

is allowed to communicate by message with the other—the power of amending these Bills must practically remain in existence. It is true they cannot amend, but all they have to do is to lay the Bill aside and send down a message to the other House announcing their views in regard to it. If the Lower House falls in with their views, a new Bill is introduced containing the amendments, passed through all its stages, and is then sent on to the Upper House, where, of course, it passes. If, on the other hand, the Lower House does not fall in with the views of the Upper House, and that body stands to its guns, the Bill is laid aside and does not become law. I hope we shall not follow the lead of what is considered the most democratic colony of the group—Victoria—notwithstanding that the action of the Lower House has been supported by a man who, despite his failings, his virtues were such that, so long as Australian history is read, will take a foremost place amongst those who have been engaged in the work of the advancement of the colony—the late George Higinbotham. Fortunately, before these quarrelsome days fell on Victoria, and two years after Responsible Government had been introduced, a compact was entered into between the two Houses of South Australia, which embodies almost *verbatim* the words of this clause. But there the compact rests on the Standing Orders, which may be upset at any time by either House; although I do not think it is likely it will be. The clause I propose really does nothing more than provide machinery. It introduces no new principle or set of principles. It does not ask that this House shall have the right to amend Money Bills. It only provides that this House may return a Bill which originated in the Assembly, requesting the omission or amendment of any of its items or provisions. The Bill can then be returned to this House. The sole virtue of this is that the Assembly may themselves make the amendments, instead of this House laying the Bill aside, and the Assembly having to pass a fresh Bill through all its stages. It is, as I say, really a question of machinery, and I only introduce the clause in order to avoid that friction which has caused so much trouble times out of number in Victoria, and which has acted so

injuriously to the welfare of that community. I may say that there was a lengthy debate on this question at the Federal Convention, and after many days' discussion a similar clause to this was the compromise arrived at. I am sure this House will be unanimously with me in trying to avoid friction, and, at the same time, by this clause, we shall secure for ourselves the privilege of having amendments we desire made in a strictly peaceful manner by those with whom the origination of such Bills rests.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I think this committee should be thankful to my hon. friend for having introduced this clause, for if it becomes law it will prevent friction between the two Houses. We know that only last year there was almost a collision with the Lower House as to whether we had the right to interfere with a Money Bill. If the Lower House will only accept the clause, I think it will work well, and be of great benefit to the colony.

Question—That the new clause be added—put and passed.

Schedules agreed to, and Bill reported.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 9 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 5th September, at 2.30 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Monday, 4th September, 1893.

Police Magistrate, Perth, leaving the Bench—Auditor General's Report and the Public Works Department: Report of select committee—Kensington Lane Closure Bill: first reading—Grand Jury Abolition Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Fremantle Gas and Coke Company's Act, 1886, Amendment (Private) Bill: third reading—Legal Practitioners Bill: third reading—Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act Amendment Bill: committee's report—Real Estates Administration Bill: second reading—Estimates, 1893-4: further considered in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 7.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

POLICE MAGISTRATE, PERTH, LEAVING THE BENCH.

MR. TRAYLEN, in accordance with notice, asked the Attorney General whether any, and if so, what reason had been given by the Police Magistrate of Perth for leaving the bench before the business was completed last Saturday, when Messrs. Courthope and Stone were on the bench with him?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest), upon behalf of Mr. Burt, replied that he was not aware of the circumstances referred to, nor could he make any admission as to the action of the Police Magistrate; but the fact was, he had given no reason for his alleged action.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT AND THE WORKS DEPARTMENT.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

MR. DEHAMEL brought up the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the charges and allegations made by the Auditor General, in his annual Report, against the Works and Railways Department.

Report received, read, and ordered to lie upon the table of the House.

MR. DEHAMEL said that at first it had not been the desire of the committee to put the colony to the expense of printing the evidence taken by the committee, which was very voluminous; but he had been requested at the last meeting of the committee to ask that the evidence be printed, as it contained information which it was considered would be of a valuable nature to the House. He therefore moved that the report, together with the minutes of evidence, be printed.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he did not object to the printing of this evidence, which was very voluminous, but of course it could not be done at present. He hoped the House would not expect to see all this in print immediately, unless a very considerable expense was entailed. He did not know whether it was of sufficient importance to have it printed at once, at any expense; but he did not think it could be done by the Government Printer, if it was required immediately.

MR. SIMPSON said that, as one of the select committee that had sat on this matter, he would strongly urge upon the House to have every word of the evidence

printed, and submitted for their consideration. He thought the evidence would satisfy members that the information therein contained was of extreme value to every public man in the colony. He should like every member to be put in possession of every detail of information that was laid before the committee.

Question put and passed.

KENSINGTON LANE CLOSURE BILL.

Introduced by Mr. VENN, and read a first time.

GRAND JURY ABOLITION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Introduced by Sir JOHN FORREST, and read a first time.

FREMANTLE GAS AND COKE COMPANY'S ACT AMENDMENT (PRIVATE) BILL.

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

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS BILL.

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

WINES, BEER, AND SPIRIT SALE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Order of the Day for the consideration of the committee's report upon this Bill having been read, the amendments made by the committee in Clause 2 were agreed to.

Clause 3.—“Upon such proof as aforesaid being made, the Licensing Magistrates shall deliver to the secretary of the club a certificate . . . on payment of the fee of £5.”

MR. QUINLAN, in accordance with notice, moved that “£20” be inserted in lieu of “£5.” He said he did this with the view of providing some substantial guarantee as to the stability of the club, or of those who were about to undertake the formation of a club under this amended Act. Some members thought, considering that the entrance fee was only payable once, the fee for the club's certificate or license should be paid annually, as in the case of hotels; but he would prefer to have a substantial fee in the first place, and let that suffice once for all. He thought this was not too much

to ask from these clubs, seeing that the entrance and subscription fees had been reduced.

MR. MONGER said he had given notice of another amendment to this clause. He thought that £20 was too much to charge for a club's certificate; he would prefer to see a smaller fee charged, but make it payable annually, which was the scope of the amendment of which he had given notice. He failed to see why there should be any difference between clubs and hotels as regards paying an annual license fee. It seemed to him unreasonable that a club, by the payment of £5, should be entitled to a license which would stand for ever. He hardly thought the Attorney General was serious when he framed this clause; and he thought the hon. member for West Perth might withdraw his amendment, and wait for the amendment of which he (Mr. Monger) had given notice.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the reason why the registration fee was fixed at such a small amount was, not that it was intended that these clubs should pay an annual license, in the same way as hotels and public houses, but that the fee should be within the reach of every *bonâ fide* club, whether consisting of working men or of other classes of the community, while at the same time it would tend to prevent the establishment of bogus clubs. If the registration fee were made too high it would interfere very largely with working men having their clubs, and for that reason he was opposed to the amendment, which fixed it at £20. If they raised the fee to £20 it would not affect what he might call the superior class of clubs, such as the Weld Club; but it would seriously affect working men's clubs, whose members perhaps were not overburdened with wealth. Of course, so far as the Government were concerned, they would be very glad to get the money; but he thought that looking at all the facts, and the object in view, the fee proposed by the Government, as what he might call a registration fee, was high enough. The object of the Bill was not to suppress *bonâ fide* clubs, but to prevent the establishment of bogus clubs.

MR. MOLLOY said he thought it was generally recognised that the object of the Bill was the suppression of bogus

clubs, but it appeared to him that the registration fee of £5—if the Government thought that was going to crush the evil—would not have the desired result. On the contrary it would tend to the multiplication of those bogus institutions which were established by unprincipled and designing persons for their own gain, for the sake of the profit made on the liquors sold. He did not think that any respectable, *bonâ fide* institution would object to paying an annual fee. He did not mean to say that the fee of £20 proposed by the hon. member for West Perth would not be oppressive to certain classes of the community; probably it would. He thought the amendment of the hon. member for York, making the registration fee £10, payable annually, would better meet the difficulty. But he was strongly of opinion that some corrective should be applied to this growing evil. It was notorious that in the past we had had institutions calling themselves clubs, which were a disgrace to civilisation—simply drinking dens, affording unlimited and unrestrained opportunities for the unthinking to exceed the bounds of moderation, and proving an unmitigated curse to many an unfortunate working man, who simply became the prey of designing persons who established these so-called clubs, simply for their own profit. He thought it was absolutely necessary that the House should surround the privileges proposed to be given to these institutions with such safeguards that would tend to make them a blessing instead of a curse to the working man. He thought the hon. member for York's proposed amendment would assist this object, and, therefore, he should be prepared to support it, when it came before them.

MR. R. F. SHOLL did not think he could support the amendment now before them, to increase the registration fee from £5 to £20, because he thought this Bill already very fully safeguarded the public against bogus clubs. Not only had they provided that every club should pay a registration fee before it could obtain a certificate, but provision was also made whereby, upon the complaint of any member of the police, the secretary or chairman of the club could be summoned before the licensing magistrates to show cause why the club's certificate

should not be cancelled. He thought the provisions already made in the Act were sufficient to prevent the establishment of what they all wished to see put down,—bogus clubs. He would ask members not to go too far in this direction, otherwise the result might be that they would lose the Bill altogether. The Bill did not become law after it passed that House; it had to go through another ordeal. They did not want to increase the burdens of *bona fide* institutions, which did not resort to sly grog selling, but which were conducted on honest principles; and he did not think it would be fair to such institutions to insist upon anything beyond a nominal fee for registration.

MR. MONGER thought that £20 was too high a fee to be charged annually, and he would move as an amendment that it be fixed at £10.

MR. CANNING said that on the second reading of the Bill so much was said about bogus clubs that he was sorry to say he accepted the cry as evidence of the fact, and he concluded that the existence of bogus clubs was a most dreadful evil, to be suppressed at any cost. He could not say that he had verified the statement himself, but he had taken it for granted that the evil existed, and required stringent legislation to put it down. But upon further inquiry he found that this cry about bogus clubs was a bogus cry altogether. He could not find one single piece of evidence of the existence of any such clubs in the colony. He thought, from what he had heard, that certain abuses had cropped up in connection with some clubs existing in Perth; but they were abuses that might be met very well by legislation that already existed. He found on listening to the debate, that mixed up with this horror of bogus clubs there was shown a most paternal care for the welfare of what was called the working man. The working man had been talked about as if he were an innocent helpless creature, utterly unable to take care of himself, under any given circumstances. According to what they heard, the working man was the most unsophisticated and credulous creature on the face of the earth, and more especially working men in Western Australia. His experience of the working man was that he was a very shrewd and intelligent being indeed, and knew very well how to take care of him-

self, and that he did not require all this paternal and even grandmotherly care and solicitude to protect him from the wiles of certain designing persons—who they were he did not know, but it appeared they existed—who were seeking to prey upon the working men in this colony. He should like to have some clear and distinct definition of what a bogus club is.

AN HON. MEMBER: A sly grog-shop.

MR. CANNING said the law already provided for the suppression of sly grog-selling. Sly grog-shops could be suppressed by taking the proper means already available for doing so. He really could not say that he agreed at all with the principle of hampering the proceedings of any class of the community with regard to their associating together for any political or social purpose. In all parts of the world people had a right to associate together for political and other purposes, and they were not to be hampered by police supervision, so long as their objects were not treasonable or wicked. Even as to so-called proprietary clubs, of which they had heard so much, he did not think there was any real objection to them. They all knew that in London there were scores of proprietary clubs, and they were not interfered with. Surely it would not be said for a moment that the administration of justice or the preservation of law and order was not so well looked after in London as here, or that any infraction of the law or defrauding of the revenue was winked at by the authorities in England. There had been no outcry against these proprietary clubs in London, that he was aware of. They existed amongst all classes of the community, and he did not see why further legislation was necessary to deal with them here. He thought, if there were abuses, the present laws might be enforced with more vigour and impartiality, and, if that were done, there was no necessity for further legislation. As for imposing any hampering restrictions further than the Bill itself already contemplated, he should certainly protest against it. He thought that a registration fee of £5 was quite sufficient for all reasonable purposes, and he regretted now that he had not more strongly opposed the Bill on its second reading. It would be much better to allow people the most complete

freedom as regards their political and social arrangements than to hamper them with all these vexatious restrictions, which would simply cause people to seek to evade them.

MR. SIMPSON said he was entirely in accord with the idea that these clubs should pay an annual fee, but he did not think it should be so high as £20. So far as the working man was concerned, he did not think it would affect the real working man one dump. He did not think this Bill was designed for the working man alone; it dealt also with people who had more means than working men had; and he thought they should not lose sight of that fact. He agreed with the hon. member for East Perth that people had a right to associate together for social or political purposes, so long as the objects in view were recognised as lawful objects. It had been indicated to him that sub-section (2) of Clause 2 of the Bill was open to abuse. This gave the privilege to the proprietor of any club to sell or supply liquor not only to the members but also to their guests. He thought—

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member is out of order in going back to that clause now. The clause under consideration is Clause 3.

MR. SIMPSON: Then he would confine himself to the matter under discussion. He agreed with the idea that an annual fee should be paid, but he thought that a fee of £20 or even £10 was too high, if they insisted upon its being paid every year.

MR. MONGER said he would withdraw his amendment, as he saw no chance of carrying it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. QUINLAN said the reason he had suggested £20 was in order to obtain some guarantee as to the stability of a club, but as the feeling of the House seemed to be in favour of a lower fee, payable annually, he had no wish to press his amendment, if it was not acceptable to the House.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SIMPSON then moved, as an amendment, that the word "annually" be added at the end of the clause.

MR. SOLOMON said he would support that amendment, which made the fee £5 annually. He thought it was very desir-

able that there should be an annual opportunity of renewing these licenses, so as to maintain some check upon these institutions.

Amendment put and passed.

The other amendments made by the committee in the Bill were read and agreed to, and the report of the committee was adopted.

REAL ESTATES ADMINISTRATION BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): In rising to move the second reading of this Bill, I think I may say that members will at once see its object. The principal object of the Bill is to provide that if a person dies intestate, instead of his real property going to the heir-at-law, as at present, it will be treated exactly in the same way as his personal property. Clause 5 sets that out in these words: "All the real estate of or to which any deceased person is at the time of his death beneficially seised, possessed, or entitled, and as to or in respect of which he dies intestate shall, subject to its liability for the payment of the debts of such deceased person and the estate or interest therein of his legal personal representative, pass and belong to and vest in the persons who would be entitled to such real estate if it were personality for all the beneficial estate and interest therein of such deceased person, and in the shares or portions to which they would respectively be entitled to the personal estate of such deceased person if he had died intestate." That is the principal clause in the Bill, which I may say was introduced in the Upper House by my hon. friend the Colonial Secretary, carrying out a promise which he made a considerable time ago. The Bill repeals that old law which has found a place in the history of the mother country for many generations,—the law of primogeniture, and divides equally amongst the children of a deceased person, who dies intestate, his landed property. Clause 3 of the Bill deals with the administration of real estates of intestates by executors or administrators, and the sub-sections of the clause provide for the payment of the debts of the deceased person, and give power to sell or

mortgage the estate, and to deal with trusts. Clause 4 deals with the rights and duties of executors or administrators. I think that under the circumstances we are situated in this colony, the Bill will be found a very useful measure, especially in the case of small properties, the owners of which often die without making a will. Of course it will not affect in any way those who are careful to provide during their lifetime for the disposal of their estates, by making their wills; it will only affect the property of those who have been careless, and made no provision for disposing of their real property after their death. We all know of many instances where persons with small properties have died intestate, leaving children behind them, and great difficulties have arisen owing to the property being vested in the heir-at-law, to the exclusion of all the other children. This Bill proposes to alter that state of affairs; but, as I have said, it will not in any way interfere with anyone who likes to make a will and devise his property in the way he thinks best. If a man does not make a will, his real estate, upon his death, will be dealt with in the same way as his personal estate. I beg to move the second reading.

Motion put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

ESTIMATES, 1893-4.

The House went into committee for the further consideration of the Estimates.

Police, £48,674 17s. 6d. :

MR. A. FORREST said he should like to bring before the notice of the committee a matter that occurred in the Police Court, at Perth, a few days ago, when a constable forcibly turned out a highly respectable citizen who was in court listening to a case in which he was interested. Someone whispered something in his ear, and he was immediately taken hold of by a policeman, by the collar, and turned out. For no offence at all, he was subjected to this indignity, and when he complained about it afterwards to the Commissioner of Police he got no satisfaction. He (Mr. Forrest) wished to call the attention of the Minister to the fact, so that he might make some inquiry into the matter. He understood that the Commissioner would

take no action in these matters, unless the person aggrieved brought a definite charge against the policeman, instead of making an inquiry himself. No citizen liked to lay an information or bring a charge against a policeman into court, and he thought it was the duty of the Commissioner to make inquiries, when a respectable citizen was insulted in the way this gentleman was.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Who was he?

MR. A. FORREST: Mr. William Britnall, one of the most law-abiding and respected citizens of Perth, and a man who was not likely to be guilty of any disorder.

MR. MOLLOY thought it was very necessary that the House should carefully watch this police vote. They had just had one illustration showing how officious and indiscreet some of the members of the force were, and he might say that he himself had recently had a similar experience. It was not, however, for personal reasons that he objected to this vote; he did so because he thought the head of the department should exercise more care and discretion in the appointment of members of the force. If it was necessary to pay a higher rate in order to get a more efficient class of men, he did not think the House would object; but for a whole army of indiscreet busybodies to be clothed with such arbitrary authority was, to say the least of it, injudicious. Nor did he think it would add to the reputation of the colony that it should become notorious as a police-ridden country. These gentry seemed to think that because they had unlimited power they were entitled to order respectable citizens to go home as if they were unruly children, and the police were their solicitous parents. Of course, people who had reached the age of maturity objected to this kind of treatment, and asserted their rights as free citizens; but they did so at the risk of a night in the lockup. He thought it was high time that the attention of the head of the department should be called to the desirability of making more judicious appointments to the force, and of not placing such power in the hands of indiscreet persons who were not fit to be entrusted with it. He thought it was a mistake that such low pay as 5s. a day should be

provided for the police; he thought a higher wage would give us a more efficient service, and do away with many of the complaints that were now rife against members of the force.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said of course they all knew that the life of a policeman was not a very happy one; his office was not a very pleasant office; and, as it was necessary in this colony to have a good number of them, it might reasonably be expected that some of them would not be as discreet as they should be. But he would point out to the hon. member for West Kimberley and the hon. member for Perth, or any other member, that if anyone in the public service, a constable or anyone else, behaved himself in a way that any citizen had a right to complain of, that citizen had a perfect right to bring the matter under the notice (in the case of a constable) of the Commissioner of Police, or of the Minister in charge of the department, or of the Government as a body. He thought that the most reasonable course for anyone to pursue who had a grievance was, in the first place, to represent the matter to the proper authorities, and, if he did not receive satisfaction, then to take the much more serious step of bringing the matter before that House. He thought that House should not be troubled with departmental details of this kind, unless those who were aggrieved had failed to get satisfaction from the head of the department, or the Minister in charge, or the Government, as the case might be. In that case an appeal to that House might be quite properly and rightly made. No one regretted more than he did and the Government did that any police officer in the discharge of his duty should exceed his duty, or be offensive to any well-behaved member of the community; and if it could be proved that any officer, whether in the police force or any other department of the public service, had exceeded his duty or behaved in an improper manner towards any member of the community, the Government would take serious notice of it. The best course to pursue in such cases was to bring the matter under the notice of the Government in the first place, and if they failed to get satisfaction—which he did not think they would—then to bring the matter under the attention of that House.

MR. TRAYLEN did not know that they need absolutely take the advice of the Premier, though it might be very good advice. In that House they had special privileges, which were not given without design, and, under those privileges, it was possible to probe matters in the House which could not be done with the same freedom outside. These privileges were designedly conferred upon them within those walls. He might refer to what occurred quite recently. For the Premier to retort upon him, a few days ago, when he asked him about the conduct of the Police Magistrate in leaving the bench, by saying that he had not asked anything about the Magistrate's conduct, was simply fencing with the question, when there ought to have been an inquiry made. The hon. gentleman that evening, replying to the same question, said that no explanation had been given by the Police Magistrate. Whether an explanation had been given or not, there was an explanation to be made, and a very important explanation; and if he were to go into the matter, according to its merits, it would show that justice had signally failed on this occasion, and that it was clearly the duty of the Government to have made some inquiry.

MR. A. FORREST said he objected altogether to the Premier saying that members had no business to ventilate their grievances in that House. He had himself been subjected to the indignity of the "move on" clause, when there was no necessity or cause for it whatever, and he wrote to the Commissioner of Police complaining about it. He said he would make inquiry into the matter, and that was all he ever heard of it to this day. If members could not get satisfaction outside the House, they had a perfect right to bring their grievances before Parliament. In the case of Mr. Britnall, he obtained no satisfaction at all. He hoped the Premier would bring the matter before the Commissioner, and ask for an explanation, why a respectable citizen, a man who had never harmed anybody, was dragged out of the police court, by the collar, without rhyme or reason.

MR. SIMPSON said it seemed to him to be becoming a growing weakness in that House to abuse the police. A considerable amount of irritation appeared to have been caused by reason of His Wor-

ship the Mayor having been told to "move on." He had been told so himself, and he thought it was quite right that this "move on" clause should be more strictly enforced than it was. The nuisance occasioned by the obstruction caused by the way men congregated at some of the street corners in Perth, smoking and spitting about, and indulging in foul language, to the disgust of passers-by, was a disgrace to the community. He thought the time had come when that House should put its foot down very firmly to support, instead of abusing, the police of the colony. Within the last forty-eight hours they had had a policeman stabbed by a ruffian in the street, with all the intention of taking his life. He maintained that the man in blue was on the whole a braver man than the man in red. The soldier perhaps went on a field of battle but once in his life, whereas a policeman every day ran the risk of being disabled, and perhaps permanently, by reckless, drunken, or disorderly persons. [MR. MOLLOY: And of getting drunk themselves, round corners.] He did not think the police were given to injuring or insulting respectable citizens, or hauling them out of the police court by the collar; and he could not help thinking that there must have been some mistake in the instance referred to. Considering the onerous and responsible duties the police had to perform, he thought members would be doing good service to the country by extending a little more moral support to members of the force, seeing that all their actions were, as a rule, in the interests of law and order, and the protection of well-behaved and respectable people.

MR. SOLOMON said he must support the dictum of the Premier, because he thought that in all matters of this kind, where people were aggrieved by the action of a public officer, the first step should be to represent the matter to the head of the department, before bringing it under the notice of that House. Western Australia was not the only place that might be called police ridden, or where people were told to "move on." He noticed a telegram in that morning's paper stating that the Minister of Lands in one of the other colonies, and his wife, had been arrested and locked up for having refused to "move on," when ordered to do so by

a policeman. He thought every man should be treated alike in this respect by the police, whether he had a tweed coat or a superfine black coat.

MR. TRAYLEN said as to Mr. Britnall, he did not know where they could find a more law-abiding citizen, and he could only think it must have been by some mistake that he was subjected to the treatment he was. For his own part he thought they should extend more sympathy to the police force than they generally did. Their duty was very unpleasant, and they were often subjected to the most taunting and irritating language, which they had to submit to with equanimity. He thought the policeman who had treated Mr. Britnall in the way described must have been a new hand.

MR. MOLLOY said it was these new hands that they complained of, and it was to prevent these new hands from subjecting respectable citizens to such indignities that the hon. member for Kimberley and himself had thought fit to bring the subject under the notice of the House. What was the use of making complaints to the head of the department, when they could get no satisfaction? That being so, he thought they had a perfect right to bring such matters before the House. He knew of another instance where a citizen had complained that week about a policeman, and the reply the complainant got was that it would be necessary for him to lay an information, and, if he had a witness, they might then proceed to investigate the case. That was the sort of satisfaction they got from the head of the department; and citizens would naturally think twice before they subjected themselves to further inconvenience from the department in endeavouring to obtain redress.

Vote put and passed.

Gaols, £16,190:

Put and passed.

Rottnest Establishment, £3,530:

MR. MOLLOY said this was an item that he had several times before called attention to. He thought the time had arrived when some alteration should be made in the administration of this establishment. Was it necessary to continue to maintain an expensive establishment at Rottnest for the sake of a few native

prisoners? Considering the increasing population of the colony and the desirability of having summer resorts, convenient to the centres of population, he thought it would be much better to convert this island into a pleasant summer resort. He thought there was ample accommodation and a sufficient staff at the Fremantle prison to take over these native prisoners. He noticed that the Superintendent at Rottnest received £325. He thought that, as a beginning, they might do away with the services of this gentleman. He did not think it was necessary to retain the services of such a highly paid officer for this post; and, in order to elicit the opinion of members as to the desirability of breaking up this establishment, he moved that the item "Superintendent, £325," be struck out.

MR. A. FORREST was surprised at the action of the hon. member. The Superintendent, so far as he knew, was a first-class man and a capable officer. He hoped the hon. member would withdraw the motion, and give notice that at the next session of Parliament he would move that the island be abandoned, in which case he might obtain some support.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he would like to point out that this amount was not all for Rottnest. There was a sum of £625 in connection with the Reformatory. There was some revenue received from the island, the amount in 1892 being £781, so that the upkeep of the island, so far as the natives were concerned, was £2,000. He quite agreed that this was a considerable sum, but he could not see how it could be avoided. They could not put the natives in the Fremantle prison, and it was impossible to keep them in the places where they had committed offences. Rottnest was peculiarly well situated, being an island, and the natives were not only made to work there, but they had a certain amount of freedom, which was good for their health. The Colonial Secretary had taken a considerable interest in the island, with a view to making it more productive, also to reduce the expenditure there. There were also works the natives did which were not charged. They supplied the Harbour Department with wood and lime, and the buildings

were kept in order there by the natives. They were at present quarrying stones for the new lighthouse. He could not at once fall in with the hon. member's proposal to throw open the island.

MR. TRAYLÉN asked how frequently the Superintendent had to entertain guests.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that all persons who went there on duty were entertained by him. The doctor was the most constant visitor. In fact everyone who went over to the island partook of the hospitality of the Superintendent.

The amendment was negatived, and the vote agreed to.

Printing, £10,052 12s.:

MR. SIMPSON said he must again draw attention to the enormous increase in this vote. He had before suggested that a great deal of the work done in the Government Printing Office should be done outside. He was perfectly satisfied it could be done just as efficiently and at a cheaper rate, and so save the country a great deal of money. Ten thousand a year for printing, in a colony like this, was a great deal too much, and he had not a shadow of a doubt that if a large amount of the work were done outside, by public tender, there would be a great saving to the colony. Recently the Government had actually not a copy of the Goldfields Regulations, yet we were supposed just now to be paying a great deal of attention to the mining industry, and anxious to afford every information to those who came here with reference to our goldfields. Yet the fact remained, that, with all the expenditure incurred upon this printing department, you could not buy a copy of the Goldfields Regulations in Perth nor on the goldfields. That was the case not long ago. He had known the Warden on the Murchison Goldfield having to borrow a copy from a miner; and, before that, he saw the same thing on the Yilgarn Goldfield. There was room for economising in the quality of the paper used by this department. The Parliamentary papers submitted to that House, and other official documents were printed on too costly paper. You could not point to any Parliament in Australasia where the paper and the printing cost so much as it did in this colony. This was a matter for

the consideration of the Premier, who, he knew, was anxious to economise in all directions. He had occasion recently to consider some matters of detail in connection with printing, himself. He found that in South Australia, the Government printing and the paper used was just as serviceable and a lot less expensive than ours. In New Zealand, Victoria, and New South Wales it was the same. Take our *Government Gazette*, for instance. In no part of the world was such a publication turned out on such a costly scale as in Western Australia. You could not find a *Gazette* printed on such costly paper in England, or in Victoria, or New South Wales, or South Australia, or the United States of America. But then, of course, we were such a wealthy colony compared with those countries, that £10,000 for printing was merely a matter of detail. Really the way the cost of this department had jumped up pointed to an extremely improvident or indiscreet expenditure. He did not say the work was not well done; what he said was, it was too well done; it was too costly, and the result could be obtained at a saving of about 20 per cent.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said one reason why this item appeared larger than in former years was because a sum of £1,525 was charged against it for stationery, which, in past years, had been charged under the general head of Stationery for Public Offices. There was also a charge of £130 for postages and telephone rent, which was never charged separately against the department before. There was also, as members would see, £1,420 for new machinery and type, only £650 having been spent during the last half year. These extra charges made the apparent large increase in the vote, which, even with the new type, was not proportionally more than about £800 more than the vote for the last half year. He need hardly point out that our printing was increasing very much. The records and the Votes and Proceedings of Parliament were increasing in volume every year; *Hansard*, too, was growing bigger; and the reports of select committees were also growing, if they might judge from the evidence placed on the table that evening. Altogether, he did not think there was any great excess in

this vote; he scrutinised it very closely himself, as the Minister in charge of it, and he tried to reduce the vote, but he could not manage it. All acknowledged that the work was very well done. Probably the paper used was a little better than it need be; but he had been assured by the Government Printer that if we used poorer paper the saving would be very little indeed.

MR. TRAYLEN thought that the only thing they could say against so good an officer as Mr. Pether was that the paper he used was perhaps a little thicker than it need be. But probably a few pounds a year would cover that. For his own part he thought that the increase in the vote this year was not sufficient to meet the heavy claims that would be made upon the Government Printing Office. At the rate which he noticed things cost in Sydney, the printing of such a report, with the evidence accompanying it, as had been laid on the table that evening would alone involve an expenditure of, he should say, £1,000. He thought that on the whole they ought to congratulate the Government on their asking for so small a sum, rather than—as he thought they might fairly have done—adding several hundreds to the present vote, and then not be able to cope with the whole of the work that would devolve upon the printing department during the coming year.

MR. MOLLOY said that probably the same expenditure in printing would suffice to do the work if we had ten times the population we now had; but he supposed it was unavoidable. It was generally recognised that the department was well managed, and that the work was remarkably well done. The only complaint he had heard was, that while we had an expensive establishment like this, work was being put out by some of the Government departments to private firms, without first calling for tenders for it. He made a representation on the subject to one of the departments, and a promise was made to him that this practice would be discontinued. That was the only complaint he had. He thought the expenditure on this department was well earned, and that it was due to the head of the department to say that he managed to perform very creditable work with as little money as any of

the other colonies expended in producing very inferior work.

Vote put and passed.

Inspection of Stock, £3,064 10s.:

MR. A. FORREST said he should like to again draw attention to the sheep dip at the Irwin. There were loud complaints as to the manner in which the work was done, and the situation of the dip was also a bad one. He had been informed that it was in a swamp, and that when the weather was wet the ground became very boggy, and that it was almost impossible to carry out the work in a proper way. The charges upon sheep owners were very heavy, and they naturally looked to find the dipping effectually done. He hoped that some better arrangements would be made, and a more suitable locality selected, where there was sufficient feed, and where flocks might be properly dipped.

MR. PATERSON said a proof of the inefficacy of this dip was to be found in the fact that two or three weeks ago scab was discovered among some sheep that had been through the dip, and were afterwards brought down south. These sheep were now in the Pinjarrah district. If that was the way things were managed, we should soon have scab all over the colony.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he had received no information of such an outbreak.

MR. PATERSON said that only last week a sheep was seen on the Rockingham road almost rotten with scab.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that was the first he had heard of it. With regard to the dip at the Irwin, he would bring the matter under the notice of the department, as to the position of the dip. The member for the district had never complained about the position being unsuitable, nor had he heard any complaint about it before. The vote, it would be seen, had been increased, as the Government were determined to cope with this scourge. They had not refused the Inspector either men or money, and he was very sorry indeed that the disease had not been extirpated before this.

MR. MONGER said he noticed that the salary of the Chief Inspector of Stock was put down at £250, with £200 travelling allowance, and that the Assistant Inspector at Kimberley got a

salary of £260, with £150 travelling allowance, making his pay almost equal to that of the Chief Inspector, which was altogether out of proportion.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said these Assistant Inspectors were only temporarily employed.

MR. MONGER: Temporary or not, it seemed to him out of all reason that the active head of the department should only receive a few pounds more than the inspector in charge of a district where there was little or nothing to do.

MR. CONNOR said he was astonished at the hon. member referring in disparaging terms to the inspector for the Kimberley district, and grumbling about his pay. He thought if that officer received twice as much pay as he did, he would be doing the work cheaply, considering the climate and other drawbacks he had to put up with.

Vote put and passed.

Educational, £17,975:

MR. SIMPSON said he should like to ask the Premier a question. He saw in the papers the other day a report about a deputation that waited upon the Colonial Secretary about the grant to Assisted Schools, and, in his reply to the deputation, the Colonial Secretary was reported to have said that the Government were pledged not to interfere with the Assisted Schools. He should like to inquire from the Premier, to whom the Government were so pledged.

THE PREMIER said he did not know whether it went so far as a pledge, but he believed that in his place in the House last session or the session before he expressed an opinion that the Government did not intend to interfere with the Assisted Schools. If the hon. member would refer to *Hansard* he would find what he did say. He was very guarded in what he said. [Mr. Simpson: No doubt about that.] He believed that what he said was that whatever might be the defects of the present system, it had secured peace and harmony in the community for many years. Probably the Colonial Secretary remembered what he (the Premier) had said on that occasion, and he also knew the views of the Government on the question, and he might have told the deputation that the Government were pledged. He might now say again that the Government were

not prepared at present to introduce any measure into Parliament to abolish these Assisted Schools.

MR. SIMPSON: I only wished to inquire to whom the Government were pledged.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): There was nothing more than I have just said.

MR. SIMPSON: Then I understand it is part of the policy of the Government of this colony to continue the grant to Assisted Schools; is that so?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): We have no intention to interfere with the Assisted Schools at the present time.

MR. SIMPSON: Then the Government consider the present principle a sound one, as applying to Assisted Schools. That I take it is the meaning of the answer of the Premier.

MR. QUINLAN said he had the honour of introducing the deputation referred to, to the Colonial Secretary; and if it was reported in the papers that the Colonial Secretary told the deputation that the Government were pledged, it must have been a mistake. What he said was that the Government saw no reason to interfere with the Assisted Schools, for the reasons he gave, and which appeared in the newspaper report.

MR. MOLLOY said he could bear out the assertion of the hon. member for West Perth in respect to the answer of the Colonial Secretary to the deputation, and it was that the Government did not intend to interfere with the principle of granting assistance to schools which complied with the provisions of the Act in force at the present time, but that there was an amending Act to be introduced, but only as regards allowing religious instruction to be imparted in Government Schools and placing the Department under a Minister. It was admitted that the present system was producing results that were exceedingly satisfactory, and that the Assisted Schools (so-called) compared most favourably with the purely Government Schools. That being so, the Government saw no reason to interfere with the present Act as it stood, beyond what he had just stated. That was the purport of the Colonial Secretary's reply. He (Mr. Molloy) thought the discussion that had taken place on this subject in the Press

had proved that the present system was a most satisfactory one. It cost the State less, and produced better results than if the Government grant were confined to Government Schools.

MR. SIMPSON: Then do away with the Government Schools.

MR. MOLLOY: The principle underlying the Assisted School system was open to all denominations alike, and he thought was a most equitable one, producing the most gratifying results, and, as the Premier had said, it had the result of appeasing the clamour that existed before the introduction of the present system. That being so, why should they seek to introduce dissension and to arouse sectarian bigotry, where none at present existed. He maintained that the educational requirements of the colony were well met by the present Act, more especially with the amendment proposed by the Government, which would meet the scruples of the most fastidious; and ought to satisfy, and he believed would satisfy, the demands of the colony for a long time to come.

Vote put and passed.

Registry, £1,790:

Vote put and passed.

Charitable Institutions, £9,292:

Vote put and passed.

Government Gardens, £683 5s.:

Vote put and passed.

Defences, £12,214 13s. 4d.:

MR. DEHAMEL asked the Government whether it was their intention to form a paid militia, or to continue under the present system of capitation grants, which was simply throwing money away.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he believed it was intended to continue as we are.

MR. MOLLOY said he noticed that we paid the Commandant a salary of £500, and £50 forage allowance, and he also noticed an item of £300 for travelling expenses of the Commandant and Volunteers; so that it would seem we were paying this officer about £800 a year. If so, he thought we were paying too high a price for our Commandant.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the £300 for travelling allowance included the allowance for all the Volunteers, and other incidental expenses.

MR. A. FORREST did not think they needed to waste much time over this

vote, because it was a vote which he expected would soon be done away with, or, at any rate, gradually reduced. It did little or no good, and the amount we paid our Commandant was altogether out of proportion with the work to be done. As to this officer's forage allowance, he would not object so much to that if the Commandant only had a decent horse.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said although the vote looked a large vote, there were many important items that helped to swell it. There was a sum of £2,984 for small arms; that was with the view of supplying our Volunteers with a more modern weapon than they now had. If we had Volunteers at all, we must provide them with effective weapons. Then there was £426 for accoutrements and helmets; it was intended to provide the men with a class of helmet more suitable to the climate. There was also a sum of £1,100, which was our contribution towards the maintenance of the garrison at Albany. It was a small contribution compared with what the other colonies contributed. Then there was our contribution towards the fortifications at Thursday Island.

MR. DEHAMEL asked for some explanation as to the item "Forage allowance to officer commanding Plantagenet Rifles, £50."

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said this officer was the officer in charge of the fortifications, and had lately accepted the command of the local Rifles.

MR. DEHAMEL: I suppose that forage allowance will only be continued so long as he commands the local Rifles?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Certainly.

MR. A. FORREST moved that the item be struck out.

MR. MONGER said he would support the reduction of the vote. Until he looked at these Estimates he never knew we had such an expensive army of volunteers.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said they were forming another corps at York.

MR. MONGER was sure that if they formed a corps at York, they would not find the commanding officer asking for a forage allowance. He had come to the conclusion that we had been playing at soldiers quite long enough, and that the

sooner we adopted a more practical system the better it would be for the colony.

MR. DEHAMEL hoped the hon. member for West Kimberley would not press his motion to strike out this item, because the Plantagenet Rifles stood in a different position to any other corps in the colony: It was a sort of adjunct to the garrison; and the only possible way to ensure the efficiency of the corps was to have a skilled officer in command. It was not a part of the duty of the officer commanding the garrison to command the local riflemen, and he did not care to accept the position, and it was only after some persuasion that he accepted the command; and the least they could do was to give him this forage allowance.

MR. MOLLOY failed to see any reason why this particular officer any more than other commanding officers of local corps should receive a forage allowance. In the early days of the volunteers in this colony, commanding officers never dreamt of asking for a forage allowance or any other allowance; yet the volunteers in those days were quite as efficient as they were now, if not more so.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the position with regard to this particular officer was this: he had been lent to us by the Imperial Government to take charge of the fortifications and the garrison at Albany. In conjunction with the other Australian colonies we paid him £400 a year, of which we contributed one fourth. We wanted a rifle corps at Albany to assist this garrison in case of emergency, and this officer was good enough to accept the position of commanding officer of this rifle corps. He lived two miles out of town, at the forts, and he thought the least we could do was to give him a forage allowance. If members did not want to vote it, he did not care a straw. All he could say was, if they wanted this local rifle corps to be anything more than a farce, they must have some skilled officer to command it. We had embarked in a large expenditure in connection with these fortifications at Albany, and we wanted somebody to look after them, and we also wanted an auxiliary force. He was given to understand that unless we had an auxiliary force at their back, the garrison would be a source of weakness rather than of defence. At first he had

resisted the granting of this forage allowance, but he afterwards found that we could not very well refuse it under the circumstances.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he had not taken much interest in these Estimates this year, but, with reference to this forage allowance, if this officer was doing other work than he agreed to do, there seemed to be some ground for granting it. If he had been in the House earlier, he would have moved to strike out the Commandant's forage allowance, for the only time he had seen that officer on horseback was on the Queen's Birthday, and then he rode a police horse.

MR. SIMPSON said he saw from the Commandant's last report that the strength of this Albany corps had been considerably reduced of late, and not only that but that it was a very inefficient corps. The Commandant said: "I regret to say that in a previous part of my report I have been forced to classify the Plantagenet Rifles as inefficient, not only on account of their bad attendance at inspection, but owing to their general inability at drill." He also said: "I have given my reasons for their weakness at the foot of the table showing increase and decrease; and I consider the same reasons hold good in accounting for the general laxity of this corps. I think that after the partially-paid force has been raised at Albany, some endeavours should be made to resuscitate this corps, and, if unsuccessful, that it should be disbanded." Surely the Premier would not ask them to vote £2 a head for a forage allowance for the commanding officer of such a corps as that. He should support the amendment to strike out the item.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he believed the corps was becoming more efficient than it was, and that greater interest was taken in it. They tried all they could to get a local commandant at Albany, but unsuccessfully, and, after some difficulty, they induced the commanding officer of the garrison to accept the position. The simple question was: were we to have a defence force at all, or were we content to live in a false paradise? Why were all the other Australian colonies spending such large sums in this direction? Anyone who thought at all beyond the present day must know that the best security we could have was to be prepared

to defend ourselves when the occasion arose for it.

MR. COOKWORTHY thought it was an important point to supplement the garrison force by a local force, and it appeared to him that the colony was fortunate in having such an officer as Captain Harvest to drill this local force. Surely there must be some misapprehension in the minds of members when they proposed to strike out this item.

Amendment negatived, and the vote passed as printed.

Central Board of Health, £234:

MR. A. FORREST objected to the title of "Chief Inspector of Nuisances" being applied to the secretary of this Board. He said it was a misnomer, as this officer did none of the work of an inspector of nuisances, and he ought to be called "secretary," and nothing more.

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

Question put and passed, and progress reported.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at sixteen minutes to 11 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 5th September, 1893.

Public Depositors Relief Bill: third reading—Gold Declaration Bill: committee—Chattels Foreclosure Bill: second reading—Legal Practitioners Bill: second reading—Fremantle Gas and Coke Company's Act Amendment Bill: second reading: committee—Adjournment.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at half-past two o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

PUBLIC DEPOSITORS RELIEF BILL.

THIRD READING.

The Bill was read a third time, and *passed.*