

other person in the community to be employed at a wage if he can get it, but unable to find some person willing to employ him, a convenient opportunity of going on the land for employing himself and getting some remuneration in the occupation. We have had a paternal Government initiating a scheme, not for the purpose of primarily providing work for people, but to provide those who have some grit and backbone an opportunity of making for themselves comfortable homes on the soil. With all due respect to the member for Northam, I care not where a scheme comes from, whether from the member for Boulder or any other member of this House who may be objectionable to me, so long as the scheme initiated is good, I welcome it from whatever source it comes. I hope in the circumstances that this experiment, begun some considerable time after the settlement which a select committee is now investigating was started, will be given at least some opportunity of proving itself; and if some of the statements of the member for Northam are true—if some settlers are not satisfied with the conditions—then their course is perfectly clear. They are not bound to complete their contracts; they are not rooted to the soil itself; and clearly the remedy is, not to abolish the settlement, but to give them an opportunity of getting away and providing themselves with some congenial employment. I therefore hope that, after what I consider the sound and logical arguments of the members for York (Mr. Burges) and Katanning (Hon. F. H. Piessé), neither the amendment nor the motion will be carried.

On motion by **MR. F. F. WILSON**, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at nine minutes to 11 o'clock, until the next afternoon.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 23rd November, 1904.

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THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 3:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PETITION—LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT.

MR. NELSON presented a petition, praying that certain amendments be made to the Legal Practitioners Act and Local Courts Act.

Petition received and read.

QUESTION—RAILWAY DIFFERENTIAL RATES.

DR. ELLIS asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is it the intention of the Railway Department to do away with the differential railway rates against the other States of Australia this coming year? 2, Is it the intention of the department to do away with the differential rates between the inland and coastal traffic; and if so, when?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, The Rate Book in course of preparation will extinguish the rates which differentiate between W.A. produce of all kinds and similar produce from Eastern States. 2, If port to port rates are meant, no.

QUESTION—RAILWAY FINANCE.

DR. ELLIS asked the Minister for Railways: Are repayments under loans taken off the railway loan capital or not?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: Railway accounts recognise the actual loan expenditure as far as it has been possible to obtain it. Folio 4 of the Commissioner's report explains this. Repayments and adjustments as named are Treasury matters, and do not affect the

capital taken into consideration in railway statement of accounts.

**QUESTION—TRAMWAY AGREEMENT,
VICTORIA PARK.**

MR. GORDON asked the Minister for Works: 1, Is there any valid reason why the agreement, giving the Victoria Park Municipal Council the right to lay rails and run a tramway over the Perth Causeway, should not be immediately signed? 2, If not, will the Government endeavour to have the Provisional Order in connection therewith passed this session?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1 and 2, The Minister for Works was advised that he had no power to enter into the agreement submitted, and that the powers required should be included in the Provisional Order, and this has been done. It is the intention of the Government to submit a Bill embodying the provisional order this session, if the promoters do their part of the business with sufficient expedition to allow of it. The draft of the provisional order has been amended and is now in the hands of the promoters to print. The amended plans only reached the Department on the 22nd of this month, and if they comply with the Act there will now be no difficulty in introducing the Bill this session.

**QUESTION—MRS. TRACEY, COM-
PASSIONATE ALLOWANCE.**

MR. F. F. WILSON asked the Premier: Do the Government intend to grant Mrs. Tracey a compassionate allowance, as recommended by the Select Committee appointed last session to inquire into the grievances of the said Mrs. Tracey?

THE PREMIER replied: No.

**QUESTION—GOLDFIELD WATER DAMS,
NORTH COOLGARDIE.**

MR. RASON (for Mr. Gregory) asked the Minister for Mines: In view of the scarcity of water supplies in the North Coolgardie field, will he at once put in hand the construction of farther dams for water conservation?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES replied: The information at present in the possession of the department is that the North Coolgardie Goldfield is fairly well supplied with water, but the question of

constructing additional tanks at Menzies, Mulline, and other places, with a view to preventing any scarcity in the future, is under consideration.

**HAMEL SETTLEMENT INQUIRY.
INTERIM REPORT.**

MR. C. J. MORAN (West Perth) brought up an interim report of the select committee in regard to the Hamel Settlement.

Report received and read.

MR. MORAN: In order that the matter may be discussed, as it should be if anything is to be done promptly, I move that Standing Order 357 be suspended.

MR. C. H. RASON (Guildford): I do not intend to oppose this motion, but I submit that it is rather an unheard of proceeding that we should adopt the vigorous course of suspending the Standing Orders in order to consider an interim report of a select committee. Surely there is nothing to be lost or gained by 24 hours. The usual procedure would have been sufficient, and notice should have been given to consider the interim report tomorrow. If the Standing Orders are going to be continually suspended for the consideration of matters such as this, I do not know where we are going to finish. I do not intend to oppose the motion, but I wish to call attention to the somewhat unusual procedure.

MR. MORAN: It is a very unusual case, and I hope it will not occur again.

THE SPEAKER: It is a matter entirely for the House to decide.

Question passed, and the Standing Order suspended.

MR. C. J. MORAN: I have very few words to say in discussing this report, except that in every case every individual of the select committee attended every meeting, and the greatest interest has been taken by the individual members. Besides having meetings here, we visited the settlement and spent practically between three and four days there—I may say three or four days and nights also, because we were never free from hearing about the settlement and taking evidence both night and day. As has been stated, we visited every individual holding; every one of the members, in company with the Government experts. We took Mr. William Paterson (manager

of the Agricultural Bank) with us, also Mr. Crowther, the inspecting surveyor. The greatest possible care and attention were given to this matter. We had a public meeting, and we gave an invitation to all the settlers assembled at that meeting, those who were contented and those who were discontented, to express themselves. We divided them. We inquired closely into the grievances of those dissatisfied, and we found even among those dissatisfied that there are good men and true. In inquiring into their cases more closely next day we ascertained they were all much in need of assistance to make use of the ground which had been cleared at such a large expense. The State has gone into this experiment; it has purchased land—500 acres or whatever it is; it has spent at least £5,000 on the experiment up to date; and unless we step in and continue the expenditure on what will undoubtedly become rich and productive farms, we are likely to lose a good deal of that expenditure, unless we turn round at the end of the two years' contract and sell the land and turn out the original holders. I do not think it would be a good thing for the State to abandon those who have settled, when with a reasonable expenditure we can pull them through and make homes for them. That is my advice to the House. I should say, stick to the experiment. Expend some more money wisely on the experiment. The experiment will not be a costly one, even if it does not pay financially. We have had the evidence of Mr. Paterson that the land, where cleared, tilled, and cultivated, will be worth from £7 to £8 an acre up to nearly £30 an acre. If that be so, we can afford to spend more money. I cannot advise the House to pay anyone's debts. That would be apart altogether from the scope of the settlement. That debts have been incurred, there is no doubt. Credit has been stopped, and if we want to help these settlers let us plough their ground for them, plant it, and proceed with the Government work in the vicinity in the shape of additional drainage—that drainage is a revelation to those who have seen it—and thus enable them to tide over a bad time. I am afraid that those who take undue business risks in this matter cannot look to the State to pay the debts of the settlers. The State only undertook

to honour orders up to the amount of the contract, and if business people have allowed their credit to go beyond that, I do not think it is fair to ask the State to pay them. If these men are encouraged, I have no doubt that in the majority of cases they will be able in a legitimate manner, that is through their labour on the soil, to pay the debts they have incurred. Our policy, if we pay any more money into the undertaking, is to put it into the soil in draining etc. That is as far as we ought to go, and I think that in that way we can help the settlers to pay their debts. I move—

That the report be adopted.

MR. C. H. RASON (Guildford): I hope the member for West Perth (Mr. Moran) will realise that I am speaking in no antagonistic spirit; but in asking the House to adopt that report without having the report in print before us he is asking too much. We have had the privilege of bearing the hon. member read it. The hon. member knows I should be only too glad if I felt myself justified in agreeing to any motion coming from him, and supported by the member for Beverley (Mr. Harper); but I contend we are hardly justified in adopting this report until we have it before us and are able to read it. If the hon. member had been content to move that it be printed and taken into consideration to-morrow, I think that would have been sufficient. I recognise the urgency as much as he does, but it is, I say, asking too much to request us to adopt a report which we have not had an opportunity of considering.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. G. Johnson): I do not think that it is the intention of the member for West Perth to press for the adoption of this report. I think the object of the hon. member is to draw special attention to the report, so that members will take the matter into consideration, and that the House will have an opportunity to devote early attention to it. As far as the report goes, as one who has visited the area I am rather pleased with the conclusions arrived at, but I am not prepared to say I would go to the extent the hon. member or the select committee recommends. Some time ago, shortly after the Government took office, I visited

the area, and I think I recommended, only on a smaller scale, almost exactly the same thing as the committee recommends now. The Government realised when I placed my report before them that these settlers deserved some consideration and assistance, that they had arrived at that stage when something must be done, because the planting season was on them and they had no money for ploughing their ground, and no money to get seed or manure; consequently unless the Government immediately came to their assistance they would have to close up. We understand from what is before us that they have got into debt with the merchants. I agree with the member for West Perth that we cannot take over that liability. That is a matter between the tradespeople and the settlers. The tradespeople took the risk, and it is for them to wait until the settlers are in a position to pay those accounts. As far as the Government are concerned, whilst we may not go quite to the extent the select committee suggests in the report, we have already decided that in the very extreme cases—there are some cases where they can get through this year and get through comfortably, but there are a few which must receive consideration—we will plough an acre for them. In some cases we have gone a little farther than an acre. We are supplying seed to them and supplying the fertiliser; consequently the Government are practically putting in a small crop for them. By this means we will demonstrate whether the ground is worth planting. It has been said that the ground is too sour and needs to be turned over several times before it will produce a crop. By the method which the Government will adopt we are going to turn over an acre of virgin ground and plant it, and we shall be able to demonstrate whether a crop can be obtained from this virgin soil by practically just the one turning over. I think the Government have overcome the immediate difficulty. For this season the Government have come to the rescue; and the small crop put in for the settlers will be sufficient.

MR. RASON: Did this come out at the select committee's inquiry?

MR. MORAN: Yes; and the provision will be practically useless.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: I think it will be sufficient, though it may be practically useless as a permanent solution of the difficulty. It is of course the duty of the select committee to place its recommendations before the House and the Government; but I think the steps taken by the Government will suffice for present purposes.

MR. BURGESS: That is doubtful.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Perhaps we did not go far enough; but we realised that certain settlers must be assisted. We have assisted them to an extent we think sufficient. If the recommendations of the committee justify farther assistance, the Government will give due consideration to those recommendations.

MR. A. J. H. WATTS (Northam): I move the adjournment of the debate.

MR. MORAN: The question is that the Standing Orders be suspended. I have no objection to adjourning the debate.

THE SPEAKER: Perhaps the best course is for the hon. member (Mr. Moran) to withdraw his motion, and to move that the report be printed.

MR. MORAN: I ask leave to withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

MR. MORAN: In moving that the report be printed, I appreciate the stand taken by the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Rason); and he will understand that I am only voicing the opinion of the select committee, who consider that it would fail in its duty did the committee wait until this report could be printed in the ordinary course. Whatever is done now should be done on a decent scale and done promptly; for money is being lost every hour. I move:

That the report be printed, and its consideration made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

Question put and passed.

BILLS, THIRD READING.

LOCAL COURTS, transmitted to the Legislative Council.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS ACT AMENDMENT, transmitted to the Legislative Council.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1904-5.

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Resumed from the previous day; MR. BATH in the Chair.

COLONIAL TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT
(Hon. H. Daglish).

Vote — *Audit*, £9,320 (partly discussed):

Item—Chief Clerk, £450 :

THE PREMIER AND TREASURER: The increase of £25 to this officer had been granted in consequence of last year's vote. Provision was then made for reorganising the department, as would be seen on reference to Item 8. The last Parliament provided £500 for the estimated increases of salaries resulting from reorganisation, the Auditor General having reported that some officers were considerably underpaid. Of the £500 then voted, only £17 was expended last year. The reorganisation was effected, and certain recommendations submitted by the Auditor General as soon as he had been long enough in charge of the office to apportion the value of the work and of the officers' services. Amongst his recommendations was the chief clerk's increase of £25, such increase to date back to the 1st July, 1903. This and other recommendations for increases had been approved by the preceding Treasurer, who ordered them to be placed on this year's Estimates. In years past the Audit office had been partly starved; and a report on the department by Mr. Percy Whitton, of the Commonwealth public service, made recommendations which if carried out would entail increases considerably exceeding those now proposed. Moreover, the Audit Act of last session provided for an annual audit of public accounts, necessitating an increase of staff and of expenditure. This annual audit was now made in all departments; and though this year's Estimates showed a slight increase over those of last year, the country could rely on an increase of efficiency more than equivalent to the increased expenditure. The chief clerk's increase was in fulfilment of a promise to the officer concerned, and in pursuance of a decision of the preceding Parliament.

MR. KEYSER: Did the House promise directly to increase this officer's salary, or did it authorise the head of the department to devote a certain sum to increasing salaries? If so, the amendment would not be pressed; but if the increase were simply a departmental suggestion from the Auditor General, it would be opposed. The department might have been starved; but the chief clerk, with his salary of £425, could hardly be in a starving condition. He (Mr. Keyser) would be glad to have such an income. Unfortunately, in this case the Auditor General had the welfare of his subordinates at heart, had button-holed the Premier, and had received a concession not granted to heads of departments who did not care a rap whether their subordinates got increases, and whose subordinates suffered in consequence. This was unfair; and with the evidence before us the withdrawal of the amendment would not be justifiable. It was wrong to single out any officer for an increase; though the amendment would be withdrawn if the increase had been definitely promised.

THE TREASURER: What more definite statement was needed?

MR. KEYSER had been absent during the Premier's explanation.

THE TREASURER: Last year the House voted £500 to enable the Auditor General to adjust the salaries, and the Auditor General apportioned this increase to this particular officer. Only £17 was actually expended last year, but Ministerial authority was obtained for the expenditure of a sum of £378, being money that should have been expended last year. In May last, the Auditor General submitted a recommendation, showing the amounts that should be paid to the different officers. This recommendation provided that the change in salary should date from the 1st July, 1903; and the recommendation was approved by the Minister. On the 22nd July, the Executive Council approved of the increases dating from the 1st July, 1903, out of the sum voted for the reorganisation of the department. This particular officer, therefore, had a moral right, if not also a legal right, to the increase. Members had a right to override an order of the Executive Council, but to do so in these circumstances would create an injustice.

MR. GREGORY : The order of the Executive Council related to the £500.

THE TREASURER : The first items on the schedule of increases to which the Order in Council related was an increase in the salary of the chief clerk from £425 to £450; but members could have the list of names on that schedule if they desired it for farther information. The increase was fully justified in these circumstances.

MR. KEYSER : Were all the increases agreed to at that meeting of the Executive Council provided on the Estimates?

THE TREASURER : Certainly.

MR. KEYSER : As there was a distinct promise that the increase should be given, members must adhere to it.

Amendment withdrawn.

Item—Chief Inspector of Accounts at £400, £333 (for ten months) :

MR. MORAN : What was the reason for this item? Nobody was engaged in the work at present, and it was doubtful whether anybody was wanted in the position.

THE TREASURER : The position was required not only according to the opinion of the Auditor General, but according to the opinion of Mr. Whitton, the Commonwealth officer, who made the investigation of the department. He (the Treasurer) spoke to him on the subject a few days back. Provision was made for only part of the year, because he (the Treasurer) did not feel justified in creating a new office and making an appointment before Parliament had an opportunity of passing the provision. At the same time, the amount of work to be done and the amount of supervision likewise required over the work done, did necessitate the appointment of a chief inspector.

MR. MORAN : Had the Treasurer his eye on a man for the position?

THE TREASURER : Applications had been called for, but no appointment had been made.

MR. A. J. WILSON : Last year's estimates showed that the chief inspector of accounts received £350. Apparently there was an increase of £50 a year.

DR. ELLIS : Mr. Edward Shenton was chief inspector last year, at £350.

MR. RASON : The Auditor General advised that it was absolutely necessary there should be a new chief inspector of accounts. Advertisements were called

for the position at a salary of £400. Numerous applications were received from within and without the service. The Auditor General was recommended to submit the applications to an independent tribunal, with the advice that preference should be given to an application from within the service, qualifications being equal.

MR. MORAN : The officer was not yet appointed.

MR. RASON : No. This increase of salary did not apply to any present holder of an office.

MR. MORAN : It was intended to create a new office. He could not accept the statement that the position was necessary. We provided in the next item for nine inspectors, at salaries ranging from £215 to £360. The House would not make any mistake in striking out the item.

MR. FRANK WILSON : This was not a new position. Mr. Shenton held the position of chief inspector from 1896. Was it intended to have more than one chief inspector; or was Mr. Shenton to be dismissed?

THE TREASURER : The position was really a new one. At present there was no chief inspector of accounts, for under the reorganisation the previous chief inspector became an inspector, and the old appointment of chief inspector lapsed. It was, however, found necessary to have a chief inspector, so the new position was created; though at present it remained unfilled. He trusted the House would recognise the need for the appointment of such an officer. Members, apparently, had not given reasonable consideration to the increased work involved by the present Audit Act. The Audit department was not a revenue earning department, but where its administration was efficient, it very often was a revenue saving department.

MR. BOLTON : A nuisance.

THE TREASURER had never felt an audit a nuisance, but some persons found it so.

MR. FRANK WILSON : Did Mr. Whitton recommend the abolition of the office?

THE TREASURER : No. Mr. Whitton recommended a reorganisation of the department, and this had been made. Members were wrong in objecting to the salary proposed to be paid. An auditor's

work was the most important work that any public servant could be entrusted with, and it was work that should certainly be adequately remunerated. Often audit officers inspected the accounts of men paid higher salaries, so that the official status of the audit officers should be maintained at a reasonable height. He trusted the item would be passed. Before putting it on the Estimates he had satisfied himself by inquiry that there was absolute need for the appointment.

DR. ELLIS : The item might well be passed, since a new man was to be appointed to the position. A chief inspector of the Audit Department would not be entirely out of place. Possibly the salary was not enough to enable us to get a man who would be able to put accounts into a reasonable condition ; but one could safely say that the officer was badly needed, and £400 would not over-pay the work he would have to do.

MR. MORAN : It would be easy to discover how the expense of administration increased, if a new item such as this was introduced by the Premier, and supported by the leader of the Opposition.

Item—Inspectors of Accounts (9), £2,590 :

DR. ELLIS : Would the Treasurer indicate what salaries the two inspectors on last year's Estimates were receiving ?

THE TREASURER : The inspectors of accounts last year were Mr. Shenton, Mr. Smyth, and Mr. Reeder.

DR. ELLIS : What were the salaries this year ?

THE TREASURER : This year the proposed salaries were £350, £360, and £345.

DR. ELLIS : They were all increased.

THE TREASURER : Yes.

DR. ELLIS : Any reason ?

THE TREASURER : The increases were made because the salaries were regarded as insufficient, and were reported by the gentleman who investigated the department to be disproportionate to the value of the services rendered. These increases were all on the same footing as those already dealt with by the Committee.

MR. NELSON : It seemed there was a very large increase in this item. If the country was in such a frightful state that

members of Parliament could not get adequate remuneration, why should there be an increase of nearly £2,000 in this amount, nearly half of that proposed by the motion for an increase of payment to members ? If the department required an increase of nearly £2,000, it must have been very inefficient or very inadequately remunerated previously. We should have evidence that previously the department was under-officered. Without some substantial evidence the increase of £2,000 should not be passed.

MR. MORAN : The increases in salary were quite sufficient to have kept on the department without the new appointment. The increase was tremendous, and he could not understand it unless a new fad was being introduced.

THE TREASURER : The Audit Act made it necessary for the Audit Department to hold an annual audit of the accounts of each officer holding a financial position in the public service. This position did not exist until last year, and the time to have objected to the increase was when the increase of work was cast on the Audit Department. Seeing that Parliament had caused the increase of work in the department, Parliament must provide the means of paying the officers who did the work. A portion of the expenditure was returned by the Commonwealth. Last year the amount received from the Commonwealth was £1,100; this year it was expected that we would receive £1,477 on account of increased work done for the Commonwealth. The increase shown on the Estimates as £377 was more in appearance than in reality, and furthermore £387 more of the increase was expenditure really due to the last year's services. So that the increase of revenue on the one hand of £377, and the provision in regard to last year's services of £387, reduced the apparent increase by £750. While this was one of those matters that he (the Treasurer) would not hesitate to take the full responsibility for, as the increase was one of the most justifiable shown on the Estimates, all this work was done before he (the Treasurer) took office. The order in Council which was passed in July compelled the Government either to break faith with the officers or introduce the proposals. He quite agreed in

this particular instance with the increase on the Estimates.

MR. LYNCH: According to the report of Mr. Whittou, the increase of £1,600 was fully warranted. It was stated that some public accounts had not been audited for years: that was clear evidence that either the department was very much under-manned, or the officers had not been adequately remunerated. It was not right that accounts should run on for years without being audited.

MR. RASON: This was not a question so much of the increase of the salaries of individual officers as increasing the number of inspectors. There were many departments, and he believed some remained still, where the accounts had not been audited for years. When an audit of the accounts of these departments was made, it was found that there were discrepancies; therefore it was necessary that more inspectors should be appointed.

DR. ELLIS: It was about time the State kept its accounts in a proper manner, so that people could understand them.

MR. MORAN: A Government could always give sufficient reason for an increase or for a new item on the Estimates. It was always one of those increases that could not be done without. The last Government thought this increase necessary and made provision, and the present Government had followed tamely the lead which had been given.

MR. RASON: What was the meaning of the item, "temporary inspector, £450."

MR. LYNCH: According to the note at the bottom of the page, one inspector was to receive £300 for 10 months.

THE TREASURER: The position was vacant at present.

MR. MORAN: How many were vacant?

THE TREASURER: Two positions were vacant. The "temporary inspectors" item to which the member for Guildford alluded was caused by the fact that the two inspectorships were vacant. When he (the Treasurer) took office these inspectors were employed in the Audit office.

MR. RASON: From month to month?

THE TREASURER: Exactly; they were temporarily employed from month to month, and when the vacancies were

filled the necessity for the temporary officers would cease.

MR. N. J. MOORE: As the Audit Department did considerable work for the Commonwealth, what amounts were debited to the Commonwealth for services rendered?

THE TREASURER: The information was contained in a footnote on the Estimates. A sum of £1,477 would be returned this year.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

Compassionate Allowances etc., £1,262 :

Item—Annuity to first discoverers of Hannans, £200 :

MR. LYNCH: The Government were to be commended for taking the claims of these men into consideration. The amount, however, should not be called a compassionate allowance, but an allowance which indicated that the State was under some real obligation to these two men, who were at present not very well circumstanced. Through their efforts this State had been brought from comparatively a region of obscurity to that of one of the foremost goldfields in the world. In the case of Hannan, he put whatever means he obtained back again into trying fresh country. One would like to see the amount on the Estimates increased to at least £400; the sum which actually appeared for the two men, £2 a week, being altogether an inadequate allowance. There were others perhaps who had equal claims, or possibly superior claims, but there was a difficulty in establishing such claims. The Government were to be commended for singling out at least these two men for compensation, and he was sorry he had not an opportunity of moving that the item be increased twofold.

DR. ELLIS: This seemed to be a distinctively new departure. He believed that in days gone by compensation had been given in the shape of certain leases. He would like to know why the Treasurer had started a departure which might have very serious consequences, if we were to go in for relieving everybody who had reached a bad time, because some of their efforts in the past had been for the good of the State. He was strongly in favour of old age pensions; but would like to

hear why the Treasurer selected two men specially for recognition in this matter.

THE TREASURER: An item like this was one which he thought would not be cavilled at by any member, no matter what his desire for economy might be. The member for Leonora objected to its coming under the head of "Compassionate allowances," but that was the only form of annual grant that could be awarded, except under the Superannuation Act. The proposal was not that there should be any charitable vote whatsoever. He hoped members would pass the item, and he was thoroughly in sympathy with the remarks as to the smallness of the amount. He would very much have liked to bring down a proposal for considerably larger payment.

MR. GREGORY: This matter was first brought under his notice by the member for Kalgoorlie, now the Minister for Works, who urged very strongly that something should be done for these people. In the old days some assistance was given to Mr. Hannan, this consisting of certain blocks of land in or about Kalgoorlie, but they were of very small value. So far as the other man was concerned, Mr. O'Shea, he received assistance from the Mines Department to go out prospecting. Other than that, no assistance was given to them. The late Cabinet decided that provision should be made on the Estimates for these people. It would be impossible for us to recognise the work of all the early prospectors, and we could only grant rewards commensurate with the results which followed the discoveries made. In the Mines Estimates a reward of £300 was provided for the discovery of Black Range. That matter came under the notice of the late Cabinet. He thought that where discoveries were made by certain people, it would be good for the country to recognise the discoverers. He could not remember the amount suggested formerly in the case now under discussion, but he would like the Treasurer to see his way clear, if bringing down Supplementary Estimates, to make the amount £300 instead of £200, and that would make about £3 a week for each of those two men—he thought there were only two in existence—Hannan and O'Shea. He believed both of them were in need of help. He knew that O'Shea was, and that Hannan was

not possessed of this world's goods to any great extent. These were not people who made any great value for themselves out of the discoveries. He would also like the Minister to explain how it was intended to apportion the money. What he (Mr. Gregory) had proposed to do in regard to the Black Range discovery was to get the warden to collect all the evidence, and then place it before three independent people and allow them to make an appropriation of the amount. Shillington was an applicant for the reward, and there were applications also by Payne and others. Payne of course should receive some portion of the reward, because the way in which he stuck to the field and his having proved the existence of alluvial gold at a later date induced a large number of people to go there. As to the discoverers of Hannans, he hoped that such a method would be adopted in apportioning the amount that we should not afterwards have anybody coming forward and making claims on the same grounds.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: In different portions of the field he had met Mr. Hannan, and he knew that Mr. Hannan spent what little money he made out of the discovery by putting it into mining and in prospecting. The whole of the time since the discovery of Hannans, Mr. Hannan had been out in the field prospecting in different directions, and although at present considerably over 60 years of age, he was out prospecting. He had practically no money, and what little he did get was just by what we called on the fields "chasing the weight." He was a genuine prospector who had put in the best portion of his life on the gold-fields, and was the discoverer of the greatest goldfield on earth; so the Government should give him recognition. The previous Government recognised this, and made a note that a sum should be placed on the Estimates to give an annuity to him. An announcement was made that they intended to do so. Since then Mr. O'Shea had put in a claim, and from investigations made he (the Minister) was confident both men were together when Hannans was discovered.

MR. GREGORY thought that was undoubted. There were three of them.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: There were Hannan, O'Shea, and

Flanagan. Flanagan had since died and had no one depending upon him; consequently the only two the Government were bound now to recognise were O'Shea and Hannan, and it was intended to divide the sum between the two. True, the amount was too small. Whether or not he was a member of the Government next year, he would then urge that this be increased. O'Shea, now in Kalgoorlie, had practically no money. Recently he had spent almost his last shilling on a State-assisted prospecting tour in the Ashburton Ranges. He was over 70 years of age, and could not long enjoy this allowance, which would date back to the 31st July. The amount ought to be increased to £300 a year.

MR. NELSON: The amount should at least be doubled—£200 to each man. If Hannans had not been discovered, most of us would not be here. Mr. Hannan had been all his life in the truest sense a prospector.

MR. MORAN: O'Shea was the greatest prospector in this State.

MR. NELSON: O'Shea was 70 years of age and Hannan over 60; and it would be the essence of meanness to offer them £100 each. Better not offer anything. As the allowance did not come out of our own pockets, let us be generous. He (Mr. Nelson) would willingly contribute with others, but would contribute with greater alacrity if he knew he was dipping into the public funds. In the north country a man could easily spend £2 a week in shouting for his friends.

MR. HEITMANN: This proposal reminded one of the need for aiding old prospectors. Some of these, who had lived continuously for 12 years contented and happy on the Murchison, would not take charity. One in particular had to be forced by the community to accept enough to enable him to visit his one relative in Sydney. The Government would act gracefully by investigating the circumstances of these old prospectors, many of whom could hardly walk.

MR. A. J. WILSON: Members familiar with the many daring exploits of the goldfields pioneers should inform the Committee of other men entitled to consideration. The discoverers of Hannans were not the only deserving cases. It was said that the original discoverers of gold in the State had not been compen-

sated. Instead of making compassionate allowances at random, provide pensions for the aged, irrespective of whether these were or were not the successful pioneers of one or of many goldfields. Many other back-country prospectors were quite as meritorious as the two specified.

MR. FRANK WILSON: From the merits of the persons mentioned in this vote, or of the prospectors to whom so much of our material prosperity on the goldfields and the coast was due, he would be the last to detract; but the Committee would establish a dangerous precedent by voting an annuity to anyone. We heard frequent outcries against our pension list. What was this proposal but an addition to that list, by granting annuities to men who were in bad circumstances some ten years after they discovered Kalgoorlie. If this were a recognition of the services then performed, it was a tardy recognition, and should have been given at the time. Surely, when a new goldfield was discovered, the finder was granted a reward claim, a free area, or a sum of money. Was not that done in this instance? A member said it was. Why then should we grant annuities to these men because they were in reduced circumstances? If we granted an annuity to everyone who did good service to the State, we should soon be unable to face our pension list. Were pensions given to inventors, few of whom lived to benefit by their ingenuity? It was surprising that the member for Hannans (Mr. Nelson) could talk so lightly of dipping his hand into the public purse, which he had been told by his leader was now empty, to draw £400 for this purpose. Undoubtedly these prospectors had rendered good service; but had they found a poor instead of a rich goldfield, should we be so ready to give them annuities of £200? Yet the men who discovered Southern Cross, Parker's Range, Kimberley, and Golden Valley had just as hard a battle to fight as the discoverers of Kalgoorlie. Out of scores of such men were we to select two for special consideration?

MR. DIAMOND: Hall and Slattery had been rewarded for discovering Kimberley.

MR. FRANK WILSON: Probably some were rewarded, but scores were not. However, if the Committee thought Hannan and O'Shea should have some

reward, give them a lump sum. Let us know what we were doing; and do not grant annuities which might continue for 10 or 15 years. Do not let us establish a bad precedent which would hamper our future financial operations. We should have every member advocating the claims of men who had served the country by discovering goldfields, pastoral lands, and other sources of wealth. Everyone who had done a service would then be entitled to some consideration.

MR. TROY: Like the last speaker, he did not wish to belittle these prospectors. But other prospectors had done work of similar importance, and ought to receive some consideration. The Minister for Works said there was no comparison between the discoverers of Hannans and those who found other goldfields; but had the discoverer of Lawlers discovered Hannans, presumably he would get an annuity. Hundreds of other men had found important fields such as Murchison, Kimberley, and North Coolgardie, which had done much to increase the prosperity of the State. There were other prospectors now in their old age and too infirm to follow their occupation who should be given assistance. The discoverer of Lawlers was over 70 years of age, and was now dry-blowing on the Black Range.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member knew nothing about it.

MR. TROY: Why should not those who found other goldfields get annuities?

MR. MORAN: What about those who did not find goldfields?

MR. TROY: Possibly they were also entitled to some consideration. Often the reward claim given to the prospector turned out to be the poorest on the field. He did not oppose the item, but hoped annuities would be given in other instances. Other explorers had received grants for the work they did for the State, and the people who prospected goldfields should receive the same consideration. There was no comparison between the man who discovered a pastoral area and the man who discovered a goldfield. The reward lease given to the discoverer of a pastoral area was better than the reward claim given to the prospector of a goldfield.

MR. WATTS agreed with the remarks of the member for Sussex. We estab-

lished a dangerous precedent by giving annuities to the discoverers of Hannans. Other goldfields members would bring forward the claims of the various discoverers of the different goldfields throughout the State, and we would have a fine pension list in the future. We should not single out prospectors of the goldfields for consideration. There were pioneers in the agricultural, pastoral, pearling, and other industries, who might have had their good days, but might now be unfortunate in their old age.

MR. BURGESS: Better strike out the item.

MR. WATTS did not desire to move in that direction, but hoped the Government would agree to have the item struck out.

MR. NELSON: What was the dangerous precedent spoken of? It was that for the discovery of the greatest goldfield in the world we were to pay £200. The member for Sussex was afraid that other fellows would discover other Kalgoorlies and that we would have to pay other sums of £200. The argument was amazing, even coming from the member for Sussex. Admitted other men deserved as much as the discoverers of Hannans, we could not reward all of them, and some were specifically associated with the discovery of gold. The name of Hannan had become associated with our greatest goldfield; and if the matter was submitted to the people of the State the amount to be paid would be fixed at twenty times what we were now asked to pass. About a year ago several people in Kalgoorlie had under consideration a scheme to help the prospectors, but unfortunately sufficient support was not given to the movement, and it fell through. The idea was to have a special holiday to celebrate the foundation of the goldfields, that it should be a sports day, and that if possible the Government should subsidise it in some way.

MR. MORAN: That was the central feature.

MR. NELSON: No; the idea was to derive considerable revenue from the sports, and that the whole of the revenue together with the Government subsidy should constitute a sum for the express purpose of relieving the needs of prospectors, encouraging new prospectors

and helping the good work those brave old men had done for us in the past. There was no desire in this matter to be sentimental; but it was not to the credit of members on the Government side to indulge in carping criticism in regard to a payment which was not charity, but a part payment of a debt which the State could never pay in full. There was no danger of any precedent whatever. It would be an act of humanity, done under special circumstances. Unfortunately we were not likely to get another Hannan discovering many Kalgoorlies, and the member for Sussex need not be alarmed for the future.

MR. FRANK WILSON was not afraid of the future. We were dealing with the past, which fact the hon. member seemed to have overlooked. If we dealt with the early days of Kalgoorlie we should surely deal with the early days of other goldfields, and members feared that we should have other claimants equally entitled to the indulgence of the House. If we were to judge by the richness of a goldfield, where were we going to end? Were only those who had discovered rich goldfields to be rewarded? Perhaps men endured greater hardships in discovering other goldfields. If we went back to the early pioneers we should consider those who came to the State in the early years of the last century and settled down with their families, thus making it possible for Hannan, O'Shea, and others to discover goldfields. They had been anchored to the soil for tens of years and had carried on against almost insurmountable obstacles. If a reward was to be given because the discoverers of Hannans had been overlooked in the past, it should be a lump sum; and in order that the Government might take this into consideration he moved an amendment:

That the item be struck out.

MR. H. BROWN agreed with the last speaker. The early surveyors who went out into the wilds and surveyed the country were also entitled to recognition. Mr. Brooking, for instance, had passed 40 years in the service, and was receiving the magnificent pension of £250. It was all very well to say these compassionate allowances were not charity. If the men wanted the money it must be charity

pure and simple. He would sooner agree to striking out the item and granting a lump sum. Lower down there was an item of £150 for trades galas, which was to encourage young and brilliant men. Why not strike that out and give a lump sum of £350? If members were prepared to do that he would support it.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: It was to be hoped that the item would not be struck out. The amount was not to be given in the shape of charity. The two prospectors would get about £2 a week, which would encourage them and give them means to go out into the back country and perhaps open up other fields which we required. There were numbers of prospectors in Western Australia who should receive similar encouragement. On the Murchison there was an old prospector known as Paddy the Flat; he was eighty-five years of age, and had been on the goldfields since 1886. This man walked from Cue to Hall's Creek when he was seventy-five or seventy-six years of age. This man could not receive too much encouragement. It would be well if a fund were started to assist all the old prospectors to go out into the back country and do more prospecting. It was to be hoped that the country in the future would be able to afford a little more money to provide prospectors with the means of going out in search of new fields.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY knew both Hannan and O'Shea. He knew them before he came to Western Australia as hard-working men who had not alone followed up prospecting for gold, but had opened up pastoral country in another State. It was unfortunate that the Government could only see their way to provide amounts for Hannan and O'Shea. What about the men who had been unsuccessful—those who had prospected Bulong, Kurnalpi, Lawlers, and Lake Way? These places were opened up immediately after Hannans was. There was nothing very great about finding Hannans, which was eighteen or twenty miles from Coolgardie; but men had gone out from the nearest point of civilisation from Cue to Mt. Magnet, and met the Eastern Goldfields prospectors—these men should be compensated. The Government had not done their duty to the men who had opened up the gold-

fields of the State. He (the Minister) had been on the goldfields for eleven years and had met these men one hundred and fifty miles away from civilisation; dozens of different parties. The unsuccessful men like himself had not been heard of in the way of naming towns or naming rushes.

MR. MORAN: The whole country was named after the hon. member—mulga.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY said he was named after the country. There was a prospector named Frost who knew more about the State than anyone in it. He (the Colonial Secretary) had known Frost as a boy in Queensland. He came from Queensland overland to Western Australia prospecting the Kimberley as far down as Cue, and across from Cue to the Eastern Goldfields, without asking anyone to blaze a track for him. This man opened up the country and made it possible for Hannan and O'Shea to follow in his tracks. This man Frost could not get a team of camels to enable him to go prospecting, and eighteen months ago he was forced to leave the State and go to Central America, where he had since died owing to the trying climate there. We should make provision on the Estimates for others besides Hannan and O'Shea. This item appeared on the Estimates because there was a large population around Kalgoorlie. The Government were doing something for Hannan and O'Shea, and it was to be hoped the Committee would allow the item to pass. If these men received £1,000 a year, that would not prevent them from prospecting. The small amount to be voted would enable these men to fill their pack bags so as to go out prospecting again. Few knew more of the gold-bearing areas of the State than these two men.

MR. N. J. MOORE: As one who in a small way had traversed some of the unknown regions twelve years ago, he appreciated the work done by the early pioneers. There was no objection to giving a reward to the early pioneers; the only objection was the form in which the money should be granted. All the other compassionate allowances were lump sums and gratuities. He (Mr. Moore) would prefer to vote for a bonus or gratuity of £1,000 rather than an annuity. The pioneers were entitled to some con-

sideration from the country. There was an item lower down for a compassionate allowance to Mrs. Beazley, wife of the late contract surveyor. This man did good work in opening up Western Australia. He (Mr. Moore) was in Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie in 1892, and it was not so bad. Men like Beazley who had to go out back in the eastern part of Western Australia had done more in opening up Western Australia than the majority of pioneers. We should recognise work like that done by Mr. Brockman recently.

MR. A. J. WATTS: There was inconsistency on the part of the mover of the amendment. First of all he objected to the item on the ground of establishing a precedent; now the member turned round and wished to strike out the item so that a lump sum could be given as a recognition for services rendered. That would be creating a worse precedent. We should vote for the item as it stood.

MR. MORAN knew both the prospectors who had been named. O'Shea in particular was one of Australia's best known and unfortunately oldest prospectors. He had lost that pristine strength that had enabled him to discover gold in Western Australia. He (Mr. Moran) was sorry that comparisons had been made between old West Australians and prospectors. The same thing used to crop up when he (Mr. Moran) represented a goldfields constituency. These distinctions were most invidious. They ought not to be introduced at all. All did their share in the development of the State. Hundreds of men might be rushing wildly over various parts of the country, and one might stumble upon gold, and it was the one who found gold who was rewarded. Was not that so in every walk of life? A soldier who got the Victoria Cross did so because he happened to be in certain circumstances in which he was called upon to do something which every man in the regiment would have done under like conditions; yet he was rewarded. Summed up in a word, this was an attempt by the people in this State to make some recognition of the vast importance which the Hannans goldfield was to Western Australia. It was that and nothing more. It would be impossible to reward all the old prospectors,

and more was the pity, because many of them underwent greater hardships than Hannan or O'Shea; but they did not happen to come across a rich goldfield. As to O'Shea, only last year he (Mr. Moran) was able to get the member for Menzies, who was then Minister, to provide that prospector with some camels. Old as he was, O'Shea went up from Southern Cross and struck away to Lake Lefroy, came right down almost to Esperance, and through to Randell's; but he was not successful.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: Since then O'Shea had taken another big journey.

MR. MORAN: The member for Sussex was undeniably right in saying that this proposal would be creating a precedent. Many other prospectors might be mentioned. Dicky Greaves was one of the first and best in the State. Had it not been for the discovery of Southern Cross, no one would have thought of Kalgoorlie and other places. Kimberley was too far off, and almost beyond the ken of Western Australia. Mr. Greaves had never been recognised; but he ought to have been. For years and years he had been an absolute invalid through the exertions he put forward in discovering these Eastern Goldfields. Recognising all these anomalies, he (Mr. Moran) still felt that he must vote against this amendment.

MR. HARDWICK: If we passed this item, we should be establishing a precedent which might give us unbounded trouble, and he would rather vote for the giving of a lump sum, the Colonial Secretary having assured us that this gentleman was over 60 years of age.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: One was over 60 and the other over 70. O'Shea was about 74.

MR. HARDWICK: Many other places had been discovered by young prospectors, and claims might spring up in future. In this case the precedent would be established of giving an amount to men over 60 years of age. £2 a week was no more than equivalent to an old age pension, and that being so he would have much pleasure in supporting the item.

MR. ISDELL: Very few really understood how alluvial gold was first discovered in the North. The first who discovered gold in Western Australia

was Philip Saunders. He and Adam Johns were the first who found alluvial gold in Kimberley. The Nor'-West squatters found them horses and packs, and those men went right across the State, through the Kimberleys to Port Darwin, and found the first payable gold at what was known as Hall Creek. They were willing to pay half the expenses of a second trip, and farther prospect the country. A report was sent to Sir John Forrest, who, however, refused to agree to the proposal. The Government fitted out an exploring and prospecting party under Mr. H. F. Johnston (now Surveyor General), Mr. Hardman accompanying him as geologist; and Mr. Hardman was able to indicate where gold was discovered. He prospected the country—not in a theoretical but a practical manner—and marked on the map where gold was discovered. After Saunders and Johns went for their trip to Port Darwin, the Government offered a reward of £5,000 for the discovery of payable gold. Hall and Slattery went to Hall's Creek—a place mentioned by Mr. Hardman—and found payable gold, returning to Perth with about 200 ounces, which they showed to Governor Broome, and they claimed the reward. A *Gazette* notice appeared however, declaring that 10,000 ounces had to go through the Customs within three years after Kimberley was declared a goldfield, before the reward would be paid, and the Government immediately put on an export duty of 2s. 6d. an ounce on all gold going through the Customs, and of course this stopped it from going through the Customs, the quantity which went through being only 2,500 ounces. Slattery, one of the partners, entered an action against the Government, but lost the case on that point. As to the quantity of gold, over 100,000 ounces came out of Kimberley. He (Mr. Isdell) was one of the oldest prospectors of the North, and had undergone many hardships. He had nearly perished for want of water, and almost died from starvation; he had fought the natives, and had crossed Warburton's desert. He was willing to support this item provided the sum would not be an annuity. There were over 100 prospectors in this State who had done as much as Hannan or O'Shea, and had just as much claim for an annuity,

He would like to see Hannan get a lump sum, and have done with the annuity business.

MR. GORDON: We had an Act in existence which provided a reward for the first discoverer of gold. Each succeeding speaker had pointed out cases equally deserving if not more so than that under consideration. One was aghast at the money we might be called upon to pay, especially with no funds. He was strongly in favour of the item being struck out. Of course there was a good deal of sentiment attached to such a vote as this; but let us put our hands in our own pockets and assist prospectors in that way. It had been proved over and over again by successive speakers that there were more deserving cases than this. In spite of his feelings, which almost overcame him in a matter like this, he recognised that he owed a duty to the State. He was sent here not to consider his own feelings in a matter like this, but the interests of the community.

MR. GREGORY: Members differed only as to what form the allowance should take. There was much in the contention that a lump sum should be given; but those who knew the present circumstances of Hannan and O'Shea favoured an annuity. In granting rewards we should not consider the distance the prospector had travelled or the number of goldfields he had discovered, but the value and importance of the discoveries to the State. For this reason the Goldfields Act had for years past empowered the granting of rewards for such discoveries. True, one was rendered cautious by the number of Government supporters who instanced many discoverers of other goldfields as persons entitled to consideration. To reward them all was impossible. We must ask, how had their discoveries benefited the country? On the small belt discovered by Hannan and O'Shea were now over 30,000 people. Both men were very old, and one in bad health. Pass an annuity rather than a lump sum.

MR. SCADDAN: The most striking feature of the discussion was the slight disagreement between the advocates of an annuity and of a lump sum. The latter held that passing an annuity would establish a precedent; but so would passing a lump sum. Moreover, an annuity would be more effective. Give a

lump sum to Paddy Hannan, and it would not last long; for he would use it up in prospecting. The only objection to the annuity was its smallness. The Government should consider the advisableness of doubling the amount, so as to benefit both O'Shea and Hannan.

MR. F. F. WILSON agreed with the last speaker that to give a lump sum would establish as awkward a precedent as to give an annuity. An annuity would place these men above the reach of want. Though members complained that the amount was small, yet considering the state of the finances and the hundreds of old prospectors and others who had fallen into decay and had claims on the sympathy of the State, the Government were acting generously. The discussion had emphasised the need for the early consideration of an old age pension scheme, and had done good by enabling members on both sides to declare that veterans who had borne the burden and heat of the day were entitled to consideration from the State.

HON. F. H. PIESSE favoured some sort of recognition to such pioneers; but this item was entered on the Estimates in a manner which might cause the present and future Governments considerable difficulty. "Annuity to the first discoverers of Hannans" was not specific. The names of the beneficiaries should be clearly stated, so that there might be no misapprehension as to who should receive the annuity. In past years, to make annuities permanent it was found necessary to pass special Acts; for passing an annuity on the Estimates did not bind any succeeding Parliament. True, the annuity to T. Yorke, who lost his sight while working in a Government quarry and was unable to support himself, was voted year after year. Presuming that one of the discoverers of Hannans died, the annuity might be paid to someone else who might convince the Government that he had as good a claim as the deceased; and many others entitled to recognition had been mentioned in this discussion.

MR. MORAN: The names ought to be inserted.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: These were instances in which the good work of goldfields pioneers should be recognised, though he understood Hannan had

received a grant of land at Kalgoorlie. As to annuities, none could find fault with any previous Government for establishing many precedents. Four annuities appearing on the Estimates were for widows. He would not vote against this item, for these discoverers should be rewarded; but their names should be inserted, so that none but they might be benefited.

THE TREASURER: To prevent any of the trouble anticipated by the last speaker, the names of Hannan and O'Shea would be inserted. As the Minister for Works pointed out, only three men were concerned in the discovery of Hannans; and one, Flannagan, had died without leaving any known relatives.

MR. DIAMOND cordially supported the item, and trusted the Government would put an additional allowance on the Supplementary Estimates. That there were other deserving prospectors did not weaken the case for these men. Men were not always equally rewarded. Of two business men, both industrious and capable, one with good luck might gain a competence, and the other with bad luck might remain poor. These prospectors had done good work for the State.

Amendment (to strike out) put and negatived.

THE TREASURER moved an amendment:

That the words "Patrick Hannan and Daniel O'Shea" be inserted after "Hannans."

Amendment passed.

Item—J. E. Pombart, allowance in lieu of three months' leave of absence on retiring from the public service, £45:

DR. ELLIS: It was extraordinary to find this item on the Estimates while a select committee was considering the question of Mr. Pombart's retirement. He desired to have the whole details as to how this money was paid.

THE TREASURER: Papers in connection with this case were laid on the table of the House some time ago, and it was the duty of the hon. member, if he wished to know all the particulars, to have looked through them and made himself acquainted with them. A perusal of the voluminous file should satisfy the hon. member's craving for knowledge.

DR. ELLIS: What would happen if Pombart was reinstated in the public service?

THE TREASURER: This sum was paid in July last and must be voted. If Mr. Pombart were reinstated in the public service after the passing of the present Public Service Bill, he could be given time to refund the compensation awarded to him. There would be no gain in going into a discussion on this subject now. The matter could be discussed at length when the report of the select committee was submitted.

MR. MORAN: There should be no misconception that the granting of this sum would weaken Mr. Pombart's case. The very reverse would be the effect. It was extraordinary to receive £45 two years after retirement, when the sum was refused at the time of the retirement. The sum on the Estimates was poor compensation for two years' loss of work.

Item—J. McCartney, late detective police force, additional gratuity on his retirement from the public service through ill-health, £175:

MR. A. J. WILSON: Was this officer now employed by the Railway Department as a detective?

THE TREASURER: It was impossible at the moment to say where the officer was employed at present. The vote was made on the ground of certain services already performed. This item was already paid. The officer was retired two or three years ago, and received a certain amount of compensation from the Police Benefit Fund. The officer, however, held he was entitled to a larger sum, his claim being really against the Police Benefit Fund alone. The question was raised in Parliament during 1902, and a half-promise was given that the matter should be inquired into, but nothing was done. During the next session the question was again raised, but nothing done. This year it was again brought up, and the late Premier and the late Colonial Secretary went into the matter, and submitted a recommendation to Cabinet in favour of passing this gratuity. The Executive Council authorised the gratuity, which was paid in July.

MR. A. J. WILSON: Lots of things were done in July last.

Item—Mrs. Love, widow of ex-Police Constable Love, £50 :

MR. TROY: This item required some explanation.

MR. MORAN: Was this the widow of a man who was not dead.

MR. TROY believed so.

MR. A. J. WILSON: We ought to insert "grass."

THE TREASURER: This was an allowance voted to Mrs. Love. A Treasury officer, perhaps in a spirit of prophecy, had wrongly substituted "widow" for "wife." Constable Love had been in the police force for some years and was recently retired. The Police Benefit Board had not regarded his case as one deserving of a gratuity, but they granted Love £50 to represent the amount of contribution he had made to the fund when a member. Subsequently a request was made by Mrs. Love for the balance of the gratuity. This had received consideration.

MR. BOLTON: In July?

THE TREASURER: No; in June. As the result of inquiry, an amount was passed by Cabinet and authorised by the Executive Council in July. Members might agree to the vote. The man unquestionably rendered long service, though latterly his service was not of such a uniformly valuable character as to be highly appreciated by the department. His wife and family, after he had severed his connection with the department, were in needy circumstances, and a consideration of their position probably had something to do with the granting of this compassionate allowance.

MR. MORAN: Had the sum been paid?

THE TREASURER: If not, it was promised and the promise ought to be fulfilled.

MR. MORAN: This was one of the "pits" for Joseph.

THE TREASURER was under the impression that payment had been made; but the papers were not clear on the subject.

MR. WATTS: Was it intended to pay to every officer, or his widow or wife as the case might be, by way of gratuity, the amount paid to the Police Benefit Fund?

MR. TROY was not satisfied with the explanation of the Treasurer. Ex-constable Love had a right to maintain

his wife and family. Had this money been paid? If not, he would oppose the item.

THE TREASURER: On reperusal of the papers, it appeared the money had already been paid.

MR. MORAN: When?

THE TREASURER: At the end of June or the beginning of July.

At 6:30, the CHAIRMAN left the Chair.

At 7:30, Chair resumed.

MR. A. J. WILSON: It was opportune that members should express their sentiments in regard to the system of making grants of this nature without consulting Parliament. Circumstances might arise to prevent this being done, but in a case like the one under consideration, about which a great deal could be said, one could not help noticing that there were several members in the Chamber who had something to do with the making of this grant, but were now silent. No one need to have any close connection with the Police Department to know that Constable Love was worthy of no consideration whatever. If the information in possession of the Government was placed before the Committee, it would at once be seen that this person was not entitled to any consideration. The money had been granted, and it was impossible for members to do anything in regard to the matter; the amount could not be struck out. But, speaking on this question generally, the very gravest consideration and the utmost discretion should be exercised in connection with grants such as this. The Government could not be expected to abundantly justify the making of a grant of this nature. He did not blame the Colonial Secretary or his colleagues for any share in making this grant, but he protested against those members who were responsible for obtaining this grant remaining silent when we should receive some explanation concerning the item.

MR. NELSON entered his protest against the significant silence of members of the Opposition. A short while ago members on the Opposition side entered a loud protest against recognising the work of a man who was instrumental in discovering the greatest goldfield in the world, and now we found that the members of the Opposition themselves had

been guilty of making a special award to a person who was utterly without any claims to the consideration of the Government. He presumed this reward was conferred by the late Government on Mrs. Love. Inasmuch as we had no evidence that Mrs. Love rendered any service to the late Government, we were bound to conclude that the money was voted to Mrs. Love in consideration of something done by Mr. Love. We were credibly informed that no special service had been rendered to the State by Mr. Love. Why should those who refused to recognise the laudable work of Hannan connive at recognising the services of a person who was utterly unworthy of recognition?

MR. TROY: Although the member for Hannans and the member for Forrest had done their utmost to obtain an explanation from the Opposition on this matter, it was found that members opposite would not speak for love or money. He protested against money being paid without Parliament being consulted. Members had raised an objection to the Government creating a precedent by paying money which was deserved; yet here was an action on the part of the previous Government which was open to serious objection. There were three amounts on the Estimates, one to J. E. Pombart, one to J. McCartney, and one to Mrs. Love, and objection had been raised to the granting of these amounts. An explanation should be forthcoming from the leader of the Opposition, who was Treasurer in the previous Government, as to why these moneys should be paid.

MR. RASON: If he was to believe the member who had just addressed the Committee, there was a charge made against the Government of which he (Mr. Rason) was a member. If the hon. member would be good enough to state the charge, he would agree to the fullest inquiry into it. If, for instance, with regard to this gratuity of £50 to the wife of ex-police constable Love, the hon. member would be good enough to frame his charge, one would ask the House to at once proceed to inquire into it in the fullest possible manner.

MR. TROY (in explanation): What he had said was that a charge had been

made against a member of the Opposition; in fact three charges.

MR. RASON: Let the hon. member state the charges.

MR. TROY: The charges were that money had been paid away without Parliament being consulted. He wanted to know why that had been done.

MR. RASON failed to recognise that as a specific charge. However, members were so forgetful of what transpired very recently in this House that the members of the late Government were accused of having opposed a very desirable reward in the shape of an annuity to the discoverers of the Hannans goldfields. He thought that it had been clearly demonstrated that the late administration were responsible for the annuity appearing on the Estimates; but it seemed that members were so forgetful or had so little knowledge of what occurred in the House that they considered the very fact of that appearing there as being opposition on the part of the members of the late Government, as though they were averse to any recognition of the discoverers of Hannans. But that statement he need hardly say was very wide of the actual fact. The grant to the wife of ex-constable Love was made under circumstances such as these. Mrs. Love had, he believed, three or four children, and they were in most distressed circumstances.

MR. SCADDAN: There were hundreds of such in this State.

MR. RASON: Yes, undoubtedly, and when the circumstances of these other cases were drawn attention to the hon. member would, he was sure, do his best to relieve these parties. However, after full inquiry it seemed it was due to make some allowance to this unfortunate woman, and he would be glad if the member for some outlandish place—Mt. Magnet, he thought—would move for the papers in this case so that any member of the House could see for himself the exact circumstances under which this grant was made. If there were a charge that could be framed, he only hoped it would be framed against him individually. He would know how to defend himself.

MR. TROY: We had heard from the member who was kicked out of the outlandish place—

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must not say that.

MR. TROY: The hon. member had been the member for that outlandish place, but whether he represented it or not—

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must not make imputations on members of the House.

MR. TROY: We had heard an explanation from the hon. member, but what was there in it? The hon. member said that Mrs. Love was a lady with three children in distressed circumstances, and of course his heart went out to her. We wanted to know why? He was not satisfied, and he did not think any other member of the House was satisfied; and although he had asked for an explanation on other matters before, the hon. member was silent. He wanted to know why the amount specified was paid to Mr. Pombart?

THE CHAIRMAN: That item had been passed.

MR. TROY repeated that he was not satisfied with the explanation in regard to the item under review.

MR. RASON: Just one word by way of explanation, following the most unworthy remarks made by the member for Mount Magnet. It was true that he (Mr. Rason) had once represented that district, and he could produce letters from the working societies in the district thanking him for the faithful manner in which he represented them. He wondered whether the member who now represented them could now, or would be able in the future, to do the same thing.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: There were no workers there then.

MR. RASON: That was an insinuation that he had told an untruth. He would produce the letters to the Minister.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: There was no society there.

MR. RASON: Whether the member for Mount Magnet was satisfied or not had nothing to do with him. If the hon. member was dissatisfied with any item, he could move that it be struck out.

MR. MORAN: The money had been paid.

THE TREASURER trusted that the Committee would see its way to deal with these Estimates a little more expeditiously than we did this afternoon. In regard to

this item, he thought he gave the Committee a reasonable degree of information before the adjournment for tea. In any case the money had been paid and must be voted. In regard to compassionate allowances for recognition of services, the money should invariably, in his opinion, be paid in anticipation of the passage of the votes by Parliament. The Government should accept the responsibility involved in so doing, or otherwise the money would not be forthcoming when it would be of the most service. Of course this House always had power to question any vote, whether it had been paid or not.

Item—Mrs. Pusey, gratuity on retirement of her husband, Mr. I. D. Pusey, from the service, £104:

MR. A. J. WILSON asked for information.

DR. ELLIS: What was the date of the retirement?

THE TREASURER: The date of the retirement was the 29th August. The retirement was by resignation from the Law Department after 13 years' service. Approximately a payment was made of two weeks' salary for each year of service.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

General Stores Department, £1,906—agreed to.

Literary and Scientific Grants, etc., £14,175:

DR. ELLIS: This was one of those votes which caused more ill-feeling on the part of the goldfields than possibly any other vote that came before the House. We had a sum here of £14,000, of which £11,300 was spent in Perth.

MR. A. J. WILSON: What about the three million pounds on the Coolgardie Water Scheme?

DR. ELLIS: That was paying for itself.

MR. A. J. WILSON: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was not in order.

DR. ELLIS: As far as he could make out, at least £11,000 was spent in Perth and the remainder of it elsewhere, part of this remainder being probably spent in Perth; and apparently the whole principle was wrong. All the big sums were

absolutely limited to Perth. Was not "Public Library" a Perth vote. [MEMBERS: No.] Museum and Art Gallery? [MR. MORAN: No.] We always understood that the party now in power were the party of decentralisation, and he would like to see some signs of decentralisation in spending the money for scientific and literary purposes. Why should not Kalgoorlie and other places get a fair share? Western Australia with 155 libraries had 86,000 books, whereas South Australia with 166 libraries had 266,000 books, and Queensland with 157 libraries had 187,000. In Western Australia all the books, as far as he could make out, were collected around Perth, and the opportunities were given around Perth; while those people who lived in the out-back parts of the State where they had hard times and made all the money on which Perth luxuriated, got none of it. It was time this ceased. Even the present Government were unctured with that centralisation which had been the curse of this State in the past. True, the Government had not found time to alter the Estimates; but this ought to be the last year in which such expenditure was to be confined to Perth. Admittedly the people of Perth were less intelligent than people on the fields, and were therefore more in need of culture and learning; but as goldfields people provided the State with its money and its intelligence, they should have the advantages of good libraries, art galleries, and proper facilities for literary and scientific education. Now the people of the goldfields were shut off from all intellectual entertainments save literary society meetings and band concerts.

MR. NELSON did not entirely indorse the preceding speaker's observations, though an examination of this vote would show a great disproportion between expenditure in Perth and expenditure elsewhere. But a sensible man must recognise that Perth, from its geographical position, must have a larger share of these advantages than any other town in the State. The expenditure in Perth did not benefit Perth residents only. Thousands of goldfields people visited Perth at least once every year, and much of their pleasure would be spoilt were it not for the large number of valuable institutions to be found in the capi-

tal. Curiously, comparatively few residents of any great city visited its institutions. When in London he (Mr. Nelson) visited the leading places of interest, and met many Londoners who had never entered the British Museum or the Tower. He had frequently rebuked the parochialism of agricultural members in Opposition; and be objected to parochial goldfields members also. No institution was more valuable to the State than the admirable Public Library in Perth. The books of that library should, however, be lent more freely. None were sent to Kalgoorlie. This remark applied to the Art Gallery pictures also. The pictures in the Brisbane gallery were frequently lent to similar institutions in country districts. While a large expenditure on educational institutions was justified, their advantages should be extended to the State generally. The Treasurer promised a recent deputation to place on the Estimates a larger sum for libraries; but the promise had not been kept. About £3,000 instead of £2,000 would be needed to give effect to the suggestions of the recent librarians' conference. Back country libraries were not adequately subsidised. Men who were trying to sow the seeds of culture in the back blocks should receive some support from the Government.

MR. SCADDAN: As we were continually told that this was the time for economy, the literary and scientific vote might with advantage be curtailed; yet not an item was reduced by even £1, though one or two were pure luxuries and should be struck out. Many of the remarks of the member for Coolgardie (Dr. Ellis) would not be indorsed by the majority of the goldfields people. The hon. member was purely parochial. Kalgoorlie had not fared so badly on the Estimates, which included items for a museum and lecture room £1,000, and additions to the School of Mines £1,740.

THE TREASURER: A general discussion in which members referred to specific items was not advantageous, if followed by an itemised discussion. Why waste time by twice discussing the same subject? His reply to a deputation of librarians was entirely misunderstood by the member for Hannans. There was no promise to increase the subsidies to

libraries; but merely to inquire into the feasibility of a new method of its administration. For this he would try to arrange. Mechanics' institutes and kindred societies complained that the first comers or the most persistent applicants received larger subsidies than others who applied when the vote was nearly exhausted or who did not apply with vigour. Without a fixed rule it was hard for a Minister to discriminate; and a more systematic distribution was necessary. Members were not fair in their reference to the treatment of Perth. In previous years some goldfields members who were now, he was happy to say, muzzled, had a habit of making attacks on Perth because the Public Library was in Perth, and because Perth was the capital of the State, for this really was what the attack amounted to. Where else could the Public Library, Zoological Gardens, and such institutions be? Members might get a majority to say they should not be in Perth, but when it came to deciding where they should be outside Perth, there would be a spectacle provided for Perth members. Members should not raise this cry year after year. The institutions were used as much by country people as by the people of Perth. A start had recently been made in connection with the Public Library, to lend out a number of books to different libraries throughout the State; and it was surprising goldfield members were not proposing that the vote for the Perth Public Library be increased, so that the useful method of making books available for goldfields districts could be extended. It would be advantageous to have a larger vote for the Library. Very good grounds were advanced when an application was recently made to have the vote for the Library and the Zoological Gardens increased, and he (the Treasurer) had a great degree of regret in having to keep the items down to the present limit. Members who treated these institutions as luxuries spoke thoughtlessly. These institutions were necessary in every civilised country; and members who wished to dispense with them argued that we should lapse from civilisation, or that we were so much poorer than other civilised countries that we could not have advantages other countries possessed. The member for

Coolgardie made a very bad case, from his own point of view, in comparing South Australian and West Australian libraries, to prove the centralising condition of affairs in this State. The hon. member said that there were 166 libraries in South Australia, and only 155 libraries in Western Australia, with a much smaller population. The hon. member thus proved the contrary to his own argument. The hon. member also stated that the proportion of books in this State was small; but this was simply due to the fact that institutions in this State were so much younger. Libraries were the growth of years, and the hon. member, to be logical, should favour an increase in the vote for the Public Library, so that the number of books available for public use might be brought up approximately to the number in use in South Australia.

DR. ELLIS: There should be an increase for country libraries.

THE TREASURER: The hon. member had advocated that the money should be available for the country, and not for the capital.

DR. ELLIS: Not for the capital only.

THE TREASURER: Members should now find it unnecessary to deal with the items in detail.

MR. WATTS, as a country member, added his protest to the centralisation policy exhibited by the Estimates. This policy tended to the aggrandisement of Perth, and to the detriment of country districts. It was high time funds were distributed on a more equitable basis.

MR. BURGESS: What would be the basis? Population?

MR. WATTS: The funds for these grants were raised from the whole of the State, and the advantages should be distributed through the whole of the State. Many people could not visit Perth, and visits were only made for a short period during the year, so that the country people did not get benefit from this expenditure so lavishly made in Perth and surroundings. The requirements of country districts and goldfields districts should be considered by the Government to a greater extent than was evidenced by these grants. As the member for Ivanhoe pointed out, while there was such necessity for economy, we had a right to cut down some of these items. If members could not get the benefit of

some expenditure of money in country districts, they should object to Perth getting the benefit of the large amounts provided in this vote.

MR. BURGESS was astonished at goldfields members, and particularly the member for Coolgardie, objecting to this vote. Farther on, large sums were provided for the goldfields people. The people who used these institutions referred to came from outside districts, and used them while on holidays.

Item—Acclimatisation of Fish, Birds, and Animals, £600 :

DR. ELLIS: As a formal protest against this method of doing things, he moved an amendment—

That the vote be reduced by £100.

MR. WATTS: How was this money to be expended, and where?

THE TREASURER: In Western Australia. It was a work not of a local nature, but one in the benefits of which all parts of the State participated, and it was absurd to ask the precise locality in which any portion of the vote would be spent. Fish might be introduced in Kimberley, and birds might be introduced to be sent to all parts of the State. He had not the details as to the precise districts in which the money would be spent, but a committee had been in existence for many years past to deal with this subject. On this committee was the member for Beverley, who could give more precise information than he (the Treasurer) could. It was one of the last votes that should be attacked on any local ground, because essentially it was not a vote which was limited to Perth or to any other part of the State.

MR. WATTS: As a protest against the expenditure of this money he moved—

That the item be struck out.

THE CHAIRMAN: There was an amendment before the Committee to reduce the item to £500.

MR. HAYWARD: The vote was one of the last that should be objected to. If a similar sum of money had been expended for some years past, all our rivers would be well supplied with fish, adding to our food supply as well as to sport. In the New Zealand newspapers one found it recorded that people went all the way from England for the fishing

to be found in New Zealand waters, introducing into New Zealand thousands of pounds annually. The small amount of £600 should not be challenged by anyone. He would have preferred to see the amount £1,000.

MR. NANSON: The Committee were of course justified, when there was a member of the Acclimatisation Committee in the Assembly, in asking for information as to the expenditure of this money. The principle had been established in Western Australia of committing a certain amount of public expenditure for purposes of this character to non-political bodies, and the system had something to recommend it. For instance, the gentlemen composing these committees worked gratuitously; it was a labour of love; they often did excellent work. On the other hand, the system was open to objection, for immediately the money was voted, the Government and Parliament lost all effective control as to its disposal. It was undoubtedly advisable that we should experiment in regard to acclimatisation, and it was advisable that these experiments should be conducted in a manner likely to prove successful so far as it was possible to judge beforehand. For instance, we had an experiment in Monger's Lake, near the city boundary, where tench had been placed; and those who knew anything of tench knew it produced poor sport, and it was equally poor from an eating point of view, and would not be improved when placed in a place like Monger's Lake. In his school days he remembered reading a description of tench, and it said that tench was a very coarse fish, but suitable for the sustenance of the labouring classes. We knew other fish did admirably in still waters, and the Committee should know from the member for Beverley whether it would not be better to acclimatise perch in these still waters. He would like to know if any success had attended the endeavours of the committee to acclimatise such excellent fish as the Murray cod. The member for Wellington referred to the large sum of money spent in New Zealand owing to the influx of tourists attracted thither by efforts in this direction. Whatever we might do in Western Australia as to introducing fish, if we attempted to introduce the same kind of fish as was introduced in

New Zealand and colder countries, we should find the experiment would not be attended with success if we regarded the fish from a dietetic point of view, and he doubted whether it would be a success from the point of view of the sportsman. Fish from northern countries, if introduced into waters which had not a cold temperature, were not likely to be good for eating purposes, or good for sport. There were a number of other directions in which money might be well spent. Game of various sorts might be introduced. He was told that some kind of deer had been turned loose in the neighbourhood of Cape Leuwin, and he with others would like to know how far that experiment was successful. Deer had been let loose in the neighbourhood of Pinjarra, so he was informed. Seeing that for some years this grant had figured on the Estimates the aggregate amount spent must be considerable, and it was advisable that the Committee should have some farther information, more especially at the present time when there was very urgent need for economy. It must strike everyone, when Estimates were under consideration, that we should endeavour to impress on the Government the need of economy in this direction when the funds of the Government were limited and there were no extraneous sources from which to get money. Unless it were shown that the money was really being spent to advantage, no matter how praiseworthy the expenditure might be on general principles, unless justified in practice the House would be within its right in reducing the amount. He did not doubt that the member of the Acclimatisation Committee in the Assembly would be able to show that the sum of £600 had been well expended in the past, and that it was an amount that the Acclimatisation Committee could be trusted to expend wisely in the future.

MR. HARPER had not been a member of the Acclimatisation Committee long, having been appointed only last year. Nothing startling had been done during the time he had been connected with the committee, which continued in the way in which the work was begun. Everyone must realise that it took considerable time before the result of experiments

could be ascertained when they were altogether new. Surely the experience all the world over taught us the value of work of this description. Probably no more startling instance could be given than the production, cultivation, protection and distribution of the shad in American waters. Less than 25 years ago when the shad could be eaten only by the millionaires of New York, being one of the best fish because it became one of the rarest, the matter was taken up by a committee and the shad was cultivated. Not many years afterwards the shad became one of the commonest, that was one of the cheapest, fish in the waters on the eastern shores of America. The shad was then taken round to the western shores and had now become a most prolific fish down that coast, showing that if some little time and attention were given, these fish developed. It had often been asked why this fish had not been brought into Australian waters. It appeared there was some extreme difficulty in carrying the ova, and some doubt was expressed as to whether it could be brought over alive owing to the distance from America to Australia. With regard to what had been done in our waters, we had established trout in the weir at Mundaring and they seemed to be thriving well. The Murray cod and the Murray perch were in the Avon River from top to bottom. If we turned out a dozen or two fish in a river of the modest dimensions of the Avon, 150 miles or 100 miles in length, it would take a long time to stock that river right along. We were constantly informed of fish being seen from the head waters of the Avon right down the river, showing that the work was proceeding, if slowly. We must give time for experiments as a food supply on a large scale. With regard to deer, mentioned by the member for Greenough, one of the most important of this family was the eland, which produced one of the best meats for consumption, and Lady Lawley, the wife of the late Governor, when leaving promised that this country should have a pair, and a man was sent over only last year to procure the deer and bring them over. When inquiry was made it was found, thanks to the sporting capacity of the Australians, that all the elands in the Transvaal and the Free

State colony had been destroyed, and it was impossible to obtain any at present, except from sources, much farther north, and it would take some time before they were procurable. This all cost money; at the same time it was most desirable that elands should be introduced here, as there was very little doubt that they would also thrive here, and would be a valuable acquisition to our meat supply when we got them. These were the directions in which the committee were working, and it required a considerable amount of patience. The small sum asked to continue the experiments should be readily granted by the House, in view of the valuable results to be expected in a few years' time.

MR. HAYWARD: As to the acclimatisation of tench, it was a fish that thrived in ponds and lakes similar to Monger's Lake. Mr. Le Souef had said that two perch weighing 2lb., one containing half a pound of spawn, were caught. It did not follow that because only tench and perch were caught that other fish could not thrive in these waters. Those who knew about fish were aware that some kinds of fish would bite in one season and some kinds in another. The perch were in Monger's Lake, and possibly they would be caught later on. With regard to the trout, he was credibly informed that they were being caught in the Murray River. The deer which had been turned out at Hamelin were increasing as fast as could be expected.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—Adelaide University Lectures, grant to Swan River Mechanics' Institute, £25:

MR. A. J. WILSON: Presumably this was a special grant for a particular contingency, and it would not be annually recurring; but surely this item might be easily made up from the annual subsidy given to the Swan River Mechanics' Institute.

THE PREMIER: This small item was simply the result of an application from the Swan River Mechanics' Institute for that amount to be provided. The Institute itself was proposed to provide a like sum. The object was to get a professor of the Adelaide University to deliver lectures, which would afterwards be used as the basis of examinations on which

certificates should issue. It was really a University extension provision of a special nature, and as the Swan River Mechanics' Institute had agreed to pay £25 out of the total estimated cost of £50, we might well provide this other moiety, seeing that the lectures would be open to the public, and therefore anyone could gain the advantage that might be derived from them. He trusted the amount would be allowed to stand.

Item — Adelaide University Public Examinations, £100:

MR. HENSHAW: How was the money being expended?

THE PREMIER: The money was spent in payment of the cost of holding examinations in connection with the Adelaide University, which pupils of our public schools and likewise pupils of denominational schools entered in order that they might get the brand of the Adelaide University affixed to them. There were in connection with the University junior and senior examinations, and certificates gained were evidence to the parents as well as to others of the exact degree of education which was being received by the children. Where it was proposed to carry the education farther, these preliminary examinations were a test of fitness to enter upon the higher studies.

MR. HARPER: Were not foundations also required for the granting of scholarships?

THE PREMIER: Yes.

MR. HENSHAW: Was it possible for the Minister for Education to have any influence on the question of setting the examination papers? He was led to believe that the examinations were of such a high nature that they were sufficient to pass students into the various professions. As the examination was a preliminary one, he considered it too stiff altogether.

MR. QUINLAN: Being a member of the board, perhaps he could give some information. The money was none too much for the purposes required, and probably later on we should have to ask for a greater sum, seeing that the University was so much appreciated. When the movement was first started in this State a few years ago there were, he thought, only 13 pupils, whereas the

number had now increased to 200. The object of asking for this money was to provide for accommodation in the shape of renting halls and necessities for the purpose of holding examinations. So far as the papers were concerned, they were prepared in Adelaide for the junior and senior grades. There were different grades and different examinations, and they were supervised by the board. The papers were all prepared in Adelaide, coming from the University, and were returned there. The fact that this system was appreciated to such an extent ought to be sufficient for members to pass the item.

Item—Mechanics' Institutes, Working Men's Associations, Art Societies, etc., £2,000 :

MR. CARSON believed it was the desire of some of these institutions that the subsidy should be granted according to the amount of subscriptions paid. That, however, would be unfair to certain institutions. For instance, there were some which provided a free reading room and practically a free library, and that was the case in regard to Geraldton. There was only a nominal fee for membership. It would be unfair to make the grant in accordance with the amount of income, because, for instance, the Swan River Mechanics' Institute had very valuable property, which was bringing in a very large income; and it would not be right to penalise such an institution as that at Geraldton by adopting the system referred to. He would like to know the intentions of the Government in regard to the disbursement of this amount.

THE TREASURER had not yet drawn up a proposal. He recognised, as already stated, that there ought to be some satisfactory system governing the distribution; and he appreciated the fact that we should require the various persons associated with institutions served by the subsidy to show a substantial desire to help themselves as a justification for Government assistance; but at the same time he allowed that the amount of local subscriptions should not be necessarily the governing factor. He intended to endeavour to submit a recommendation to the House, but at present he had not it ready to lay before members. He hoped, however, to be able to submit a

proposal which would be fair to the smaller institutions, and at the same time treat with reasonable consideration the larger institutions. He believed they were all doing a very good work. At the same time he recognised that a little extra consideration should be given to the smaller districts where institutions had greater difficulty to maintain a satisfactory existence.

MR. N. J. MOORE was glad the Premier intended to inquire into every individual case. He had, he thought, the sympathy of the Colonial Secretary and the Minister for Railways in regard to the public institution with which he was associated (Bunbury). Last year it cost them something like £150 to run the institute, and they received a grant of only £15. The reading room was entirely free, and there were comfortable quarters for visitors. The Government might very well treat such institutions with a little more generosity than their predecessors had done.

MR. A. J. WILSON had a little grievance with regard to some of these isolated literary institutes situated on the timber mills. Of course the men there had been somewhat fortunately situated, as they had some assistance from the companies. But there had been no regular system of making grants, and the absence of any system had acted very detrimentally to the interests of those mechanics' institutes and reading rooms. He approached the Treasurers of the late Government in regard to the matter, and whilst respectfully declining his appeal for financial assistance they told him they were going to have some scheme which would put these institutes on a safe footing. He hoped due attention would be paid to these isolated institutions, which after all stood most in need of help.

MR. KEYSER: If it was a condition of the grant that a reading-room should be invariably free, that condition had not been complied with. Several municipalities and local boards which he could mention had institutions, and were charging the residents for admission to peruse the papers. Where general revenue was voted to mechanics' institutes, they should at all events insist upon the reading-room being free.

MR. H. BROWN: That was provided for in the Municipal Bill.

MR. KEYSER: If that was in the Municipal Bill, he was satisfied.

MR. NELSON: The Swan River Mechanics' Institute, Perth, and the Kalgoorlie reading room, were both subsidised by the Government; yet the latter had a reading room open to the public free of charge, while the former had not. The Kalgoorlie institution made a small weekly charge for entrance to another room. All subsidies should be granted on the understanding that the general public were to some extent benefited.

Item—National Rifle Association, £500:

MR. BURGESS: As the Federal Government had taken over the Defence Department, they should find this money. Some local men subscribed to the rifle association; but this item should not appear on our Estimates. Considering the small return we received from the Federal Government, we should not be asked to provide funds for Federal services.

THE TREASURER: The annual inter-State rifle competitions were this year to be held in Western Australia; and the preceding Government had granted a subsidy. He had consented to retain the item on the Estimates, as it seemed desirable to afford our local riflemen an opportunity of competing here against those of other States which, when the competitions were held in their territories, likewise contributed in similar fashion.

Item—Trades Galas, £150:

MR. H. BROWN asked for explanation.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. D. Johnson): This was a subsidy on the amount collected by two societies in Kalgoorlie and Boulder respectively, which held annual gatherings in the nature of agricultural shows combined with general trades displays, exhibitions of the work of school children, etc. Prizes were given for the best exhibits.

Item—Public Library of Western Australia, annual upkeep, £3,000:

MR. F. F. WILSON: The Government should impress on the trustees the

need for a public lending library. In Melbourne anyone who could obtain a certificate of respectability might borrow a book for a fortnight free of charge; and the trustees had sustained few if any losses.

MR. NELSON had frequently attended the Perth Library, which on Sundays was closed except between 3 and 5 p.m.

MR. BURGESS: Why not give the attendants a rest on Sundays?

MR. NELSON: There was no desire to enforce Sunday labour; but the labour necessary for this purpose would be infinitesimal compared with the advantage to the people. The Swan River Institute, Perth, was open all day on Sunday, and the Kalgoorlie reading room on Sunday afternoon and evening. Public-houses, though nominally closed on Sundays, did a big Sunday business. Everyone visiting the Library must be struck with the large attendance. In none of the public libraries of the Eastern States had he seen so many visitors. Most of them were evidently working people; and it was only on Sundays that their time was at their own disposal. By opening the library on Sundays, say from 3 until 9 p.m., the intellectual and even the moral interests of the workers would be advanced. It was lamentable that on the one day when the workers could avail themselves of this institution, it was open for only two hours.

DR. ELLIS supported the preceding speaker. As we spent large sums on the Library, it should be as far as possible available to the public, especially on Sunday evenings, and should have a lending branch such as existed in most of the other States. Provided the books were available to borrowers in the country districts, he would not object to an increase in the cost of the Library.

THE TREASURER sympathised with the desire for a lending branch in connection with the Perth Public Library, and he had brought it under the notice of Dr. Hackett, one of the trustees; and the trustees appeared to be thoroughly sympathetic. However, for this purpose considerable additions must be made to the stock of books, as the same set of books could not be used simultaneously for the lending and the reference libraries. It was pleasing to find

the members for Coolgardie and Hannans sympathising with this proposal. In regard to the hours on which the Library was opened on Sundays, he was not in a position to speak from his own knowledge. Personally he had strong objection to any unnecessary Sunday work, but would bring the matter under the notice of the librarian and find out what was done in the matter, and see if the librarian was disposed to assist the proposal. However, he would strongly object to urging any unnecessary increase of work on Sundays.

Item—Zoological Gardens, £3,900 :

MR. SCADDAN moved an amendment—

That the item be reduced by £900.

This amendment was moved entirely on the ground of economy, and not from any parochial standpoint. The gardens were a feature, and were worth visiting, and goldfields people visited them more than Perth people. In fact one member expressed surprise that there were tennis courts at the gardens, which proved conclusively that the hon. member had not visited them. Members had no idea as to how this money was expended. It was surely not necessary to spend £3,900 for the upkeep of the gardens now that they were established. Before turning the gardens into a recreation ground, money should be spent on the existing recreation grounds in Perth. He had seen tennis players going into the gardens without paying.

MR. TROY: Tennis players paid an annual fee for the use of the courts in the gardens. He appreciated the desire of the hon. member to decrease the vote on the score of economy; but if the money was absolutely required there was no reason why the item should not be passed. Did the gardens require so much expenditure as previously?

MR. N. J. MOORE: The gardens were an institution of which we might well be proud, and in the director of the gardens we had a gentleman who was not only an excellent veterinary surgeon, but also an authority on landscape gardening and architecture. This gentleman did all the work in connection with the gardens. The least we could do was to pass the item. The money was well spent, and there was good value for it. The gardens

were an education to the younger members of the community who came to Perth.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was false economy to start reducing these votes. Goldfields members especially must realise that in past years it was a common saying, "I am going East for a trip." Workers in years past saved up a few pounds to take a trip to Adelaide or Melbourne. Now they spoke of going to Perth for their holidays.

MR. SCADDAN claimed not to have spoken from a parochial standpoint.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: A lot of parochialism had crept into these discussions to-night. It was a popular thing for members to talk about centralisation and about the amount of money spent in Perth; but at the last general election he (the Minister) said he would support these votes, and pointed out that it was really saving money to the State by spending to beautify Perth. Thousands of pounds had been carried out of the State and spent in the Eastern States; but this money was now spent in the State because workers spent their holidays in Perth instead of going to Eastern States. They would, however, not stay in the State unless there were attractions in the metropolis, and one of the principal attractions was undoubtedly the Zoological Gardens. It was false economy to start cutting down these votes. As a goldfields member, he had pleasure in supporting the item.

MR. NELSON, as a goldfields member, supported the item. Before his constituents he had done so, and he entirely sympathised with the remarks of the Minister for Works. There should be decentralisation; but the right kind was not to take from Perth the many institutions it possessed, but to start institutions of the same kind on the fields. Admirable work was done in Perth for the whole of the State; but in proportion to our means and population goldfields members desired to have a share of the good things. We had now done the rough work of this State, and in the near future we should get civilised and settle down to the higher arts of civilised life. He entirely favoured the item.

MR. A. J. WILSON: There was much captious criticism in regard to this vote.

The member for Ivanhoe referred to the tennis courts provided at the Zoo. The people who managed the gardens managed them as far as possible from a business standpoint, and a considerable amount of revenue was earned by the attractions provided, while revenue increased because certain facilities were available for people of sporting proclivities to indulge in games at the gardens. There were education and amusement and entertainment in going to the gardens. He appreciated the good work done by the management committee, and one who went to the gardens to utilise them for the object for which they were designed could not raise captious criticism such as had been raised by the member for Ivanhoe, who ignored the fact that the vote was now £500 less than previously, for a sum of that amount had last year been specially devoted to improvements. The upkeep of the gardens was an expensive item. The degree of efficiency in these grounds was bound to add to the attraction, thus inducing hundreds of people to visit the gardens, and in this way adding to the income of the institution.

HON. W. C. ANGIN : It was to be hoped the vote would not be reduced, but that in the near future the Government would see their way to increase the sum considerably. The time had almost arrived when the gates of the Zoological Gardens should be thrown open free to the public. It was very expensive for a man with a family to visit the gardens, especially on a public holiday. The cheaper the admission the greater the advantage to the public. He knew a large number of children who had not been able to visit the gardens on account of the expense to the parents. The time had arrived when this public institution should be thrown open free.

DR. ELLIS was not in favour of reducing literary and scientific grants, but was in favour of spending money proportionately on the goldfields with the coast.

MR. F. F. WILSON : Did the hon. member want a Zoo, on the goldfields ?

DR. ELLIS : Yes. He did not see how the committee could conveniently lower the price so as to maintain the institution in its present condition, unless some good reason was shown why

the charge should be altered. His objection was to all money being spent in Perth, and not much money being spent for literary and scientific purposes. He would like to see the vote for literary and scientific purposes doubled.

MR. NANSON : While he had nothing but admiration for the manner in which the Zoological Gardens were managed, in this and all other cases where money was spent by boards there should be reports presented to Parliament before the vote was passed. In this instance, the annual report of the Zoological Gardens was not before members ; also in the case of the Acclimatisation Society, the report of the board had not been presented to Parliament. It would be a simple matter for the Government to see that in all cases these reports were available for the information of members before the Estimates were passed ; otherwise we were simply dependent upon our own knowledge of these places, and although most had knowledge of the Zoological Gardens, and were satisfied with the administration, it was impossible for members to have a close knowledge of all these institutions. Before we got farther on with the Estimates, if there were any other votes controlled by bodies not responsible to Parliament, the reports should be presented. All admitted that the Zoological Gardens committee had done admirable work, and in these circumstances there was not much cause to complain, but there was a danger of abuses springing up in other directions.

MR. H. BROWN said he would like to correct the statement of the member for Greenough that there was no one in the House who could give information in regard to the Zoological Gardens. The clerk of the House was a member of the Zoological Gardens board.

MR. F. F. WILSON : It was necessary to correct the statement of the member for Ivanhoe that there were recreation grounds scattered all around Perth. There was not a city of the size of Perth in the Southern Hemisphere so badly off for recreation grounds as Perth. The Perth Council had recently and very wisely agreed to expend the sum of £8,000 in buying a recreation ground for the convenience of the citizens of Perth. The hon. member for Ivanhoe said that

the Zoological Gardens were principally visited by persons from the country who came to Perth. Therefore this money was spent in the interests of the country residents equally with the residents of Perth. The Zoological Gardens were the only real recreation ground where picnic parties could go and spend a pleasant day. They were a benefit to Perth and the whole of Western Australia. The charge for admission was rather hard on the ordinary working man who wished to take his family to the gardens for the day. In Melbourne, the gardens were open on certain days free to the public, and he hoped in the near future that this would be the case in regard to the Zoological Gardens at South Perth.

MR. HARPER: We might all hope for the time when the Zoological Gardens would be open free; but it was a question whether the money should be paid at the gates or through Parliament. The Zoological Gardens committee had done all they could with the money provided so far, but they must rely upon the gate money to assist them. It was to be hoped that the vote would not be reduced, but that at an early date it would be considerably increased. In the gardens there was a considerable asset practically going to waste, for we had, perhaps, the best tropical gardens in Australia. The committee had an excellent supply of water from a bore, of a temperature which would enable the committee to keep the tropical flora and fauna in splendid health, without going to the expense of laying pipes and keeping fires going. It was to be hoped that next session the Government would see their way to place sufficient money on the Estimates to enable the committee to develop the asset.

DR. ELLIS: It was desirable that the reports of all societies should be available to members before the Estimates came on for discussion; for it was not right that votes should be passed without those interested having an opportunity of seeing how the money was expended.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: Members had a right to expect that the annual reports of these institutions should be on the table before the Estimates were discussed; and in former years these reports had been laid on the table before this time. The Govern-

ment were disappointed that they were not before members now. Members were so familiar with the details of the Zoological Gardens that the report of this body was scarcely necessary. We must assume that members, being so thoroughly conversant with the Zoological Gardens, wished them to go on. The Government would see that next year the reports were available before this period.

MR. SCADDAN: After hearing the arguments of members, he did not wish to press his amendment. Hon. members had completely misunderstood him. He had distinctly pointed out that we had not the information at hand in regard to this item; and the report should be placed before members before they were expected to pass such a large sum of money. As to the remarks of the Minister for Works, that the expenditure of this vote kept money in the State by stopping people going to the other States, he (Mr. Scaddan) did not know that was a fact. He believed the same number of people left this State to go to the other States as previously. There should be no reason to continue such a large vote as this for the Zoological Gardens, for the gardens had been placed on a good footing; therefore it should not be necessary to continue such a large expenditure every year. He could not agree that some of the items should come under literary and scientific grants. For instance, the National Rifle Association was neither literary nor scientific in the usual sense. He was sorry that he raised the ire of the member for Forrest, who spoke with such wisdom that it was presumption for members to attack him. That member's argument was that tennis courts and cricket pitches were placed in the Zoological Gardens from a revenue-producing standpoint. If that was a fact, it was the more reason why the vote should be cut down. If they were producing revenue they did not need the same amount each year. We knew 6d. was charged at the gates of the Zoological Gardens. Members ought to know the exact amount received and the revenue expended before they passed such a large item. He hoped that in future the report would be laid before members.

Amendment withdrawn. Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

London Agency, £5,946:

HON. F. H. PIESSE had hoped the Premier would be in his place for the purpose of dealing with this matter, as a new departure had recently been made in regard to the appointment of an Agent General in London. Although for many years we had an Agent General in London, it was now proposed that the Agent General should be called Commercial Agent, for the purpose of dealing with important matters not only in regard to commerce and finance but immigration also. Comparisons had been made from time to time regarding the question of immigration as between the old land and Canada and the old land and Australia. Although a good deal could have been done in the past in the way of inducing immigration, still we must not forget that Canada was dealing with this important question as a dominion, therefore she had taken it up under favourable conditions which Australia had not been able to do. We could hardly expect that a State such as Western Australia could have done what Canada had been able to do. At the same time we had had the experience of Canada, and so much had been done that it had been notable that a large amount of emigration had been taking place from the British Isles to Canada. Canada was a short distance from the old world as compared with Australia. A week's voyage would take one to Canada, and railway communication throughout Canada was in such an advanced condition that it was not difficult to place people in positions in the agricultural sections of the country where they were able to make themselves homes; and they had brought about such a result that most of those who had gone on the land had been able successfully to carry on farming operations. This could be done in Australia. It could be done in Western Australia, because so much attention had been drawn to the capabilities of this country in regard to its agricultural development and local capabilities. He felt that we should have the co-operation of the whole of Australia in regard to an immigration scheme, and that it should be carried out by the Commonwealth, but meanwhile we should take active steps as a State by trying to draw attention

to the conditions of Western Australia and to its capabilities. Therefore some good could result from the efforts which should be put forward by our Agent General who had now gone home, and we should have more attention drawn to Western Australia in relation to its lands and the easy conditions offered to settlers. He believed it had been stated by those who had an opportunity of going through different parts of England that although these inducements had been held out for farming people to come to Australia for the purpose of tilling the soil, after all there had been the same tendency in England as appeared to exist in Australia, that being that the people did not attach themselves to the land in the same way as some did in the past. They were drifting into the cities. Although it had been said there had been a large influx of people who had gone on the land, they were not people who had been accustomed to the land as farmers; still, after reaching these places, they frequently developed into very good farmers, such as we had seen was the case in Australia. So we should do our best to try to gain some of those people who had gone to Canada. There were things which should be avoided, and he would like to give an instance of a case which came under his notice a day or two ago. A man who had come here with his wife, and had been a farmer at home, stated that he had been to our Agent General's office in London and had received from the Agent General such information with regard to the country as had induced him to leave England and come to Western Australia. He had a letter of introduction to our Director of Agriculture here. He called upon that gentleman and expected to receive from him such information as would enable him to obtain employment. He was not able to take up land himself at the time. His means had been exhausted at home, although he had been many years engaged in farming. He wished to gain experience, and he was referred by that department to the Labour Bureau, where he recorded his name in the ordinary way amongst others who were waiting for employment. The man was originally an employer of labour at home, with a great deal of experience. At the same time he was not prepared to take up the class of labour offered to him, such as ringbarking and

clearing of land in different parts of the country, because he had not had sufficient experience. The right thing for that man to do would have been to go on the land somewhere and gain experience; but having with him a wife who had not colonial experience, they were most unfitted for the work of pioneering in such a country as Australia. He (Hon. F. H. Piesse) felt that we required people first of all with a little capital, or who had experience as agricultural labourers. We did not require people who had no means and who had no ability and no experience as labourers. Some people who came here expected perhaps to find things ready made for them, and not to take up hard labouring work. A great deal could, he thought, be done in the direction he suggested; but he was of opinion that we should find it most difficult to induce the labouring class in Great Britain to come here. They already found sufficient employment there, and in some instances people were not attaching themselves to the land in the same way as their predecessors. Recent inquiries made by a commission appointed in England, which had many sittings and did a great deal of good in making those inquiries with regard to the agricultural depression, and of which Mr. Rider Haggard was chairman, pointed to the fact already alluded to. He took it that the difficulty with regard to getting small freeholds had been overcome in some instances in the old country, and they were bringing about a very much better state of things there than existed before. If they could do that there, they were not likely to come to Australia; they would not sever the home ties; they did not like going away so far from home. They went to Canada, which was so near to England, for the reason that they could make a voyage there and back in three weeks, whereas it took five weeks at least to come out here. However, we should not let this prevent us from taking such steps as might be necessary to increase our population in the direction indicated. The Agent General could, he thought, do a great deal of good in anticipation of the action of the Commonwealth in the future. It had been said the London offices were in a portion of London not visited very frequently. They were in places selected generally by other Agents General of

Australia from time to time, but some of the Agents General or States had taken offices in the business part of the city, with the result that they had been able to exhibit products of the country they represented, and very much attention had been drawn to the various products. Canada was capable of raising, thus giving prominence to that which she could produce. In regard to other matters which the Premier might touch upon, there was the question of finance, which was a very important one. Unfortunately he was not present to hear the Budget Speech delivered the other evening, but he read that the Government had been very successful in obtaining recently sufficient money for our immediate needs. He understood that our late Agent General, Mr. Lefroy, who was relinquishing his post, had been most helpful in this direction. However, with the advent of Mr. James, our late Premier, with his knowledge so recent and with the experience he had gained in connection with the administration of the affairs of this country, we should certainly have a stronger advocate in putting forward the condition of affairs in this State, showing our finances were sound, also pointing out to the financiers at home that we had good security to offer for any consideration which they might agree to give us in regard to the money that might be raised for the purpose of carrying out various works of the country. We had an important department there. He noticed also that there had been a new departure which he took it was inaugurated by the previous Government, and that was the appointment of a resident engineer in London, and he saw that provision was made for his salary together with that of his assistant. That was a step in the right direction, because we should have there an officer who understood the needs of the country. That officer had had experience as Engineer-in-Chief of the State, and also experience in regard to the construction of our public works. That officer could do good service there, but it seemed that if this step was a right one it should have been taken earlier, because we had a very large expenditure of public money some three or four years ago, when most of the business of the country was done on commission through the Agent

General's office by a duly appointed consulting engineer. Now we could perhaps get some benefit from the efforts of this gentleman at home, and he certainly thought there was great necessity for inspection. The advice of our officers here should be followed. One thing which came under his notice recently was with regard to our locomotives. Where recommendation had been made by the late Locomotive Engineer as to the purchase of certain locomotive engines at home, the late Government in carrying out the orders did not follow closely the advice of that officer, preferring to buy in a cheaper market; with the result that we had had sent to us engines that were not too satisfactory, and it seemed to him that in their endeavour to save a few pounds in one direction they had saddled the country with enormous expenditure in the other in relation to the question of upkeep. These matters should receive the earnest attention of the London representatives of the Government; and then we should see some good results from the work of our new Agent General. There was no desire to disparage the work of former Agents General, who had been obliged to carry out instructions; but now was the time to bring the State into prominence, not only with a view to inducing immigration, but with a view to placing before the people of the old world the facts regarding our financial condition and the country's capabilities.

MR. GREGORY: The Treasurer had not said anything regarding the reorganisation of the London Agency, the usefulness of which might be greatly increased. When a department was worked for years on one method, and when those in charge had been long absent from the State, their lack of local knowledge was apt to be injurious. For three years a specially selected officer from the Mines and another from the Lands Department, both thoroughly conversant not only with new legislation but with matters of administration and with the resources of the State, should be placed in the Agent General's office. Were the present secretary brought back to the State, the amount of his salary would pay the salaries of the two officers suggested. Young and intelligent officers, with a full knowledge of our resources,

would infuse new life into that office, and could fully satisfy inquirers. There was one officer in the Mines Department who could adequately fill the position, and one could surely be found in the Lands. By continually infusing new blood into the London office, and by a triennial rotation of officers, we could bring about a much needed reform.

MR. MORAN expressed gratification at the speech of the member for Katanning, which had about it the ring of old times. It was pleasing to hear one of the old dominant party in this country, that party which conducted the State's affairs so ably and so long, that party to which was due our present prosperity, express himself so vigorously and so confidently regarding the future of the State. Anyone reading the signs of the times must conclude that the people of the State, irrespective of party, had decided that the country must progress. Firstly, they had decided that there should be public works, reproductive and progressive. In all parts of the State, theories appeared to be thrown to the winds; and one had not much trouble in perceiving that the policy of the old Forrest party must be the main policy of the future. To-day we were, in the matter of public works and railways, carrying more sail than any other country in the world; and yet we must go ahead. That was plain; for apparently no other policy would suit the progressive people of Western Australia. Then, in order to be safe, we must attract more population. We were carrying 50 per cent. more railway line per head of population than any other country in the world. This was in itself a magnificent conception; but it was not altogether the safest policy. Railways could not pay unless used by the people. We had the best-paying railway system in Australasia and the smallest population; but this could not go on for ever. The necessity for increased population was all the more plainly indicated by our being forced, not to the displeasure of some of us, to continue a policy of railway development. The time had now arrived when, to get suitable immigrants, we must put forth more vigorous efforts than even Canada. That being so, while we now willingly expended a quarter of a million or half a million a year on new

railways, we must look forward with confidence to spending—he hoped in the next 12 months—a quarter of a million per annum, if necessary, on the introduction of suitable population. Those two policies—railway construction and immigration—must go hand in hand. Even now we were gathering a desirable section of the population of the Eastern States; but the influx was not sufficient. During his brief but vigorous career as Minister for Lands, he and the then Premier (Hon. G. Throssell) disagreed as to the advisableness of advertising in the Eastern States in order to promote land settlement. Both took a firm stand; but he (Mr. Moran) had his way, and sent a lecturer to visit every town in the mallee districts of Victoria. That gentleman was now in the House. He had done good work, resulting in a large influx of Victorian farmers with their families, and in several cases with their whole kits, horses and furniture. The State benefited largely by the able efforts of that lecturer. Nevertheless, showing the time needed to disseminate information of this character, for two years after he (Mr. Moran) relinquished the Lands portfolio he continued to receive, often weekly until Mr. Hopkins ceased to be Minister for Lands, letters from almost every part of the world asking for full information concerning our land laws; and these letters he had handed to Mr. Hopkins, pursuant to the policy of land settlement which both he and Mr. Hopkins had vigorously continued after its inception by the father of that policy in Western Australia, the Hon. George Throssell. From many parts of South Africa he (Mr. Moran) had received scores of letters from men discontented with local conditions; and many more from America, Europe, Great Britain and Ireland. Even from New Zealand had he received similar letters inquiring about our lands; and to all this correspondence the Lands Department had fully replied, thus inducing much desultory settlement. To-day we had a flourishing revenue. Anyone who mistook these times for bad times had no idea of what the future held in store for Western Australia, though this was easily ascertainable from the history of every other Australian State. This was the heyday and the noontide of our revenue-producing

capacity; and it must not be forgotten that in this State loan account owed to revenue a large sum of money. He had always protested against permanently applying a piebald policy to our railway construction, building some of our railways out of revenue and some out of loan. The time must come when we should want that revenue; and he held that in a country with paying railways and a sinking fund, there was no need to build railways out of revenue. If the sinking fund was not large enough, increase the sinking fund. When our credit was strengthened, hundreds of thousands of pounds taken out of revenue and sunk in our railways ought to be legitimately refunded to revenue out of loan. The policy for the future was not to be afraid of immigration, but to avoid all schemes for mopping up the submerged tenth. We did not want that class of population. We should aim at securing first of all farmers, if we could get them, and pay dearly for them if necessary; pay their passages; get the best agricultural population of Europe and their families; and in every case encourage the man who had some money, even though it were but little. Above all, encourage the man with a knowledge of agriculture. One aspect of this problem might not be pleasing to both parties in the House. The Labour party might not approve of encouraging an influx of suitable agricultural labourers. He did not altogether hold that the introduction of hall-marked agricultural labourers to this State would hurt our labour market. If the land was developed, if there were employment for these men, there would be twice as much employment for carpenters to build their houses, for railway porters, for lumpers; and all along the line we should find an increase of employment consequent on increased agricultural production. The encouragement of such immigrants would not hurt Western Australia; and it was pleasing to hear from a Labour member that the Labour party in Parliament did not fear their introduction. In considering such a policy we must remember that we were at the turning of the ways in regard to wheat growing. The House must develop wheat markets, must give reasonable freights, and must if necessary build wheat sheds at our railway stations.

MR. BURGESS: They were now being built.

MR. MORAN: Then build more. Wheat would be our great future staple, first along the Great Southern Railway.

MR. NANSON: And along the Midland Railway too.

MR. MORAN hoped the day was not far distant when the State would own that Midland line. That had been his ambition. Years ago in the House he had propounded a policy which, if then adopted, would long since have put us in possession of that line. His policy had not been supported. The legitimate method of getting that railway was to utilise the oldest form of taxation in the world—an absentee land tax on very large estates; and we might make the minimum 10,000 acres; nor would he make the minimum much lower at this time. With such a policy we in this State had nothing to be afraid of; but if we waited till the petty demands of every constituency had mopped up our revenue, till we had a deficit of £50,000, the golden day would have vanished, and it would be harder to find money for immigration. Let us therefore, first of all, fearlessly advertise our lands all over Australia. When Minister for Lands, his minute to the Premier was: "The Eastern States did not scruple to send their agents here to induce us to enter federation. I shall not scruple, now that we are all one country, about advertising our lands all over Australia." They should be advertised all over Australia. We should take the farmer who had lived in misery in the dry districts of Victoria for so many years and bring him here. He (Mr. Moran) had sent a lecturer there, and the result was a large influx from Victoria. There was also a large influx from South Australia. We had the rainfall here, and it was better for Australia that people should be settled here, where they could do better, rather than they should be left in the dry areas of the East. If Queensland wanted to advertise her lands in Western Australia, she should be allowed to do so. There should be more opportunity of advertising our State, and it could only be done by the expenditure of money. We should be prepared next year if necessary to spend £100,000 for the encouragement of immigration of settlers. He (Mr.

Moran) was not particular—why not spend it out of loan if it could not be provided out of revenue? There was no more reproductive work than the settlement of our agricultural lands, to create an industry that would take the place of the mining industry—always the fore-runner in Australia of an agricultural policy. In these remarks he had been encouraged by the speech of the member for Katanning (Hon. F. H. Piesse), an old friend and colleague. When we saw a man such as that hon. member with every penny invested in the country, and when we saw the natives of the State speculating in it and using their money to the best advantage, why should we be afraid in a matter of this kind? Canada was pursuing with great success an immigration campaign which was making her a powerful rival of her great neighbour. Western Australia was in the best position of the Australian States to do the same thing and encourage immigration. She had the best land policy, a great revenue, and splendid railway facilities—trunk lines and spur lines; and why not make a new departure next year by providing £100,000 for immigration? In Mr. James we had a good Agent General. While not placing much store on Mr. James's business knowledge, we could place reliance on his patriotism and on his knowledge of Western Australia. Why not give the Agent General a chance? Other Agents General had not had a chance with a few hundred pounds to spend. Population came free to Western Australia when the gold boom was at its height; but now it was not coming in fast enough to keep pace with our magnificent forward policy or to clothe our railway lines with settlers, which alone could make the railways pay. Were we to sit down? Could we not do the same as Canada was doing? There were men in Western Australia competent to go anywhere to advertise the State. We had the men, and we had the country, and if needs be we could subsidise a line of steamships and pay the passages of people to come here. It would not be long before the passages would be repaid if people were settled on the Great Southern Railway lands which cost so little to be cleared, which were so productive, and which had such a good rainfall. Now the opportu-

nity presented itself we should be a united Parliament, and be worthy of the best tradition of that old gentleman who led the country from the obscurity in which he found it to its present heyday of prosperity. We should continue that policy, and depend upon it it was the way to unite all parties to bring about the prosperity of everybody in the community.

On motion by the **TREASURER**, progress reported and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 22 minutes past 10 o'clock, until the next afternoon.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 24th November, 1904.

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THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 3-30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the **COLONIAL SECRETARY**: Amended Regulations passed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia.

QUESTION—PRISONER BEHAN.

MR. NEEDHAM asked the Minister for Justice: 1, Has the inquiry into the case of prisoner Behan, at present in Fremantle Goal, been opened in accordance with the promise of the Minister, when

replying to a question on this matter on former occasion? 2, If so, when was the inquiry opened? 3, Is it a fact that the man Hansen, who is alleged to have made a confession, is missing, and that the officers of the Criminal Investigation Department are unable to trace him?

THE PREMIER replied: 1, Copies of all documents connected with this case were made out and forwarded to his Honour the Acting Chief Justice, on the 15th inst. He will nominate a Judge to investigate the case as soon as possible. All the Judges have been fully occupied in the Full Court and at Nisi Prius, and consequently the investigation has been slightly delayed. 2, See No. 1. 3, Hansen has made and signed a document with reference to the matter, but has made no confession. On his release at the termination of his sentence, he was informed that the document in no way implicated him, and was asked to report his whereabouts to the police once a week, in case he was required as a witness. On the last occasion when he should have reported himself he did not do so, and the police are now ascertaining his whereabouts.

QUESTION—RAILWAY INSPECTORS.

MR. A. J. WILSON asked the Minister for Railways: 1, What is the salary paid to Inspector Gatherer and Inspector Gregg? 2, Are the appointments permanent or temporary?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Mr. Gatherer, £4 per week and 10s. per day travelling allowance when travelling; Mr. Gregg, £200 per annum and £100 per annum travelling allowance. 2, Messrs. Gatherer and Gregg are regularly employed, and will continue to be so employed so long as they give satisfaction and there is work for them to do.

REPORT—EMPRESS OF COOLGARDIE GOLD-MINING LEASE INQUIRY.

MR. HORAN brought up the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the forfeiture and reinstatement of this lease, and into allegations made.

Report received and read.

On motion by **MR. HORAN**, report ordered to be printed (evidence in typewritten form to lie on the table).