It was not intended for that, but was to enable a warden to entertain, and so on, and was really an addition to the salary. The cost of horses required by wardens was paid for by the department, upon vouchers sent in. The item "travelling expenses" included the travelling expenses of all wardens. The revenue derived from the Dundas district was not nearly so large as that received from Coolgardie or from East Coolgardie; and though the warden at Dundas was an efficient officer, his salary was large enough.

**MR. MORGANS:** When a warden was travelling and was entertained by a friend, the Government, he understood, compelled that warden to deduct something from his travelling allowance in respect of the expenditure so saved. Surely that was not desirable; for when the warden returned to town, he would be compelled, on receiving a visit from his host, to return the hospitality, and would thus be out of pocket.

**THE MINISTER OF MINES:** By regulations passed last year, the Executive Council provided for these sustenance moneys, and enacted that an officer must send in correct accounts of the time he was absent when travelling, and that if he stopped with a friend he was not to charge hotel expenses. He (the Minister) was not responsible for this regulation. A sustenance allowance could not be given to a man who had not incurred the expenditure. However, the Government ought not to be parsimonious in dealing with wardens, who were put to considerable expenses in the way of hospitality; and he would endeavour to help the wardens as far as possible.

**MR. GREGORY:** "Goldfields allowances" were doubtless given to wardens for the purpose of entertaining visitors, and had nothing to do with travelling expenses. Why should the wardens at Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, or the Murchison have larger allowances than other wardens? The allowances should be the same right through the fields. It cost the warden at a place like Menzies just as much to entertain visitors as it did the warden at Coolgardie; and to the warden in a place like Mt. Malcolm, where living was dearer, the expense must be heavier.

**THE MINISTER OF MINES:** It would not be desirable in dealing with this matter to place all wardens on the same footing. The Estimates could not now be increased. Districts like Yilgarn, Pilbarra, and Peak Hill were not so much visited as one like East Coolgardie. If this were to be an entertainment allowance, the warden who entertained the most should have the largest grant. There was reason in the remarks of the last speaker with regard to such districts as North Coolgardie and Mt. Margaret, the latter being the biggest gold-mining revenue-producing district in the colony, it having produced more for the first nine months of this year than any other goldfield, as hon. members should bear in mind when the Bill for constructing a railway to that district was brought down. Such wardens had as much to do as many wardens in the older districts, and he would endeavour to assist them as occasion permitted.

**MR. A. FORREST:** The Minister should promise to place all these allowances on the same footing next year. It

cost more for entertaining visitors in outlying districts than in large centres, because in the latter, travellers could go to hotels, while in places like Dundas visitors looked to the warden for entertainment. The warden at Dundas, when a railway was constructed to that place, would, he had been informed, find it impossible to entertain visitors out of his allowance.

Items passed; other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

*Geological Survey*, £4,070 14s. 7d. — passed.

This completed the votes for the department.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
(Hon. R. W. Pennefather).

Vote, *Crown Law Officers*, £3,600 :

Item, Law and Parliamentary Draftsman :

MR. ILLINGWORTH : For this officer £100 had been voted last year and £400 expended; and it was now proposed to increase the salary to £600.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL : The usual salary was £600; but last year the draftsman also performed the duties of Commissioner of Titles, and received merely an allowance. Last year this officer, Dr. Smith, had practically received a portion of this salary and a portion of the salary of the Commissioner of Titles. Now he had resumed the duties of Parliamentary Draftsman, and was receiving the salary originally provided for that office.

MR. ILLINGWORTH : Not being himself a lawyer, nor looking at this matter from the law standpoint, yet as one who had to deal with Bills in the House, he considered the drafting had been very unsatisfactory. If £600 a year had to be paid to a Parliamentary Draftsman, someone should be appointed to the position who could draft Bills. He had a suspicion that a good deal of the delay during this and past sessions had been in consequence of defective work under this head; but he could quite understand that when a gentleman had three or four offices to fill, it was impossible for him to perform his duties as well as they ought to be performed. Dr. Smith, for whom he had the highest esteem, had acted as Commissioner of Titles, Parliamentary Draftsman, also Secretary to the Law Department, and it was difficult to say

how many other offices he filled; and it was beyond any man's powers to perform all the duties satisfactorily. It was certain that as the number of members and the business of the country increased, it would be impossible to get through the business of the House at all unless there was better drafting of the Bills. It was too much to expect members to become parliamentary draftsmen in the House, and he hoped that in future much better and more effective work would be done for the £600 a year.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL : It was only right to Dr. Smith to say that last year he was very heavily worked. Dr. Smith was a gentleman of scholarly attainments, and an undoubtedly able man; but there was such an amount of work thrown on him that, if any slips had occurred, he was really not to blame. Now, however, he had been relieved of all duties other than those of Parliamentary Draftsman. After all, as to the cry of bad drafting, which principally emanated from members in another place, hon. members should ask themselves whether Bills had really been so badly drafted as to deserve such censure.

MR. ILLINGWORTH : The censure was deserved.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL : That was a matter of opinion. Almost invariably the cry was started by lawyers, and sometimes there might be other reasons for the cry; but it must be borne in mind that this session there had been a great number of Bills drafted by this gentleman. In any of the other colonies the same Bills would be drafted by a staff, the principal of which, at £1,200 a year, would be assisted by three or four juniors, whose salaries ranged from £300 to £600 a year. Dr. Smith did a lot of work, and did it as capably as could be expected.

MR. ILLINGWORTH : The time of members of Parliament was worth something. Item passed.

Item, Law books for Law Officers and Magistrates :

MR. GREGORY : Although the Government appointed justices of the peace all over the country, no provision was made, so far as could be ascertained, for sending copies of the statutes to those gentlemen; indeed, it was almost impossible for members of Parliament to get

copies of the statutes without purchasing them. Each justice of the peace ought to be presented with a copy, because those appointed to administer the law should know how to do it; and he asked the Attorney General to endeavour to get a sum placed on the Estimates for this purpose.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:** If the Treasurer could be persuaded to take the same view as that now presented, it would be necessary to place a sum of £1,000 on the Estimates for the purpose mentioned. At present, wherever there were justices, copies of the Statutes could be consulted, and it would be carrying the thing too far to send complete copies to each justice of the peace, some of whom never attended the Court from one year's end to the other. This neglect of the duties of the office was sometimes very embarrassing, and in some cases where magistrates had been asked to perform the slightest service for the department, it had required three policemen to bring them to the Court.

**MR. MORAN:** The political appointment of justices of the peace was not desirable, and he had expressed that opinion to the Premier privately. In this enlightened century such appointments should be made by a Commission consisting of, say, one of the Supreme Court Judges, a nominee of the Barristers' Board, and the Attorney General. People were extremely anxious to be appointed justices of the peace, but having obtained their desire, nothing more was heard or seen of them in connection with the duties. The number of justices was perhaps larger in other colonies than in Western Australia, and the truth remained that many men utterly unfitted for the office were appointed, with the result that absolute farces were witnessed on the bench. In time of stress and trouble, some justices of the peace were afraid to do their duty, and the unwholesome truth was learned that justices in business feared it would be prejudicial to them to go against a popular movement. None but firm, educated men should be appointed, and by the means already suggested; and where they did show a disposition to do their duty, some money ought to be spent in supplying them with instruction of some sort, as was done in the old country.

**MR. ILLINGWORTH:** Dr. Black's book.

**MR. MORAN:** Yes; and if that book were too advanced, steps might be taken to give justices of the peace some knowledge in the three r's, and the rudiments of ordinary education.

Item passed; other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

*Supreme Court, £9,999:*

Item, Registrar, Master, and Keeper of the Records, Supreme Court, and Registrar in Bankruptcy:

**MR. A. FORREST** was glad to see the Government had at last slightly increased this officer's salary, and made it £700 a year. He would like to know what steps the Government were taking in reference to this officer investing money of private trust estates, without any charge. This matter was discussed in the House some time ago, when the Premier promised some action should be taken.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:** The Government were endeavouring to have the present arrangement altered in regard to trust estates, by means of a rule of Court.

**MR. A. FORREST:** It was taking a long time.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:** It was a matter of much difficulty, and there was some doubt as to whether a rule of Court would be sufficient, so that it might be necessary to bring in a Bill. The Government would see to this matter as soon as possible.

**MR. ILLINGWORTH** asked whether the Government really intended to do anything in regard to the appointment of a Judge to visit the goldfields and elsewhere. This matter had been discussed in the House over and over again, and it was generally understood the Government would appoint a circuit Judge, and so save the unnecessary expense of bringing all the business to Perth.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:** The Circuit Courts Act passed some 18 months ago had been found to require amendment, and a Bill was being drafted with a view of passing it this session.

Item passed; other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

*Official Receiver in Bankruptcy, £1,825—*passed.

*Curator of Intestate Estates, £650—*passed.

*Stipendiary Magistracy, £26,804 15s:*  
*Item, Onslow, £150:*

MR. HOLMES: Who was the magistrate at Onslow?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: The position was filled by Mr. O'Grady.

MR. HOLMES: That reply confirmed some information he had received as to this appointment. It appeared this person was formerly a sheep farmer on the Ashburton, and managed a station for the member for West Kimberley.

MR. A. FORREST: No; he never did.

THE MINISTER OF MINES: He had spent thousands of pounds in this country in a law suit.

MR. HOLMES: He was a sheep farmer on the Ashburton, and having failed in that, he was provided for by having a place given him in the public service. The name of this gentleman appeared as drawing sums of money under several heads in the Estimates. As landing waiter at Onslow he received £35, also for lodging allowance as stipendiary magistrate he received £50, as clerk of the court at Onslow he received £50, for another office he received a small sum, as electoral registrar he received £50, and under another small item he received £4, making altogether an income of £454 a year. His qualification for this office and this salary was that he was a bankrupt squatter; and how could we expect to have satisfaction in the public service, when men who were better entitled to good positions saw some favoured person appointed by the Government when opportunity occurred? If this gentleman had been bankrupt, that was no reason why the Government should give him this appointment. There were many persons in the service better qualified to fill this office.

MR. MORAN: This gentleman was at one time a sheep farmer, but that was no discredit to him, for many members in this House in years gone by had been in positions of that kind, and some of the ablest men in Australia had been engaged in raising stock or in auctioneering it. This gentleman was certainly a highly educated man, and the fact of his large experience in the North-West, besides his education, would decidedly recommend him as very useful and highly suitable for this position. His practical experience in the industries of the North-West

should be greatly in his favour as qualifying him for this position.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: This gentleman, at the time he was appointed, sent in his testimonials and credentials, which showed he was well qualified and highly suitable for this position. He was a man of education and had great experience; and the mere fact that he had been unfortunate as a sheep farmer at a previous period was his misfortune, and should not be charged against him as disqualifying him to hold this office. Indeed the hon. member (Mr. Holmes) should not have mentioned that circumstance in this House as being a bar to office. Since this gentleman had been discharging his duties, he had given unbounded satisfaction, and was certainly a very capable officer.

MR. KINGSMILL: Having the pleasure of this gentleman's acquaintance, he could indorse what had been said as to his qualifications for the position; but it did seem to be anomalous that he should hold the dual positions of resident magistrate and clerk of the court, the latter with a salary of £100 a year.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: He did not receive £100 a year as clerk: he did the work for nothing.

MR. HOLMES: While regretting that his remarks had been somewhat misunderstood, he must say that there were many men in the service who were more entitled to this appointment than was this gentleman, whose only qualification was that he had been a sheep farmer, and had not been successful in that position.

MR. A. FORREST: Before the hon. member made such an assertion as he had done, in saying this gentleman was formerly employed by him (Mr. A. Forrest), the hon. member should have taken care to ascertain facts. If that statement had been made while he (Mr. A. Forrest) was out of the House, the statement would have gone forth and been accepted as true; while the fact was that this gentleman was never in his service, and therefore the suggestion was altogether wrong that some influence had been used by him to procure the appointment for a gentleman who was formerly in his service. Mr. O'Grady had been many years in the country, was one of our best settlers, and brought more money into the country than any member of this

House had done; yet because he had been unfortunate in losing his money, that was no bar to his being appointed as a resident magistrate, when he was so well qualified to fill that position. This gentleman had acted honourably with his creditors, and if any small amount was remaining unpaid, this was just the sort of man who would pay it with his last shilling. Mr. O'Grady should not be attacked because he was down. He could speak the native language, and that in itself was a useful qualification as resident magistrate at Onslow.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:** It was only due to the Committee to be informed that the member for West Kimberley (Mr. A. Forrest) had not approached him on the subject, directly or indirectly, to obtain this position for Mr. O'Grady, although that inference might be drawn from what had been said by the member for East Fremantle (Mr. Holmes), who appeared to suggest that such influence had been used. No member of this House had approached him on the subject, and the appointment was made simply because, judging from the applications received, this was the most suitable applicant.

Item passed; other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

*Land Titles, £8,547 2s :*

Item, Commissioner of Titles :

**MR. A. FORREST:** Had this appointment been filled up, or was the appointment only temporary?

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:** It had been filled up permanently.

Item passed.

**MR. ILLINGWORTH:** The Land Titles department was one of those which not only paid all expenses by the fees received, but also yielded a profit to the State; yet the officers in this department were about the worst paid of any in the service, and certainly the officers should not suffer in comparison with those in other departments, when the fact was so evident that this was a paying department. The work done by these officers was highly important and of a responsible nature; and to make the department thoroughly efficient, the officers should be properly paid. He hoped the Attorney General would give his consideration to this matter, and he mentioned it now because the reference

he had made to it in previous years did not seem to have had any effect.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL** said he was glad to hear this expression of opinion, and it coincided with his own. He had hoped that this year some improvement might have been made in the salaries paid in this department; but although there was a desire to do this, he unfortunately was not in a position to do it. Members would see that at the end of the list as printed, a number of officers had asterisks put opposite their names, and the reason was that these were formerly paid out of a lump-sum vote, and as that system had been abolished, these officers were now put on the permanent staff. With regard to one officer whose case had not been sufficiently provided for, there would be a further provision made in the Supplementary Estimates.

**MR. MORAN:** Had any irregularity bordering on forgery been discovered in this department during the past year?

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:** No; nothing of the kind.

**MR. MORAN:** That information was welcome, because he had heard rumours that such had been the case.

Vote put and passed.

This completed the votes for the department.

**COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT** (Hon. G. Randell).

Vote, *Office of Colonial Secretary*, £5,772—passed.

*Medical, £81,545 6s. 8d. :*

**MR. HOLMES:** The Colonial Secretary had adopted a cheeseparing policy in this department, especially in regard to the Lunatic Asylum at Fremantle. No doubt the patients were kindly treated, as far as circumstances permitted, but they were huddled together in what was little better than a fifth-rate gaol, and were without means of recreation.

**THE PREMIER:** There was a large yard or garden.

**MR. HOLMES:** But that was surrounded by bare prison walls. The institution was simply a gaol, minus the punishment, and was calculated to develop rather than to cure insanity.

**THE PREMIER:** Many patients were turned out cured.

**MR. HOLMES:** A report to that effect had recently appeared in the *West Australian*, which had astonished all the



lunacy experts in the southern hemisphere. The explanation of the so-called cures was that, in the back blocks, a habitual drunkard, on becoming a nuisance to the police, was got rid of by being consigned to the Fremantle Asylum as a lunatic, and after a few weeks' imprisonment was discharged as cured.

THE PREMIER: None could be confined without a medical certificate.

MR. HOLMES: That was easily procurable in country districts. The police at Fremantle, in due course, rearrested such men, who in a short time were again discharged as cured.

THE PREMIER: That could hardly be true.

MR. HOLMES: With few exceptions, real lunatics incarcerated remained there for life. The late medical officer, Dr. Barnett, who had to give all his time and attention to the asylum, received a salary of £500 a year. The present officer, Dr. Hope, a capable and painstaking man, discharged the same duties at a salary of £250, but had to do so in conjunction with many other offices. Doubtless Dr. Hope would be glad to be relieved of the responsibility of attending the asylum.

THE PREMIER: The doctor had expressed no such wish.

MR. HOLMES: Dr. Hope filled several medical offices, for which he received salaries totalling £732. As superintending medical officer at the asylum, he received £100 per annum.

THE PREMIER: No; he did not draw that last year.

MR. HOLMES: But the amount was provided for this year.

THE PREMIER: It would not be drawn.

MR. HOLMES: Evidently Dr. Hope was to receive £250 this year from the asylum, together with the additional sum of £100.

THE PREMIER: No; the last-mentioned arrangement was not permanent, but temporary.

MR. HOLMES: Surely the Committee were prepared to pay more than £250 for an expert in insanity.

THE PREMIER: The hon. member had not studied the question.

MR. HOLMES: Dr. Hope had to board every ship entering Fremantle harbour, had to attend Fremantle gaol and the lunatic asylum, and the prison at

Rottneest, and in addition had one of the largest practices in the colony. It was not fair that this officer should be called upon to perform all these duties.

THE PREMIER: There was little force in the hon. member's objections. The principal medical officer was at present on leave, and there was a *locum temens*.

MR. HOLMES: Had not the principal medical officer, Dr. Barnett, left for ever?

THE PREMIER: There was a temporary officer; though he (the Premier) could not speak of the future arrangements to be made on the permanent medical officer's return.

MR. GREGORY: The Committee ought to give a decided expression of opinion on this question. He had no desire to speak a word against any old official such as Dr. Lovegrove, but it was well-known the department fell into a state of chaos; and, with a good man like the present officer, there was no desire to revert to the old conditions. To some extent the old conditions did prevail, because the medical officer had so many duties to perform that it was impossible for him to attend properly to any of them. The administration of this department closely affected the population on the goldfields, and presently he intended to speak on the hospital vote, with a hope of securing some better condition in the future. Would the Premier fulfil his promise, and introduce legislation dealing with the hospitals of the colony, with a view of putting all the hospitals on one footing. He did not see why the people in his constituency should have to contribute to the up-keep of the hospital there, while in the agricultural and other districts the whole of the expense was borne by the Government.

THE PREMIER: That was not so.

MR. GREGORY: Could the Premier point to a subscription ever given to the Perth Hospital, though it was true the hospital at Fremantle had been placed under a local committee? At Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie, and also at Northam and Katanning, all hospital expenses were paid by the Government, while at North Coolgardie, Menzies, and Mt. Malcolm, people had to pay subscriptions. Last year the Medical vote was £88,000, and this year £81,000; and there ought to be some general principle of a Government

grant of £2 for every £1 locally subscribed to the hospitals.

THE PREMIER: A Hospital Bill had been prepared, but he had decided not to introduce it this session. It was a good Bill, which had been considered with much care; but the worst feature was that, under the measure, people who never used hospitals would be taxed for their upkeep. It would place the burden on landholders, who never went into hospitals, or if they did, always paid; and he hardly thought such legislation would be acceptable at the present time. Taxation was never very acceptable; and to have introduced a Bill taxing people to provide medical attendance for others would not have met with much approval. The member for North Coolgardie (Mr. Gregory) had suggested that the people on the goldfields were, in regard to hospitals, treated differently from people in the older districts of the colony; but the indigent class were not so numerous in the latter districts as they appeared to be on the goldfields, and with careful management most of the hospitals in the settled districts might be made to pay their way. In Perth particularly, and also in Fremantle, a hospital had to receive patients from all parts of the colony, especially difficult medical and surgical cases; and when any person was injured within a reasonable distance of the metropolis, he was conveyed to the city for treatment. On the goldfields, people who felt sick often came to Perth or Fremantle, and consequently the burden was greater on the hospitals in these places than it would be if the cases treated were confined to those of the immediate locality. Hospitals on the goldfields were more expensive to carry on, especially when in the hands of a committee. He did not know how it was that a committee made the administration more expensive, and he hoped that in the future more economy would be shown; but since the Government had taken over the management of the Coolgardie hospital, the expenditure there had been reduced by one-half.

MR. GREGORY: What did the doctor at Kalgoorlie Hospital make for himself last year? Three thousand pounds?

THE PREMIER: It was not to be supposed the doctor made that amount out of the hospital. It was true that some years ago a system was introduced

at Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie hospitals by which the doctor received, he thought, 20 per cent. of the money given by the paying patients. It was felt at Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie, where there was a large number of paying patients, that to give the doctor £250 a year for attending to these people was asking rather too much from him. The system was instituted to encourage payment from patients able to pay, and to reimburse the doctor for attending those patients. On the goldfields every sick person went to the hospital, whether rich or poor, whereas most people in Perth were attended to in their own homes.

MR. GREGORY: People also went to the hospital in Perth.

THE PREMIER: None but indigent persons could be admitted into the Perth Hospital. Considering the conditions on the goldfields, it was unfair to ask the doctor to attend paying patients for nothing, and though the system might not last for all time, it was thought a fair arrangement when made. He was very much in favour of hospital committees on the goldfields, because he liked to see people self-reliant; at the same time he believed that if the Government had taken the management of the hospitals from the beginning, the work would have been done more cheaply. That was the experience of the Government in regard to the Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie hospitals, but more especially in regard to the latter, where the expenditure had been reduced one-half, although there was just as much work done now, and perhaps better done. The only reason he had never advocated Government hospitals was that he liked to encourage the people to take over the management of the hospitals; and as this could be done in other countries, it was curious if it could not be done in Western Australia. He did not know of a hospital in the whole colony, at Menzies or anywhere else, that was not carried on with Government assistance.

MR. GREGORY: Government assistance was given to hospitals in other colonies.

THE PREMIER: The plan of a grant of £ for £ would be much better than the present arrangement, under which all expenses were borne by the Government. If the member for North Coolgardie (Mr. Gregory) asked for a return as to the

amount contributed to the Menzies Hospital, it would rather astonish hon. members to see how many thousands of pounds had gone there.

MR. GREGORY: The whole subsidy was only £11,000.

MR. MORAN: The Government deserved the thanks of everyone on the goldfields for the hospital accommodation provided there in the past, and no Government in Australia had done more in this direction. But there were one or two little "games" going on which would bear looking into; amongst these, that of the medical levy on the miners.

THE PREMIER: That matter did require consideration.

At 6.30, the CHAIRMAN left the chair.

At 7.30, Chair resumed.

MR. QUINLAN: An abuse in connection with the use of public hospitals by Government officials had come under his notice as a member of the Perth Hospital Board; and while this abuse applied not only to the public hospital in Perth but to other hospitals throughout the colony, he wished particularly to inform the Committee of certain facts which had come under his notice in connection with the Perth Hospital. It appeared that the Government servants who joined the service prior to 1886 were entitled to medical attendance and medicines, and that this privilege applied also to wives and to other members of a family up to 18 years of age. Yet it could never have been intended that these persons should obtain, free of cost at public hospitals, medicines which, if not exactly patent, were proprietary medicines, and therefore expensive articles to purchase, such as carboic oil, citrate of lithia, digitalis, and malt extract. Not being himself an authority on medicines, he could only say that as a member of the Hospital Board he could not help noticing a communication which came before the board from one of the officials, drawing attention to the fact that Government officers were availing themselves of their privilege by applying at the hospital for expensive medicines of this kind, and obtaining them at the cost of the country. Such articles as citrate of lithia and malt extract were certainly very expensive to

purchase. Citrate of lithia was, he believed, an effervescent medicine, and he knew that malt extract cost 3/6 a bottle when purchased from a chemist in the ordinary way; and, having used it himself, he regarded it purely as a luxury.

THE PREMIER: How did they get those things?

MR. QUINLAN: On the prescription of the medical officer. They came to the hospital, got a prescription, and obtained medicines there free of cost, because they were too mean to pay for them in a chemist's shop.

THE PREMIER: But on whose application was the medicine supplied?

MR. QUINLAN: The facts had occurred as he had stated, and the Government should endeavour to put a stop to this practice. He would have preferred to mention the matter privately to the Premier, but he felt it was too gross a case of abuse on the part of Government officials, and therefore he had told the Hospital Board that he would certainly bring this abuse under the notice of the country. These were briefly the facts, that Government officials and their families were obtaining medicines of this kind at the public expense. But the most absurd feature of this practice was that an order was recently issued by the Executive Council, presumably on the recommendation of the chief medical officer of the Government, and was published in the *Gazette* on the 1st of November, which stated that public servants who were entitled to medical attendance, if receiving under £400 a year as salary, would be required to go to the nearest medical officer or to the hospital for treatment, and that medical attendance could not be given at their houses by Government medical officers. Mark you, Government officers whose salaries were under £400 a year were put on a different footing from Government officers whose salaries might be £401 a year or much higher; and, according to this regulation, those receiving the lower rate of pay would have to walk to a Government hospital or to the residence of a medical officer, and could not be attended by him at their homes, whereas officers receiving a higher rate of pay, any officer receiving over £400 a year, could have medical attendance at his residence for himself and family at the

public expense. The day had passed when such a distinction should be made in the Government service or in any other service; and whoever was responsible for recommending such an absurd regulation, he felt that his duty required him to bring this gross abuse under the notice of Parliament. As to the Perth Hospital, he could state, as a member of the board, that no institution of the kind was better conducted anywhere. But the abuse which he had brought under notice was one which the Hospital Board in Perth had no power to remedy, because the Perth Hospital was not supported by general subscriptions, and therefore was not under independent management. The only subscriptions towards the expense of maintaining the Perth Hospital came from a Chinaman, who regularly gave the largest sum each year, and from two or three other subscribers.

THE PREMIER: In regard to medical attendance for public officials, he should have thought the number of officers entitled to it, as a remnant of the old system, must have dribbled down to very few by this time, because the privilege of free medical attendance was abolished many years ago, and it was continued only to those who had a vested interest in the privilege at the time it was abolished, the privilege being retained only to that extent. He had always been opposed to the system of medical attendance to Government officers being provided at the public expense, and he thought it should not be done, except in very isolated places where no other means were available for obtaining medical attendance. The time had arrived when we should do away with medical attendance in the case of public officers. He did not know how the practice crept in by which a public officer could have his doctor and his medicine provided at the public expense. A Government official requiring medicine could obtain a prescription from the medical officer. There was an arrangement with the Perth Hospital, made by the Government, by which prescriptions were compounded on the order of the Principal Medical Officer or his deputy. That was done for convenience or economy sake; but the hospital officials had no right to give any medicine to a Government official, unless in compliance with a prescription from

the Government Medical Officer. The matter required investigation, for some little abuse might have crept in which, however, could easily be altered. Concerning the hon. member's reference to some *Gazette* notice, in which a distinction had been made between one class of persons and another, the hon. member said that no distinction ought to exist. That was a matter of opinion. There were, and always would be, distinctions between different persons. More consideration was shown to men holding high posts than to those in humble positions; and supposing, for sake of argument, that such officials as Judges were entitled to free medicine, it could not be expected that the Judges would go up to the hospital to obtain the physic, though in the case of humbler members of the community, none would object to their so doing. There were grades in society, and it was useless to put on any mock modesty, and pretend that all men were equal. He had not noticed the order referred to, but doubtless it had been prepared with some care; and certainly he had received no complaint from those interested, officers receiving less than £400 a year. He would inquire into the matter, not forgetting the lithia water and other costly medicines to which the hon. member had referred.

MR. RASON agreed with the member for North Coolgardie (Mr. Gregory) to some extent in the statement that the most efficient form of hospital control was not government by a local committee. With a few exceptions, such control had proved a dismal failure, two such exceptions being the hospital in that hon. member's district and the Mt. Magnet hospital. As an example of the failure of that system he instanced the Coolgardie hospital, which, when started, received a Government subsidy which the committee anticipated would be ample; but in a few months the hospital was hopelessly in debt, and had to make a further application to the State. Since then, the Government had discharged the liabilities of that hospital, he believed on two occasions. Though the system of absolute Government control was the best, yet no sooner did the Government assume control, than the public seemed to think themselves relieved of all responsibility, and the hospital became a prey to every-

one, including those who could afford to pay. Our hospitals, unlike those elsewhere, were not supported by men of wealth or by wealthy companies. It was surprising that some of the wealthy mining companies, who had made millions out of the colony, had never thought of contributing to the hospitals which had done so much for them.

**MR. MORGANS:** Many of them contributed.

**MR. RASON:** To an infinitesimal extent. Those who directly benefited by the goldfields hospitals should contribute to their cost, thus taking the burden from the shoulders of the general taxpayer.

**MR. MORAN:** The system of local committees could not be considered a failure. In Queensland this system was universal. The Government subscribed £2 for every £ contributed locally, and to the building fund the subsidy was £ for £. The committees were annually elected by subscribers of more than £1, and the hospital accounts were audited by Government auditors. In the event of mismanagement the Government could withhold the endowment. Such committees from their local knowledge knew who could and who could not afford to pay. In the confused state of our goldfields in the early days, it might not have been easy to have worked the committee system; but now that there were permanent goldfields' centres with settled populations, the local committees ought not to be condemned without a fair trial.

**MR. SOLOMON:** The board nominated by the Government to control the Fremantle Hospital worked admirably. They elected a house committee which met once a week, reporting to the board, which assembled monthly. All accounts were audited in Perth by the Auditor General. Anyone subscribing £1 a year or over was entitled to recommend a patient for admission, or for out-door treatment. He was under the impression that the system was followed in Perth, because it worked with great advantage, not only to the Government but to the public generally.

**MR. VOSPER** asked whether it was the intention of the Government to do anything in the way of protecting working people generally, and miners on the goldfields particularly, from forced con-

tributions to so-called friendly and medical societies established by employers. He had before him the rules and regulations of one so-called friendly society established at a mine in Kanowna; and he would be glad to hand the document to the Premier for perusal. The rules provided for a committee, but there was no provision made for the election of the committee. It was provided that the secretary and treasurer should be permanently in office, and these two officials consisted of the mine manager and the secretary of the manager. The contributions were 3s. a month deducted from the men's wages, and this entitled employes of the company, and those only, to an allowance of £2 2s. per week when sick, but the members appeared to have no proper and sufficient control over the contributions. At this particular mine, some time ago, four men were injured, one of whom died, and the survivors later on issued writs against the company for £2,000 damages each for the injuries they had sustained. Immediately the writs were issued, the so-called committee of this so-called benefit society met and immediately docked these three men of their weekly sick allowances. These men were thus left without means of sustenance or means of taking action; and the facts went to show the society was really formed in order to prevent the men taking advantage of the Employers' Liability Act. An anonymous letter was sent to one of the Kalgoorlie newspapers, complaining of this arbitrary action of the committee, and the committee then called the subscribers together and dissolved the society, granting a bonus to the secretary of the remaining funds of the society. The men were thus deprived of all the benefits they ought to have received, and left without means of taking action against the company.

**THE PREMIER:** How were they left without means of taking action?

**MR. VOSPER:** Because the committee, which consisted mainly of the secretary and treasurer, decided as soon as the men took action to stop the sick allowance of two guineas.

**THE PREMIER:** Were there no enterprising solicitors or barristers about?

**MR. VOSPER:** That phase of the question was not being dealt with. The

insurance contract in this case had been distinctly violated.

**THE PREMIER :** Was it a hospital society ?

**MR. VOSPER :** It was one of those benefit societies connected to some extent with a hospital, because sick members were sent to the hospital.

**THE PREMIER :** The friendly societies were now complaining, while the hon. member was complaining of the friendly societies.

**MR. VOSPER :** What was complained of was a so-called friendly society which appeared to be a very unfriendly society, formed by employers, who compelled their men to contribute, and when annoyed by the men taking action for damages, adopted a course calculated to intimidate the men. It was a most oppressive system, and friendly societies were generally complaining about it; but this was a question equally important to friendly societies, trades unions, and the men themselves. To compel the men to pay a sum per week, or per month, out of their wages, and give them no control over the fund, was a piece of gross injustice.

**MR. DOHERTY :** And some men had at the same time to contribute to other friendly societies.

**MR. VOSPER :** That was very often the case. Friendly societies were in a flourishing condition everywhere.

**THE PREMIER :** Friendly societies wanted to pay sixpence a day per man in hospital.

**MR. VOSPER :** This sixpence per week was paid while the men were in health, in order that they might be kept in hospital while they were sick; and that was purely a question of bargain between the authorities and the friendly societies. It was difficult to see anything to recommend these so-called friendly societies, except that they enabled employers to evade the law, and it was to be hoped the Premier would see his way clear to do away with abuses of the kind.

**THE PREMIER :** It was difficult to see how Parliament had any power in the matter. He had at first thought the Truck Act would deal with the abuse, but he was afraid that law would be ineffective in this respect; and, after all, the system did not work so badly as the member for North-East Coolgardie (Mr.

Vosper) might lead the Committee to suppose. He (the Premier) knew of numerous cases where mine-owners made the men contribute 1s. a week to the funds of the local hospital governed by a committee elected by the people, and, except in regard to the compulsion, he did not regard that as an unreasonable system.

**MR. VOSPER :** But what had been described was a different state of things.

**THE PREMIER :** That was so; but there were cases where men contributed so much a week, and had the fund administered by a committee of themselves, and arrangements were made with the hospital by which the contributors had medical attendance free. That seemed to be a good arrangement, and it was well known that even men who earned good wages, if left to themselves, paid nothing for attendance in hospital. Of course, a man could say he had not the money to pay, and it was curious how many men had no money; and it was only in cases where contributions were deducted from wages that hospitals really benefited. While he did not like the compulsory plan, yet he thought employers would say it was a matter of agreement; because when a man sought employment, the manager told him that a condition was that he pay 1s. or 2s. a week to the hospital.

**MR. GREGORY :** In many cases the funds did not go to the hospitals, but to private doctors.

**THE PREMIER :** That plan might not be approved, but yet the ultimate result was the same, because the medical officer at his own cost had to keep the patient in his hospital, and free medical attendance was given in the same way as if the money had gone direct to the hospital committee.

**MR. GREGORY :** But the men in that case had no selection of their medical man.

**THE PREMIER :** In many cases there was only one medical officer, and selection was not much of a hardship, because unless there had been some adverse experience of a medical man, confidence was placed in any one who attended. The friendly societies were dissatisfied and interfered, not so much from love of the men, as because these private societies interfered with their business.

MR. VOSPER: Friendly societies were combinations of the men themselves, and ought to be encouraged by every means in the power of the Government.

THE PREMIER: The Government had done nothing to stop the development of the friendly societies.

MR. MORAN: The Government had encouraged friendly societies, who had been given three blocks of land.

THE PREMIER: Unless a law were made to stop working men entering into agreements to contribute to a fund, he did not see what could be done. It was a voluntary agreement, after all, and the proper way to arrange the business would be to have the money handed over to a committee elected by the men, with power to dispose of it for the benefit of the whole, or the fund might be handed over to a hospital committee properly elected. There was no doubt compulsory collections were very useful to hospital committees, though the handing of the money to the medical officer might be open to abuse.

MR. VOSPER: There was said to be a medical officer at Kalgoorlie who got £1,000 from subscriptions of this kind, and delegated the work to a man to whom he paid £300 or £400 a year.

THE PREMIER: There would have to be legislation, if it was desired to prevent these compulsory contributions; and a man was a free agent, after all.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: This question was a matter of some importance, and it seemed to him the only way in which it could be approached was by compelling these mine societies to come under the Friendly Societies Act and to register. He knew of one case where men were contributing at the rate of £1,400 a year, but the medical officer gave very scant attention to them, engaging a man to do the work for a small salary, so that the subscribers practically got nothing for their money. They had no control over the funds themselves, nor any means of making arrangements they liked as to their medical attendant.

THE PREMIER: But the men got good attendance when they were sick.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: They got the attendance of the man who was paid £350 a year by the medical officer.

THE PREMIER: If a sick man went to the hospital, who paid for him there?

MR. ILLINGWORTH: If it were a voluntary arrangement, the men could please themselves.

THE PREMIER: Was this case at Cue?

MR. ILLINGWORTH: It was not necessary to mention the place, but there were a great number of societies which ought to be compelled to register, because if they were brought within the Friendly Societies Act, the men would have control over the funds. There was nothing to prevent one of these private societies winding up, and presenting the funds to any particular person, as had been done in the case cited this evening, when, in the fear of having the funds encroached on by an action at law, a meeting was called and the subscriptions were given to the secretary. That could never have been done had the society been registered, and it might be necessary for the Government to bring in a Bill dealing with this important matter.

MR. GEORGE: This matter was only another phase of what had been spoken of session after session, as to the necessity of Government officers confining themselves to their Government duties, and not competing with individuals.

THE PREMIER: Medical officers only got £250 a year.

MR. GEORGE: The Premier always had an easy excuse, and seemed to persuade himself as he went along. Not only in the House but in the Press we had been told of instances of men employed by the Government, but who had sufficient time to seriously interfere with the means of livelihood of other professional men in Perth and Fremantle. The attention of the Premier had been drawn to the matter previously, and he (Mr. George) would continue to press it on the Premier's notice until the Government took action to prevent any of their officers from interfering with the livelihood of other persons. The grievance mentioned by the member for Central Murchison (Mr. Illingworth) appeared to be flagrant, but as no name was given no remedy could be applied, and the hon. member ought to assist the Government to provide a remedy.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The Premier was in possession of the information.

MR. GEORGE: Then the Committee had a right to have the information also. A similar grievance had caused numerous

complaints to appear in the Perth newspapers two years ago, in regard to the officers of the Architectural branch of the Public Works; but no remedy was applied, and some members of the Committee appeared to encourage the Premier to treat these matters lightly by putting them off. One must continue to protest against this abuse on the part of persons who were receiving public funds.

MR. MORAN: The hon. member meant public-house funds.

MR. MORGANS: With regard to hospitals, there was some misconception amongst members of the Committee. It was not a common case for workmen on the goldfields to hand over the funds to a medical officer, although there were such instances at Kalgoorlie, and the system was certainly bad. In the large majority of mines the system was for the workmen to form their own committee, to receive the contributions and to distribute them to the local hospital in support of it as a necessary institution. That was a good plan. At the mine with which he was connected, that was the plan carried out, and every fortnight at the pay a representative of the committee (the committee being composed entirely of the workers) attended to receive subscriptions from the men, a strict account being kept of the money, which was eventually handed over to the hospital. With regard to the Mount Morgan mine, had it not been for the assistance given by the workmen of that mine and at the Phoenix mine and by some other subscribers, he was sure the public hospital at Mount Morgan would have had to be closed for want of funds, the subsidy from the Government being insufficient to keep it going. None of the workmen, so far as he knew, had objected to pay the shilling a week, and it was a satisfaction to the men to know that the money was managed by a committee of workmen. The Government might bring in a Bill to provide that where money was contributed for medical attendance and medicines, the contributors should form their own committee for managing the funds, and that these should not be handed to the medical officer, but should go to the managing committee of the hospital. The Government might go further and compel the owners of mines to subscribe towards the hospital fund.

In some mines with which he was connected, this system was being introduced. The workmen subscribed so much each fortnight, and the company added to it an equal amount in aid of the hospital. Such a plan would be useful in assisting to maintain hospitals in distant parts of the goldfields. The hospital at Mount Morgan had done valuable work, but it could not have been kept going unless there had been considerable contributions from those who benefited by the hospital. Having conversed with a large number of managers of mines in regard to this question, he felt sure that 95 per cent. of them had no desire to keep up this system of taking 1s. a week from the workmen's wages for medical purposes; and if a *plebiscite* of managers were taken, he had no doubt the great majority would be against the system. The object of the system was to secure medical attendance to workmen when they fell ill; and before Parliament attempted to abolish the system of asking workmen to contribute towards the local hospital in each locality, there ought to be some substitute found for that system, and this might be done by bringing in a Bill to compel workmen, and employers also, to contribute to their local hospitals through a committee of the men acting in combination with a committee of the employers.

MR. MORAN: If employers were compelled to pay towards the hospital, they would soon take it off the wages.

MR. MORGANS: The majority of them would not object to contribute. It was a difficult matter for the Government to devise a plan by which local hospitals might be supported by voluntary contributions; and those institutions were certainly a heavy charge on the funds of the Government. He believed that if the Government were to go only to the length of expressing a desire that the system of collecting money from workmen for hospital purposes should be discontinued by the employers, the mine-owners would voluntarily abolish the system, without the necessity for legislation.

MR. MORAN: It was well known that in the North Coolgardie district some large mines was carrying out the nefarious practice which had been mentioned. Some of the large mines had one particular medical man, and to him alone they gave



the money; he being bound in return to attend to the workmen when sick, although he was the sole judge as to how much he should give in that way for the money he received, and there was no supervision. This system was unfair, although it would be hard to blame the Government for that, unless they were to be blamed for everything or for anything. Special legislation on this subject might well be made a part of a Hospital Bill; and where a permanent hospital was established in a district, every man might be compelled to subscribe sixpence a week, equal to 26s. per annum, in aid of that hospital, and those who subscribed should elect their own committee to manage the hospital. Every medical man in the district would then be able to compete for the practice. It was well known there were such things as "rings" in existence in connection with large mines on the North-East goldfields, and the evil was growing there.

Item, Superintending Medical Officer, Fremantle Lunatic Asylum :

MR. KINGSMILL: This item should not be allowed to pass without some further expression of opinion in regard to the necessity for providing a medical officer who could devote his whole attention to the patients in the Lunatic Asylum, and receive a sufficient salary. The most laudable object of public expenditure was that of caring for and curing those unfortunate persons who were bereft of reason; and when we knew that this colony, with its increasing prosperity and increasing population, was rather retrograding than otherwise in this matter, he thought this was much to be regretted. Some years ago the medical officer who supervised the Lunatic Asylum received £500 a year; but now the patients in the asylum received only one-third of the services of a medical man, for which he was paid £250 per annum, while also being paid for other duties. Was it not possible to secure the services of a specialist for the Asylum, at an adequate salary?

THE PREMIER: Who was after the position? Someone must be wanting the billet.

MR. KINGSMILL: That remark did not seem to be fair.

THE PREMIER: There was some reason for his suspicion.

MR. KINGSMILL: Had his own career in this House been such that the Premier was justified in accusing him of acting on behalf of some person who was seeking a billet? Would the Premier give an assurance that he would consider the advisability of appointing some qualified person to devote his whole time to the duties of attending at the Asylum?

MR. VOSPER: If any system was more condemned than another, it was that of giving to one man a large number of billets, and expecting him to give adequate attention to all of them. Pluralism in the public service was as much an abuse as it used to be in the Church, and there was no worse example than this case of pluralism at Fremantle.

THE PREMIER: Go to South Australia.

MR. VOSPER: There was no necessity, for this case was bad enough. The duties of the post were being performed by Dr. Hope in a more or less perfunctory manner; and in addition to attending at the Asylum the doctor was also supervisor of the Fremantle lockup, also of the male and female prisoners in the gaol, also of the boys' reformatory and aborigines' prison at Rottnest, also quarantine officer, probably also of the Harbours and Rivers Department, and as medical officer of the port he had to board every ship which arrived.

THE PREMIER: Only ships from foreign ports; not intercolonial boats.

MR. VOSPER: A large proportion came from foreign ports.

THE PREMIER: Certainly not.

MR. VOSPER: At all events, this officer occupied the positions of seven to ten persons. No doubt he was an efficient and hard-working man, but the work could not properly be done by one person; and the reports of the Penal and other Commissions showed that the work was not done efficiently, as Dr. Hope would probably admit. His numerous tours of inspection formed one continuous round, and he could give only a few minutes to each institution. The gaol alone provided work for one doctor, and the Lunatic Asylum, which required a specialist in mental diseases, had to be attended to by a doctor who came once or twice a week and prescribed for mere bodily ailments. Surely the first object of the public service should be to secure efficiency,

especially in matters of life or death and affecting the reason of our fellow creatures. The sooner the duties of this officer were subdivided, the better it would be for the Fremantle Asylum and the country.

**MR. ILLINGWORTH :** The vote for medical officer at the Fremantle Asylum was last year £550, of which £250 had been expended. For £500 a year a specialist in insanity could be obtained.

**THE PREMIER :** Where from—Victoria?

**MR. ILLINGWORTH :** If he were the Minister, he could soon procure the man required. If it were necessary, £1,000 or £2,000 should be offered. Two years ago he had urged the closing of the Fremantle Asylum and the transference of the patients to Whitby Falls, where the very successful cottage system for convalescent patients could be adopted; but that scheme could not successfully be carried out if the asylum had to depend on Dr. Hope or any other doctor with a multitude of duties to perform. A specialist was required whose labours would relieve the public of the constantly increasing responsibilities arising from the growth of insanity. For £500 a junior medical officer with special ability to treat such cases could be obtained, and undoubtedly the present system was hopelessly bad.

**THE PREMIER :** The hon. member (Mr. Vosper) was hardly justified in saying that Dr. Hope did nothing else than treat the insane patients for bodily ailments. Dr. Hope had had years of experience in lunatic asylums.

**MR. ILLINGWORTH :** But he had not time to attend properly to the Asylum.

**THE PREMIER :** The history of this matter was that some time ago, after the death of Dr. Barnett, the Government advertised in England for a medical man as superintendent of asylums in the colony. He (the Premier) had seen the superintendent of lunatic asylums in New South Wales, who undertook to look into the matter while in England, and to assist in selecting an officer. It was found that to obtain a doctor of any reputation a salary of £800 a year at least, together with house, forage, and other allowances, must be provided, making an expenditure of considerably over £1,000. That did not prevent the Government proceeding with the project, but it was

felt inadvisable to bring such an officer to Fremantle at a time when the patients were being transferred to Whitby Falls; and at that period it was anticipated that the Whitby Asylum would soon be completed. To finish the buildings, however, £55,000 was required, and this money it had been impossible so far to provide. This year, however, there was a sum on the Estimates towards improving the Whitby buildings. Some money had been spent there already; and about 50 lunatics were at Whitby engaged in manual labour, without causing trouble, and were in a much better condition than they could be at Fremantle. The doctor from Jarrahdale visited the institution regularly. The Government had not abandoned the idea of obtaining a medical superintendent of some eminence. The present arrangement was only temporary, and he trusted the services of a man of experience would be obtained, who would bring with him all the newest and best ideas regarding the management of lunatics. The arrangements at Fremantle were not as good as they ought to be; still, something had been done in removing a great many harmless lunatics to Whitby.

**MR. MORAN :** As the Premier said, the proper policy was to build a new Asylum on the hills. All the medical men in the world could not effect cures at the Fremantle institution. The committee should recognise the unselfishness of the Fremantle members in advocating the removal of the Asylum, with its attendant sources of revenue, from their town.

**MR. GEORGE :** Was there any objection to specifying on the Estimates the various positions which each officer held in this department, as was done in other parts of the Estimates? How many positions were held by Dr. Hope?

**THE PREMIER :** They were all specified in the Estimates.

**MR. HOLMES** said he would give the information.

**THE PREMIER :** The hon. member had already given it wrongly.

**MR. HOLMES** said he had quoted the information from the Estimates. Dr. Hope was district medical officer, and quarantine officer, and superintending medical officer at the Asylum.

**THE PREMIER:** The amount in respect of that office, £100, had not been drawn last year.

**MR. GEORGE:** Why not?

**THE PREMIER:** A permanent officer, when appointed, would receive that salary.

**MR. HOLMES:** As surgeon at Fremantle, this officer received £150, and as dispenser to the gaol £72.

**THE PREMIER:** It was not certain that Dr. Hope received the latter sum.

**MR. HOLMES:** Then as medical officer at Rottnest the doctor received £100. When his services were required on the Island, the garrison set fire to a bush as a signal!

**THE PREMIER:** What would the hon. member do—"coo-ee"?

**MR. HOLMES** said he would, if he had a voice like the Premier's. Then for dispensing medicine at Rottnest this officer received £10 a year.

**THE PREMIER:** The hon. member did not know that.

**MR. HOLMES:** In addition to these allowances, Dr. Hope received £250 for attendance at the Asylum. Dr. Hope was a most valuable officer, but could not possibly attend to these multifarious duties. He got £250 a year for attending at the Asylum, but he forfeited £100 because he could not legally hold the two appointments.

**THE PREMIER:** How did the medical officer forfeit £100?

**MR. HOLMES:** It was stated so in the Estimates. The Premier had just endeavoured to show the money would not be spent, and now he was endeavouring to show that the medical officer received the £100. The Premier's explanation of why a capable officer had not been appointed was that there was no place in which he could carry out his duties properly. But what about the unfortunate class shut up within the four walls of the Lunatic Asylum? If an expert was wanted, he was wanted at the present time; because many of the patients were only suffering slightly from insanity, and if they had to wait for the appointment of an expert they would become incurable. Even if the cost were £2,000 a year, the money would be well spent if only half a dozen unfortunates were cured and restored to society.

**MR. VOSPER** asked the Government to make the appointment of an expert as

early as possible, and thereby not only relieve the patients from a condition of more or less neglect, but also relieve Dr. Hope from duties which he certainly could not carry out properly for want of time. Radical alterations should be made in the building at Fremantle, or the building be removed altogether, because the tendency of such a place was to increase madness rather than cure it. The contrast in the Lunatic Asylum as between the female and the male departments was of a most remarkable character. On the one side the buildings were up to date, furnished with modern convenience and adapted in every way for the treatment of the insane; but the male quarters are 40 or 50 years behind the times, with dormitories large, dark, and dismal, the light being such as to make it practically impossible to judge by casual inspection whether the place was clean or not. Passing from the dormitories to other parts of the building, including the cells for refractory patients, there was found a state of things never seen outside the old-fashioned Bedlam. Altogether it was a most disgraceful condition of affairs, arising through no fault of the staff of the medical officer, because it would be impossible for the greatest expert in the world to effect any large proportion of cures in a place of the kind. Probably one would be told that the annual report showed a large proportion of cures, that proportion, according to the report, being 58 per cent. as contrasted with 38 per cent. in Great Britain. But it must be remembered that the released and recovered were classed together, and it was known that a good proportion of the released came back, and amongst the cured were classed all the temporary cases of men suffering from alcoholism, who were sent there from the police court, because properly speaking, they could not be sent to gaol. Taking the cases of dementia, melancholia, and so on, it would be found that the proportion of cured was small indeed, the bulk of the cured being those suffering from mental aberration, who under a more up-to-date system, would probably cure themselves. Men kept suffering from alcoholism would recover of themselves if they only had more cheerful surroundings, because it was such surroundings which were required, whereas to be placed amongst permanent cases of

dementia must tend to send even a sane man mad. There was no system of classification beyond a few dreary yards, in each of which a large number of patients were put together; and it was well-known that mental diseases were in a measure infectious, the patient exercising a kind of hypnotic influence. There was no resort from the yards, except the gloomy dormitories or the still more gloomy cells; and as the medical officer had to contend with difficulties of a serious nature, it was to be desired Dr. Hope would have some of his multifarious duties handed over to someone else to perform, and that a more modern asylum at Whitby Falls or elsewhere would be provided as quickly as possible, where the proportion of cures would be greater, and the number of maniacs supported by the country exceedingly less. He trusted the Premier would take this discussion in a friendly spirit, because all that was desired was to see the country relieved as far as possible from the maintenance of a large number of citizens in a state of dementia, absolutely useless to themselves or anyone else for the time being. That could only be done but putting into practice the scientific principles approved in more enlightened countries, and by having a thoroughly up-to-date building with an up-to-date officer in charge.

MR. GEORGE asked the Premier to provide in next year's Estimates a method of showing the different offices held by individual civil servants in this department, as had been done successfully in other departments. He was not suggesting there was anything wrong, but it seemed to him Dr. Hope could not give that attention to the unfortunates in the asylum that was desirable.

THE PREMIER: The suggestion would be acted on.

Item passed.

Item, Principal Warder to the Lunatic Asylum :

MR. SOLOMON: The Premier the other night said that all salaries under £200 had received a £10 increase this year.

THE PREMIER: The warders were not mentioned, but only those civil servants who had been recommended. These warders seemed to be a "standing dish" with some hon. members.

MR. SOLOMON: Some few years ago officers in the Asylum were promised a £5 increase, but had not yet received it.

THE PREMIER: That increase was, he believed, going to be given out this year.

MR. SOLOMON: Some of the warders had been in the Asylum so long as 26 years, but recently a man who previously had nothing to do with the Lunatic Asylum was appointed chief warder at Whitby Falls, over their heads, at a salary of £150, which had this year been increased to £175.

THE PREMIER: Probably the chief warder had been a warder elsewhere.

MR. SOLOMON asked the Premier in all fairness to provide in the Supplementary Estimates for an increase of £10 to the salaries of these warders.

THE PREMIER: There was a proposal to give a small increase of, he thought, £5, and he would look into the matter.

MR. HOLMES: There were a few remarks he would like to make on this item.

THE PREMIER: Those Fremantle warders would have to be disfranchised.

MR. HOLMES: The Premier was imputing motives, but as a matter of fact much that he (Mr. Holmes) had said that evening would rather have a tendency to lose him support at Fremantle. Three or four years ago these warders were promised an increase of £5, but that increase had never yet been received. At the same time the chief warder, who had never done any service, was appointed at Whitby Falls, and now had his salary increased.

THE PREMIER: The chief warder was reported to be an excellent man. Who was he?

MR. HOLMES: No one knew. Probably he was a friend of a principal medical officer.

MR. VOSPER: These warders were as much entitled to an increase of salary as more favoured persons who had been discussed. It had been said that this man had no particular qualifications for the post.

THE PREMIER: The man came, he thought, from the North, where he had been a gaoler.

MR. VOSPER: The fact of a man being a gaoler in the North, where his principal business would be to look after

aboriginal convicts, did not qualify him to be chief warden in a lunatic asylum.

THE PREMIER said he was not certain whether this man had been a gaoler, but he had heard excellent reports of him. He believed his name to be Gallagher.

MR. VOSPER: There were warders at Fremantle who had been there 26 years, and from that fact alone must be judged to be excellent men, and there was no reason for not keeping a promise to increase all salaries under £200 a year by £10. That promise might not specifically include the warders, yet there was a general feeling that it would be carried out all round.

THE PREMIER: The hon. member seemed to know more about the departments than those in control of them. Hon. members first complained that officers were paid too much, and then that they were paid too little.

MR. VOSPER: Before the sitting closed, he proposed to tell the Committee about one department which it was to be hoped, for the sake of his humanity, the Premier was not at all acquainted with. The Premier had said hon. members were complaining on one side that officers were paid too much, and on the other hand that they were paid too little. What hon. members complained of was that certain persons for unknown reasons, or for no reason at all, were granted increases which ought not to be granted.

THE PREMIER: That was the hon. member's opinion.

MR. VOSPER: It was the opinion of members on both sides of the House. Persons had been given extravagant increases of salary at the expense of those who received sweating pay, and that was an allegation which neither the Premier nor any Minister had been able to refute. And that was the complaint in regard to almost every item of salary.

THE PREMIER: The hon. member said "we." He was the leader of the Opposition, it seemed.

MR. VOSPER: Well, he happened to be the only member on the front Opposition bench.

THE PREMIER: Therefore he used "we," same as editors did.

MR. VOSPER: Exactly. But he must object to the persistent and unmannerly interruptions of the Premier. Members on the Opposition side were contending

for justice in the civil service, and it did appear that certain officers were favoured by the Ministry to the disadvantage of other officers, who were equally deserving of increases in their salaries but could not get them. Members on the Opposition side did not propose to allow the Government to shirk their responsibilities in the matter.

MR. GEORGE: Why not go to a division? That was the only thing the Government would take notice of.

MR. VOSPER: Reason and argument were almost thrown away. If a member made a statement of fact, the Premier interrupted him; and these interruptions were so numerous and so unnecessary, that Parliamentary Government in this colony had become an absolute farce.

THE PREMIER: Was the hon. member in order?

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was rather out of order.

MR. VOSPER: If that were so, the Premier should not provoke observations by his interruptions.

THE PREMIER: The hon. member should not insult Parliament, anyway.

MR. VOSPER: In saying Parliamentary Government was becoming a farce, he did not say it was a farce, but was becoming so. The tactics of the right hon. gentleman were making Parliament a farce. It was impossible to debate items in the Estimates while interruptions were carried on. The duty of taking care of the insane was a necessary and difficult work, and if that work was to be done adequately, the officers should be well paid. Members complained that to all appearance certain officers in the public service were suffering an injustice in consequence of other officers being unduly favoured, and members desired a promise from the Premier that this injustice would be remedied. The Premier had partly admitted the injustice, but had given no pledge of a remedy. Until a better state of things was brought about, members could not hope for good results.

MR. KINGSMILL: The system throughout the Estimates of apparently concentrating the rises upon one or two favoured servants was likely to cause dissatisfaction throughout the service, and to have a bad moral effect. Men who had grown grey in the service found that they were passed over for no fault of

their own, and that increases were given to other servants who were no more deserving.

**THE PREMIER:** They were not recommended by the department. In this case, they were not recommended by the Colonial Secretary.

**MR. GEORGE:** Then it was favouritism.

**MR. KINGSMILL:** A feeling of discontent militated against the proper performance of duty in the service.

**MR. GEORGE:** Was it not in the power of the Committee to raise a salary, but only to lower it?

**THE CHAIRMAN:** No increase could be made by the Committee.

**MR. GEORGE:** This put members in an invidious position, and, as he had said the other night, it was perfectly futile and useless to discuss these Estimates, because the only way of getting an amendment or improvement in the Estimates was to "pitch into" the Premier as much as the forms of the House would allow.

**MR. WOOD:** As to the Lunatic Asylum at Fremantle, he had known some of the officers very many years, and they were a high class of men and thoroughly deserving of an increase of pay. Therefore he asked the Premier to reconsider these estimates and give the men a rise. Their work was like that of a horse on a treadmill, for they were perpetually going, and some of them had been performing these arduous duties a quarter of a century. He knew one warder at the Fremantle prison who had been going about 33 years, and such men deserved to have their long service recognised. He hoped the case of these men at Fremantle would be reconsidered.

**THE PREMIER:** In regard to the pay of prison warders, these estimates were not interfered with by the Treasury, but were in the same position as when they came from the Minister of the department. What recommendations were made to that Minister he did not know, but the Treasury had not interfered with these estimates. He would look into them again and see what could be done, and he noticed that the salaries did not seem very high. If hon. members would approach these matters more in the manner of the member for West Perth (Mr. Wood), by making reasonable observations on them, that course would

do more good. Abuse was not the best way to get what one wanted. As to the complaint about his interruptions, one was tempted to interrupt when hon. members took up so much time in expressing what they had to say; and the member for North-East Coolgardie (Mr. Vosper) had taken up more time than any other, and indeed during this session he had taken up double the time of any other member of the House. The hon. member took a terribly long time to say what he had to say, though he was an eloquent talker. As to the member for Pilbarra (Mr. Kingsmill), his way was to say cutting and sometimes offensive things in a mild manner, which he perhaps thought might be mistaken for courtesy.

Item passed.

Item, Amount to hospitals on goldfields towards salary of medical officer:

**MR. ILLINGWORTH:** At Day Dawn the Government formerly maintained a hospital; but the Government had lately refused to give further assistance because there was a hospital at Cue, three miles away.

**THE PREMIER:** Only two and a half miles away.

**MR. ILLINGWORTH:** A medical man was resident at Day Dawn, but he did not receive any support from the Government; and persons there were afraid they might lose his services, because the doctor at Day Dawn had his practice interfered with by a medical officer at Cue, who received a salary from the Government, and also visited patients at Day Dawn on his own account. The people at Day Dawn desired that some grant in aid should be given towards maintaining a medical officer there, and some assistance of this kind did appear to be necessary and reasonable.

**THE PREMIER:** The difficulty was that there was not sufficient practice at Day Dawn to maintain a medical officer. Two medical men were formerly resident there, but they had gone away. The medical officer at Cue, a town four miles distant, could hardly interfere to any serious extent with the local practice of a medical officer at Day Dawn. A public hospital had been built between the two towns, and was purposely placed at a certain distance from each so as to accommodate both. He could not see any necessity for making a grant in aid of a

medical officer at Day Dawn when the public hospital was so near, but would bring the matter under the notice of the department.

Item passed.

Item, Perth Hospital :

MR. MORAN : This hospital was not open to all members of the medical profession. When a poor patient requested that his own doctor should attend him in the hospital, and that doctor was refused admission, something must be wrong. Were the Committee prepared to support a hospital which was in the hands of a ring of doctors ? The institution should be open to every qualified practitioner ; yet leading practitioners in Perth were refused admission.

THE PREMIER : The system was the same in other colonies, where certain honorary physicians were elected,

MR. ILLINGWORTH : But some of the local doctors were not elected.

THE PREMIER : Because the local public did not subscribe enough money to entitle the subscribers to vote.

MR. MORAN : Was there such a thing as election here ?

THE PREMIER : Not at present.

MR. MORAN : That was all the more reason why the hospital should be thrown open to all the medical profession. The present system was not to be tolerated.

THE PREMIER : It had been created by an Act.

MR. MORAN : Then end the Act.

MR. ILLINGWORTH : Medical men frequently met with patients unable to pay, and with difficult cases requiring special treatment. If a doctor had a right of access to the hospital he simply gave the patient an order ; but if the doctor had no such right of entry, he would not send the patient in. Thus patients were suffering who ought to be helped, and were in some cases dying for want of medical attention. If the basis of appointments were election by subscribers, then subscribers would have a right to appoint the honorary physicians ; but the hospital was supported by the country as a whole.

THE PREMIER : That arrangement was supposed to be temporary.

MR. ILLINGWORTH : When the change took place, it would be time enough to make a distinction in reference to medical men. As the whole of the

public were subscribing to the funds, the right of all doctors to access was equal.

THE PREMIER : In what other place were all medical men allowed to enter hospitals ?

MR. ILLINGWORTH : The Premier admitted that the local conditions were different from those elsewhere. Here the whole of the public subscribed ; it was their hospital ; therefore there should be free right of access. Let the Government nominate doctors, or give the right of access to all the doctors in the district. If medical men were prepared to treat patients in a hospital, why should not the Government avail themselves of such assistance ?

THE PREMIER : The Government nominated the doctors.

MR. ILLINGWORTH : Why should the Government deprive themselves of the assistance of specialists because other doctors had been nominated ?

THE PREMIER : No instance could be given in any part of the world where all medical men in a community were allowed to treat hospital patients.

MR. ILLINGWORTH : Nor could an instance be given of a country where all the hospitals were maintained out of public funds. Of course, if private persons supported hospitals, they had a right to appoint the physicians ; there was no such right here, as the whole public subscribed.

THE PREMIER : The Fremantle and Perth hospitals had been founded under the Act 58 Vict., No. 20, and the appointments of members of the board were made by the Governor-in-Council. Two-thirds of the members at least must consist of persons who were not medical practitioners, and the members might be removed and others appointed. But when the total amount of the annual contributions by the public towards any hospital exceeded one-sixth of the average annual expenditure, a different system was provided for : then the subscribers, and not the Governor, had the right to elect the board. Unfortunately that contingency had not yet arisen. He would not say that the present plan was the best, or that there should not be periodical retirements ; but it was inconceivable that any institution could be carried on if all and sundry were allowed to manage it. There must be certain medical officers respon-

sible for the care and treatment of the patients. When the Act was framed, it was thought that in a short time one-sixth of the expenditure would be subscribed by private persons, and that the control of the hospital would pass to the subscribers; but that had not happened.

MR. VOSPER: Did not the lack of subscribers seem to indicate a lack of public confidence in the institution?

THE PREMIER: No. As a fact, people in this country had not been accustomed to pay for hospitals, which had always been provided by the Government, and it was difficult to make them understand that it was good to contribute to such institutions. The lack of subscriptions to the Perth Hospital was indicative rather of a want of interest in the institution. With the exception of a few Chinamen, scarcely anyone subscribed. In the hospital there might be something in the nature of a close borough, a few of the principal medical officers of the city having control; but the laymen on the board were more numerous than the doctors.

MR. VOSPER: There was no desire that the management should be subverted by new medical men being allowed to take a share; but it was desired that the positions of honorary physicians to the hospital should be increased in number.

MR. MORAN: On application.

MR. VOSPER: Qualified doctors should have an opportunity of going through the hospital, of looking after their own patients, and of obtaining that valuable experience which could alone be obtained in a hospital, thus benefiting their patients and the public. The public would also benefit by having a continual series of inspections going on at all hours of the day and night by independent doctors, which would form a guarantee that the hospital was well conducted. No interference with the management should be tolerated; but a list should be made of the surgeons and physicians of good repute now practising in Perth, and they should be appointed honorary physicians in rotation, say for three months each every year. If a doctor had his own patient in the hospital, there was no reason why he should not supervise that patient.

THE PREMIER: That rested with the board.

MR. VOSPER: Then pressure should be brought to bear on the board to nominate as many medical officers as possible.

MR. WOOD: While the suggestions of previous speakers were good, yet every department of medical science was represented by the present honorary physicians.

MR. MORAN: They were not the best men; some were too old.

MR. WOOD: No; they were all up to date. There were only two or three doctors on the board who were also visiting physicians, and the visiting staff were appointed for three years.

MR. VOSPER: Three months would suffice.

MR. WOOD: In London the appointments were for life, and in some of the colonies for four years. The present system had been created by the Act, and no doubt the discussion would lead to a change for the better.

MR. WALLACE: The medical men who had the exclusive right of entry to Government hospitals were not the best. A patient should have a right to call in whatever doctor he chose. One patient in the Coolgardie Hospital, being dissatisfied with the manner in which a prior operation had been performed, refused to have his own leg amputated by any of the hospital surgeons. The authorities refused to allow him to call his own doctor, and even refused to allow the patient to leave the hospital at all until the operation had been performed by the resident surgeons. Ultimately the patient secured an order from a magistrate, and succeeded in escaping. That was a case the facts of which he had reason to believe were true, and they bore out the argument for the necessity of an alteration in the management of hospitals, giving to patients the right to choose their own medical attendant.

MR. MORAN: For some time it had been his intention to bring this matter before Parliament, and all he had heard to-night confirmed him in the opinion that the fact of a man being poor and going into a hospital was no reason why he should not have liberty to choose his own doctor.

THE PREMIER: There were objections to medical men having a voice in the management of hospitals.

MR. MORAN: It was not proposed to give medical men a voice in the manage-



ment; but any registered medical man should, on application, be placed on the list of honorary surgeons, so as to be able to attend if requested to do so by a patient.

THE PREMIER: There was a house-surgeon at each hospital.

MR. MORAN: If there were 50 house-surgeons, and a patient wanted his own doctor, what objection could there be to granting the request? Professional jealousy amongst medical men was often displayed in this matter, because some of the leading and most able and most modern surgeons in Perth were prohibited from going into the hospital by old doctors verging on fossilism, who objected to these younger and better-trained men having the right of entry. The management could be as strict as possible, and no medical men allowed to have any influence in it; but there should be no restriction on any medical man of respectability and probity attending a patient of his in any hospital as an honorary surgeon, because to give the fullest liberty in this direction would be best for all concerned.

Item passed; other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

*Gaols*, £28,320 17s. 6d. :

MR. VOSPER: This was the proper time to go into the merits of the gaols in remote parts of the colony, but he did not propose to deal with gaols at Carnarvon, Port Darwin, and other places, but to confine himself mainly to the manner in which the aborigine prisoners at Rottnest were treated. A fortnight ago he visited that prison for the purpose of seeing what the place was like, and he was taken over the building by Superintendent Pearce, accompanied by Dr. Hope and by a clergyman of the Church of England, the latter being in a position to support every statement that would be made to-night. The prison for aborigines at Rottnest consisted of a small building in the form of an octagon, having one gate, all the doors opening into an octagonal yard, in the centre of which was a well, and five sides of the eight were occupied by cells shaded by a verandah. He was willing to admit that it was not possible, perhaps, to keep aborigine prisoners in the same condition of cleanliness as white prisoners; but still, when aborigines were taken from

their native places and put into "durance vile"—and the *durance* was particularly vile at Rottnest—some efforts should be made to teach them the primary arts of civilisation, and to provide for their being kept in a comparatively cleanly condition. He observed that outside the prison the walls were carefully whitewashed, and presented a pleasing appearance; but once inside, the conditions were quite the reverse. So far as he was able to see, there had been no whitewash on the inside of the Rottnest prison for a considerable time. The walls were coloured an extremely dirty yellow, and the ceilings were black with smoke in the apartments where fires were used, and the floors had the appearance of not having been scrubbed or washed for an unknown period. There was what was called a recreation room for the use of the blacks, and this consisted of a small chamber 10ft. by 12ft., with a fireplace. The walls and roof bore no evidence of having been washed for a considerable time. The cells were very small cubicles, the total size, he supposed, not exceeding 300 cubic feet of air. By the Lodging-Houses Act and the Prisons Regulation Act in England, there had to be 800 cubic feet for each occupant; and when he saw those dens or cells at Rottnest, he was under the impression one prisoner lodged in each, because at that time there were only about 30 prisoners there, and there seemed to be enough cells to go round. But he was informed that no fewer than three aborigines were put into each of the cells, which were no more than 6ft. by 9ft. in extent, so that when they lay down on the bare floor, with their blankets over them, the whole of the floor space must be covered. In the heat of summer, as the ventilation was not of the best, the condition of the cells in the morning must be appalling, considering that the sanitary arrangements consisted of one pan for the three occupants. Whether the Penal Commission visited Rottnest prison or not, he did not know; but if they did, they left no evidence of their presence there. The prisoners were in the habit of taking their meals on the floor of the verandah, and not being too cleanly in habits, they threw scraps of garbage about, so that all round from end to end was covered with grease and dirt of every possible description. The well

in the centre of the yard was not used, except as a means of providing drink for the prisoners; but if the prisoners could not be taught to be clean, some buckets of water might be drawn up and some semblance of decency introduced into the gaol. As to the prisoners themselves, he observed that the prison dress, which he supposed to be supplied by the authorities, was in a dirty and frowsy condition; indeed the clothes were something disgraceful. The prison costume, consisting mainly of trousers, hat, and shirt, was in a condition bordering on absolute filth, there being only one prisoner with his clothes approaching a decent white. What was called a "hospital," established for the use of the aborigine sick, stood on a low elevation, and consisted of one room only, not exceeding 20ft. by 12ft. Like all other buildings, this was liberally whitewashed on the outside, but inside the walls were the same dirty, leprous chrome-yellow, which pervaded the interior of all the buildings; and, as in the cells and other places, the walls were covered with discolourations, evidently the result of expectorations of all manner of filth. In the hospital there were two bunks, one of which was occupied. At this stage he (Mr. Vosper) would like to call the attention of the Chairman to the state of the House.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** If the hon. member did that, the fact would have to be reported to the Speaker.

**MR. VOSPER:** There was no desire to delay the business of the House, but this was an important subject, which hon. members ought to hear.

**THE PREMIER:** Members had read it all in a newspaper, the other day.

**MR. VOSPER:** Well, they could hear it now. In that hospital were two bunks, one of which was unoccupied except by a straw mattress, full of holes and other things besides holes. In any case, the straw was exceedingly dirty, and he was prepared to take his oath it had never had washing or any kind of cleansing process for 20 years.

**MR. GEORGE:** Was that at Rottneest? And £3,500 a year was spent over the place!

**MR. VOSPER:** This was at Rottneest. On the other bunk was lying an aborigine prisoner named Cockroach, and, as one hon. member suggested, he was not

the only cockroach there: he was lying in a filthy condition, covered with dirty blankets, and the fume of the place was strong enough to knock one down at 10 yards' distance. The man had a dirty handkerchief; his shirt and trousers were caked, and coated, and massed with filth; and he was supposed to be there as a patient in a Government hospital. The medical officer, who was present, only remarked that they had better give Cockroach some carbolic. Surely this was not a creditable condition of affairs in a public prison, which certainly ought to have been in a better condition than one would expect to find a blacks' camp; for while aborigines were filthy enough in the bush, yet their practice of shifting camp from time to time did preserve them to some extent against the results of dirty habits. But in this hospital there was no shifting of camp, and no means of escaping from those conditions; so that an aborigine patient must stay there in his native filth, and no attempt was made to bring about comparative cleanliness. Something might be done even for aborigines in a prison. The Premier should report to the Colonial Secretary the necessity of visiting the place himself, and the Colonial Secretary, as the responsible Minister, would find a lot of things used which ought to be burned, and would find that a thorough reorganisation was necessary. Soap and water and some white-wash were certainly necessary. The food was good and well cooked. The reformatory at the island was well kept and cleanly; and while observing that it was not wise to allow lads to come in close contact with aborigine prisoners, he (Mr. Vosper) had only praise as to the general condition. But an aborigine prisoner was nothing better than an eyesore. There was no official inspection, or that state of things could not exist. It was certainly a disgrace to the Government and the colony. If any great author from the old world were to visit this hospital prison at Rottneest, he would probably immortalise it by the description he would give of the filthy condition of the place.

**THE PREMIER:** A sensational yarn, perhaps.

**MR. VOSPER:** Probably; but he (Mr. Vosper) had not the power to make a sensational yarn.

**THE PREMIER :** The Colonial Secretary visited the place occasionally, and was there two months ago.

**MR. VOSPER :** The things one could see and smell there were enough to disgust an ordinary man ; and it seemed impossible that the Colonial Secretary could have been there lately, for the condition of affairs was disgusting and disgraceful.

**THE PREMIER :** The hon. member seemed to be quite eloquent in dealing with this question, and had made quite a sensational speech out of it ; yet it was not to be supposed the hon. member had had much experience of aborigines in Australia, or he must know that one of their virtues was not that of cleanliness. Living in their native state in the bush, they never washed themselves for the purpose of cleanliness ; they slept without clothing, from infancy to old age ; their bed was a hole dug in the ground, and a fire-stick on each side of them. Even when they had an opportunity, they did not care about adopting the ordinary rules of civilisation. Yet for all that, he was glad to say that during the last year there had not been a single death at Rottneest, and there had been very little sickness, if any. Therefore the health of the natives confined at Rottneest seemed to be all right.

**MR. GEORGE :** Who was Cockroach ?

**THE PREMIER :** He was probably a native committed to prison for murder, and his sentence had been commuted. As for the absence of cleanliness at Rottneest, he (the Premier) had never seen that during the many occasions he had visited the Island. The cells were cleaned out every day ; the rugs were rolled up neatly in front of the door ; and although he did not mean to say the odour was of the best in those cells, yet he felt quite sure the natives were much better cared for, and were more comfortable than they had been hitherto in their lives as natives in the bush.

**MR. VOSPER :** Why not give them more whitewash ?

**THE PREMIER :** The cells were whitewashed frequently ; and as to the hon. member's statements about the dirty condition, as described also in his newspaper of which this speech was a second edition, the Superintendent had absolutely denied all those assertions.

**MR. VOSPER :** As to the denial by the Superintendent, he (Mr. Vosper) was prepared to bring evidence of the strongest kind in support of everything he had said ; and the denial by the Superintendent was untrue, absolutely untrue.

**THE PREMIER :** As to that point, he had only referred to what the Superintendent had said.

**MR. VOSPER :** By publishing in a newspaper the facts he stated here, he had thereby given a chance to the Superintendent to sue him in the Supreme Court, if that condition of affairs was a libel on the Superintendent.

**THE PREMIER :** The Superintendent would not be likely to take that course ; and although another public officer had proceeded against a newspaper for making injurious statements not long ago, that officer got nothing for his pains, except that he had to pay the costs after he had got a verdict against the newspaper. He (the Premier) was not prepared to accept the hon. member's opinion as to the state of things at Rottneest, for the hon. member had evidently exaggerated the facts of the case for some reason or other—perhaps from want of knowledge. As to the cells not being whitewashed, they were whitewashed every fortnight or every three weeks, and there was not that absence of care for the aborigines which the hon. member had stated. A considerable amount of freedom was allowed to the natives while confined as prisoners at Rottneest, and he believed they were encouraged to wash themselves for cleanliness. He (the Premier) did not speak of this without knowledge ; for although he had not visited Rottneest for a considerable time, yet he was formerly chairman of a commission which investigated the Rottneest establishment, and that commission made a report which could be found in the records, and also presented a number of recommendations which were carried out. Yet the hon. member asked members of this House to believe that these natives were treated in a way that was a disgrace to civilisation, and a disgrace to the Government. He (the Premier) was not going to subscribe to that view, because if he thought the statements of the hon. member were true, and that this state of things really existed, instead of objecting to the course taken in bringing these things under the notice of

Parliament, he would thank the hon. member for doing that, and would himself go over there and see if things could not be put right. The clothes of these native prisoners were washed every fortnight, if not oftener; and as the natives did not wash when in their natural surroundings, they were not likely to be very cleanly while confined at Rottnest. The views which the hon. member held in regard to civilised life would not apply to these natives. If the hon. member had seen natives in their own camp and in their ordinary condition, as he (the Premier) had often seen them, the hon. member would not talk as he had done on this occasion. It was not reasonable to suppose that in an organised public establishment such as Rottnest, filth was allowed to be thrown about everywhere: it could not possibly be. The warders, who had been there for years, would not allow the natives to act in that way, nor would the Superintendent allow them to do so. The doctor visited the place every week, and he would certainly have something to say if such a condition of things existed. In addition to that, a string of visitors went through the establishment all the year round, and made notes in the visitors' book of the impression formed upon them as to the condition of the establishment. The hon. member, as a visitor there, could have seen the notes made in the visitors' book if he had looked for them, and could have noticed what visitors said of the establishment; and surely in those notes by visitors there would be found nothing to justify the remarks made here by the hon. member. The people who wrote complimentary paragraphs in the visitors' book could hardly have gone there to make incorrect statements; and although he would not blame the hon. member for trying to expose any abuse that existed at Rottnest, still the hon. member had taken an exaggerated view of the condition of the prison on that island.

MR. VOSPER: In the face of the Superintendent's denial of the allegations, it was useless to pursue the question, seeing that the denial had been accepted in preference to his (Mr. Vosper's) statements, which he was prepared to confirm upon oath if necessary, and could bring unimpeachably respectable evidence to

prove them; and these statements had also been published in the columns of his newspaper.

THE PREMIER: In a very sensational way.

MR. VOSPER: At any rate, he had not attempted to avail himself of his Parliamentary privilege, but had published them outside this House. The statements were plain, their meaning was clear, and if the persons mentioned chose to take up the matter they had their remedy. If a committee of inquiry were appointed to visit Rottnest, no doubt everything would now be found in order, for notice of their coming to the island would be heliographed across.

THE PREMIER: If matters could be put in order in a few hours, they could not be very bad.

MR. VOSPER: A day or two would suffice to put matters on a better footing, for what was required was mainly soap and water; and he believed the place was now much cleaner. His inquiry showed the state of shocking neglect into which these institutions were liable to fall without proper inspection. He could not be accused of having had any "axe to grind," as he did not know the Superintendent, and had been rather favourably impressed with that officer. He had seen the aborigine in his native state and on mission stations, as at New Norcia; and what could be done in such places could to some extent be done in a prison. The country paid a large sum for the upkeep of Rottnest, and the Committee had a right to know that the money was well spent, and that the prisoners were kept in decent condition.

Item, Transport of prisoners:

MR. HOLMES: Could not some improvement be made in the means of transporting prisoners awaiting trial to Fremantle, and from Fremantle to Perth? Chinese, half-castes, and whites were frequently paraded through the streets of Fremantle in custody.

THE PREMIER: The system ought to be changed, but nothing could at present be done.

MR. VOSPER: The Penal Commission had recommended that, to avoid the congregation of criminals in Perth and Fremantle, and to give them an opportunity of obtaining work, they should be

given railway passes back to the places where they had been convicted.

THE PREMIER: Prisoners were frequently sent back to their own districts, when they had a chance of employment.

MR. VOSPER: In the old country, a discharged prisoner received a pass to any portion of the United Kingdom to which he wished to go.

Item passed.

Item, Assistance to prisoners on discharge from gaol:

MR. GEORGE: Could not this amount be increased?

THE PREMIER: It would be increased, if insufficient.

Item passed.

Item, Water, lighting, fuel, and sanitary services (prisons):

MR. GEORGE: Why this new item?

THE PREMIER: Formerly this expenditure had been charged to the Public Works Department. Now each department was debited with its own proportion of such service.

Item passed; other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

*Rottneſt Eſtabliſhment, £3,454 9s.:*

Item, Provisions and other necessaries:

MR. GEORGE: Although the previous year's expenditure for this had been much more than £800, yet last year, for the purpose of making a good Budget, the estimate had been reduced to £800.

THE PREMIER: Perhaps the reason was that there were not so many natives there then, and the number increased afterwards.

MR. VOSPER: There was a smaller number of aborigines at Rottneſt than for years past.

Items agreed to, and the vote passed.

*Printing, £29,661:*

MR. VOSPER said he wanted to raise the question once more that he had raised, and always ineffectually, but which he proposed to keep on raising until the "crack of doom" if he were in the House so long, namely the question of wages paid to compositors in the Government Printing Office. Last year, the year before, and this year, the wages paid were below the standard paid in private establishments in Perth. He understood that the permanent staff got a fixed rate of pay, and were paid for holidays; but he was now speaking of men who had not

the good fortune to be on the permanent staff, but were temporary hands, and were not paid the usual standard wages.

THE PREMIER: Printers would rather work for the Government than for private firms.

MR. VOSPER: That might be so in regard to the permanent hands, but temporary men were always complaining and grumbling. Clause 41 of the Civil Service Commission Report recommended that the salaries paid should at least be equal if not superior to those paid by private firms, if the desire was to attract the best men into the service. Those words were as true to-day as then. If good work had to be turned out at a cheap rate, the best men must be employed, and the best men would not work for the lowest wages. Also, while printing was being done at the Government Printing Office, the printing might as well be reasonably correct. Two reports had emanated from the Mines Department, one called the Gold-mining Statistics and the other the report of the Under Secretary for Mines, the latter of which contained the reports of the Wardens. He did not know whether the discrepancies he was about to point out occurred in the Printing Office, the Mines Department, or the Statistical Department, but in the report of the Warden on the Murchison goldfield, the number of stampers in the Cue district was put down as 185, while in the statistical report the number given was 165; at Mount Magnet the Warden stated the number of stampers to be 92, while the statistical report gave the figure as 80; at Nannine, the Warden said there were 133 stampers, but the statistical report gave 128; and at Day Dawn the Warden numbered the stampers at 80, as against 115 given in the statistical table. Turning to the question of the gold yield, it would be seen that the Murchison Warden gave the average per ton at Cue as 14dwt. 14gr., at Day Dawn 1oz. 3dwt. 10gr., at Mount Magnet 16dwt. 22gr., and at Nannine 18dwt. 7gr.; whereas, according to the statistical table, the average per ton was, at Cue 18dwt. 2gr., at Day Dawn 1oz. 3dwt. 5gr., at Mount Magnet 10dwt. 1gr., and at Nannine 14dwt. 21gr. These were discrepancies between two documents issued by the authority of the Mines

Département, and he charitably assumed the contradictions were the result of error on the part of the printer; but, in any case, it was a serious matter, considering that a capitalist who desired to invest money in the colony would be given absolutely contradictory information. If the Minister of Mines desired to make this country responsible for statements, he should see that those statements were reasonably correct; and if his department were not to blame, and the printer was, it was time the latter official was interviewed in a severe manner.

**MR. WOOD :** The wages of the men in the Government Printing Office ought to be brought up to the level of those employed in private offices. He saw that the permanent hands were paid for every day except Sundays, and that for extra labour there was voted last year £10,000, and £12,750 was spent, while only £10,000 was asked for this year. He understood the reduction was brought about by the fact that several men had been moved from the temporary staff to the permanent staff. He did not see why temporary employees in the Government Printing Office should be paid less than employees in private offices.

**THE PREMIER :** It seemed strange that printers were very desirous of getting into the Government service.

**MR. VOSPER :** The Typographical Society had been complaining for years about the wages paid in the Government Printing Office.

Item, Extra labour :

**MR. GEORGE :** The £10,000 for extra labour represented the wages of about 80 men, and as every man put on the permanent staff would be entitled to a pension, some future Premier would have the pleasure of having to face an elongated pension list.

**THE PREMIER :** Those on the permanent staff came under the Superannuation Act.

**MR. GEORGE :** The only idea of putting 15 or 16 men on the permanent staff was to get them on the pension list. It was strange that in connection with a huge spending department like that of the Colonial Secretary, there should be no Minister in the House who knew enough to explain, the Premier being in the deplorable condition of having

to manufacture explanations for items of which he knew nothing. It would be a pity to pass the vote under the circumstances, and he moved that progress be reported.

Motion put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 11 o'clock until the next Thursday.

### Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 15th November, 1899.

Commercial and Business Holidays Bill, second reading  
—Bank Holidays Amendment Bill, second reading  
—Pharmacy and Poisons Act Amendment Bill, second reading, in Committee, reported—Statutory Declarations Amendment Bill, second reading, in Committee, reported Excess Bill, in Committee, reported Petition of Federal League, motion to approve, adjourned—Cottesloe Lighting and Power Bill (private), second reading, in Committee, reported—Adjournment.

**THE PRESIDENT** took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

#### PRAYERS.

#### COMMERCIAL AND BUSINESS HOLIDAYS BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

**HON. A. B. KIDSON** (West), in moving the second reading, said: This Bill is one which I hope will commend itself to hon. members. The introduction of the measure has been entrusted to me, first by the Chamber of Commerce of Fremantle, and, through them, practically by the whole of the Chambers of Commerce throughout Western Australia. The object of the Bill is to provide that there shall be uniformity in regard to commercial and business holidays throughout the colony upon certain days fixed in