

if they liked to tramp from their homes to the House to get those meals. The House Committee was not generous enough to say, "You have worked your hours, you need not come back for three days, and here is your meal money." It was an absolute disgrace that these men, who were married men, should earn only £9 9s. for the month. It was astounding that the member for Mt. Margaret should leave the Chair to give the House information of that kind. When a man had done eight hours' work in one day, every hour he worked over that period he should be paid for it at overtime rate. The whole question boiled itself down to whether the House Committee was generous in view of the fact that they gave these men £1 per week during the recess as a retainer. These men should get at least 10s. a day, and if they worked overtime they should be paid for it.

Mr. Horan: Let Parliament be an ideal employer of labour.

Mr. SCADDAN: Exactly.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Premier's Office*, £820—agreed to.

Progress reported.

*House adjourned at 10.55 p.m.*

Legislative Assembly,

*Friday, 2nd December, 1910.*

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 10.30 a.m., and read prayers.

## PAPERS PRESENTED.

**By the Premier: Report of the Board of Management of Femantle Public Hospital for the year ended 30th June, 1910.**

## ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1910-11

*In Committee of Supply*

Resumed from the previous day; Mr. Taylor in the Chair.

Treasury Department and Administrative Branches (Hon. Frank Wilson, Treasurer).

**Vote—Treasury, £8,528:**

Item, Examiner and Public Debt Accountant, £450.

**Mr. BOLTON:** The item showed an increase of £5 on the salary. Was this in accordance with the Public Service Commissioner's classification, or was there any other special reason for it? It seemed that those officers in receipt of good salaries were the only ones set down for increases, while others equally deserving, but in receipt of lower salaries, had been passed over.

The PREMIER : All the advances shown were in accordance with the Public Service Commissioner's classification. They had been made on the recommendation of the heads of the departments and the Public Service Commissioner, bringing the officers a step nearer to the maximum of their classifications. This particular officer was highly capable and he (the Premier) was only sorry we could not give him more.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Audit*, £7,806—agreed to.

Vote — *Compassionate Allowances*,  
£770:

Mr. ANGWIN: Under this heading he desired to draw the attention of the Treasurer to allowance made when insurance companies failed to pay compensation in regard to cases for which they had received premiums. In respect of their employees the Government paid insurance premiums under the Workers' Compensation Act. With so large a number of men employed the Government should form an insurance fund of their own. However, the point was that he had known instances of insurance companies collecting the premiums and subsequently refusing to pay the compensation to which the victim of an accident was entitled, whereupon, under the vote "Compensation allowances" the Government stepped

in and completed the payment of the compensation. The time had arrived when the Government should make a close investigation into the question of insurances. The last item under the vote, an amount which had been paid last year, disclosed a case in which the premium had been collected by the insurance company, notwithstanding which, when the insured met with a fatal accident the insurance company avoided their liability on a legal technicality. Knowing that they had accepted the premiums in regard to this case, and feeling that their position, although legally right was manifestly unsound the company had voluntarily paid a sum of £150, leaving the Government to step in and provide the balance of £250 to make up the £400 prescribed in the Act. In such a case having accepted the premiums, the company should be compelled to pay the compensation, and it was virtually wrong for the Government to smooth the devious path of the company by paying the balance. Nor was this the only case, for there was another in which the Government had paid the full £400. It was time the Government took into consideration the advisability of providing an insurance fund themselves.

The Premier: An opportunity would be taken of again looking into the case referred to by the hon. member.

Vote put and passed.

Vote — *Government Savings Bank*, £15,983:

Item, Manager, £400.

Mr. GILL: There was here an increase of £50, while on the other hand an officer of a lower grade, admittedly competent in all respects, had left the service in his dissatisfaction with the remuneration received. Two or three other capable officers were likely to follow him for the same reason. Why were such anomalies allowed to obtain? There were shown in the Estimates several increases for high officials which would require explanation. Why was special recognition given to the manager of the Savings Bank? Would the Government give increases also to the lower ranks of the service?

The Premier: We have done so.

Mr. GILL: The officers of the Railway Department had been promised last year increases which had been due for some years, but they had not got them.

The PREMIER: The manager of the Savings Bank had certainly been underpaid for some years. The £50 now added to his salary brought him up to the classified maximum for the position. If members would take the trouble to visit the head office and spend half an hour with the manager and see the immense amount of work done there, they would recognise that he was doing very important and responsible work. With regard to the other employees, he knew very little about the individual officers of the service, but members could rest assured that each individual case had been considered on its merits by those who were in a position to judge of the capabilities and claims of such officers. If certain increases had been omitted it was because those who were in a position to judge did not consider them justified.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Did the heads of the departments recommend their own increases?

The PREMIER: Increases to heads of departments were recommended either by the Public Service Commissioner or by (miser) took full responsibility.

Mr. Collier: He is the lowest paid bank manager in the State.

The PREMIER: It was natural that men seeking an advance should think that they had been unfairly treated when they did not receive the expected increase. But members must allow those controlling the departments and the Public Service Commissioner to be the best judges on that point, and to give a fair and impartial recommendation.

Mr. Underwood: The manager here is not getting as much as the doctor at Port Hedland gets as a subsidy.

The PREMIER: That was true, but, unfortunately, he was getting as much as the Treasury could afford to pay him.

Mr. Underwood: Rot!

The PREMIER: Undoubtedly the public service was losing good men for the simple reason that the Government could not afford to pay them sufficiently well,

but others were leaving because of the better opportunities of advancement presented in the Commonwealth service and in the public service of the Eastern States; and he did not stand in the way of any man seeking to improve himself, no matter how it might inconvenience the department.

Mr. SWAN: The Premier was not the only one who displayed ignorance regarding individual officers. Many of the permanent heads knew very little about their officers, and a perusal of the Estimates revealed deplorable ignorance regarding the qualifications and rights of many officers. The salary of £500 was little enough for the position, but if the Premier recognised that, why did he not rectify the matter. It was a fact that the State was losing many valuable officers. That had been going on for years and was likely to continue. The public service had lost Dr. Cleland, and Mr. Triggs amongst others, and probably in a short time would lose Mr. Stenberg. No doubt others would go if the Premier said that the State could not afford to keep them.

Mr. Underwood: We must keep North.

Mr. SWAN: That was consistent with the cheap and nasty policy of the Premier. No State could afford to have a cheap service, and if any country could pay good officers it was Western Australia.

Mr. BOLTON: The general opinion of members was that the position of the manager of the Savings Bank was too poorly paid. For a gentleman having the responsibility of managing that bank to receive £500 a year when Under-Secretaries were receiving £600, and even £800, was absurd in the extreme. The responsibility of an Under-Secretary was nothing compared with the responsibility of a gentleman who had to handle the immense amount of money which passed through the savings bank. It was incomprehensible that the Public Service Commissioner should classify such a position at a figure £200 or more less than the salary of an under secretary, who had been placed in the position because he was a relation of a great statesman, and had been kept there for no other reason. No private

bank manager would get less than £1,000 a year, and it was to be hoped that the Premier would take the matter into consideration so that next year steps might be taken to raise the salary to a more appropriate amount.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: It was absurd that the managing trustee of the Agricultural Bank, whose position was not as important as that of manager of the Savings Bank, should get £1,000 per annum. For that gentleman who only gave a portion of his time to the bank the Government could find an increase of £150 to bring the salary up to £1,000, but to the manager of the Savings Bank they could only afford to give £500 altogether. He totally disagreed with what the Premier had said in regard to his inability to pay a higher salary. No doubt that was owing to the example of private enterprise in the payment of bank officials, but whatever the private banks might do it was the duty of the State to pay a man controlling a bank with deposits amounting to about 2½ millions something more than £500 a year. He trusted the Premier would not endeavour to avoid his responsibility by saying that he had not the money to pay a higher salary, because he was finding money to pay increases to officers who were higher paid and less deserving than the officer under discussion. The State should set an example to the private institutions in the matter of paying salaries, and thus induce the private institutions to pay better salaries.

The PREMIER: The suggestions made by hon. members would certainly be taken into consideration, but it was not necessary to condemn Mr. Paterson, the manager of the Agricultural Bank, in order to advocate an increase for the manager of the Savings Bank. Both officers had great responsibilities, but the responsibilities differed.

Mr. Underwood: Mr. Paterson is a friend of the hon. member.

The PREMIER: That is not fair. Although the Savings Bank was a big institution, and although Mr. Leschen was responsible for its management, still Mr. Leschen was only a receiver and paying-

out officer, and had nothing whatever to do with the investment of funds. The position could be compared with the position of the teller of a private bank. The Treasury looked after the investment of the funds.

Mr. Heitmann: And very badly at times.

The PREMIER: All business concerns must be judged by the aggregate and not by individual instances. The institution was properly and successfully managed, and the Treasury had no trouble with it. He would be only too glad to go into the matter so that Mr. Leschen might receive a bigger salary, but it was wrong to compare the duties of the managers of the Savings Bank and Agricultural Bank. Mr. Paterson was required to invest money and see that the securities were right and that the money invested was properly expended.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The manager of the Agricultural Bank was referred to because the Premier said the funds could not be found for an increase for the manager of the Savings Bank.

The Premier: I did not say that. I said it was the maximum of Mr. Leschen's classification.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The manager of the Agricultural Bank had no work in regard to securities. The securities were practically laid down by Act of Parliament, and land inspectors and surveyors fixed the amount that could be advanced on each block. The manager of the Agricultural Bank had no responsibility whatever in this regard.

Mr. FOULKES: We should not detract from the good services performed by the manager of the Agricultural Bank. The remedy for an increase in salary for Mr. Leschen lay with Mr. Leschen. The remedy was provided in the Public Service Act. Mr. Leschen could always appeal to the Public Service Commissioner for reclassification of his office. The Premier might take Mr. Leschen's case into consideration next year, and in the meantime Mr. Leschen might apply for reclassification, which, no doubt, he was entitled to on account of the enormous increase of work in the bank. Certainly it was advisable to set an example to

private banking institutions with regard to salaries.

Mr. WALKER: It was absurd to contend that it was not a matter for Parliament. There were scores of officers fully entitled to consideration, who had unsuccessfully applied for reclassification, and there was a spirit of discontent and unrest and general dissatisfaction throughout the departments.

The Premier: I do not think that is a fact.

Mr. WALKER: It was absolutely true. Gross injustice was done by delays and deferring of investigation, and sometimes by the absolute refusal of the Commissioner to deal with cases. There was friction between heads of departments and the Commissioner, and these conflicts were sometimes absolutely unseemly. Members of Parliament were paymasters of all the servants of the State, and if we allowed this item to pass without comment we virtually endorsed the classification fixed by the Public Service Commissioner. One could most heartily endorse the views put forward as to the State setting an example in regard to giving good pay for faithful services.

Mr. HOLMAN: The officers in the bank were a splendid set of men, and should be better treated, but the point should be raised now to urge on the Treasurer the advisability of extending the operations of the bank. The scope of the bank was altogether too limited.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was not in order in discussing the scope of the bank on the item for the manager's salary.

Mr. HOLMAN complained that every time he rose to speak he found himself in the same position. He maintained that he was in order. With an increase to this officer's salary the scope of the bank's operations should be increased. The whole of the institution was under the manager's direct control.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was not in order under this item in discussing the necessity for increasing the scope of the operations of the bank. The hon. member was in order in discussing the work the manager did for the salary he received.

Mr. HOLMAN: By showing that if the manager received an increased salary the scope of the operations of the bank would be increased would that be in order?

Mr. Horan: Increasing the salary of the manager will not increase the scope of the bank.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was not in order in urging the necessity for increasing the scope of the operations of the bank. The hon. member could not move to increase the manager's salary, but he could urge the necessity for the increase. By doing that, however, he could not urge the necessity for increasing the scope of the bank's operations.

Mr. HOLMAN: It seemed that every time he (Mr. Holman) rose to speak, and even before he made his intentions clear as to what attitude he intended to adopt, he was always ruled out of order. He maintained he was in order in discussing the question of increasing the scope of the manager's duties, and thus increasing the scope of the operations of the bank.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member would be in order in discussing the manager and his work, but the hon. member would be distinctly out of order if he attempted to discuss the scope of the bank's operations.

Mr. HOLMAN: It was the scope of the work of the manager that he desired to speak about.

The CHAIRMAN: Then the hon. member would be in order.

Mr. HOLMAN: Of course. He knew he had been in order all the time. This officer, if the scope of his operations were increased, should be entitled to more consideration. The intention was only to point out, and as briefly as possible, the necessity to widen the scope of this officer's work, and at the same time to treat him fairly in the matter of salary. Before his (Mr. Holman's) remarks were concluded the Chairman seemed to know exactly what was going to be said, and he immediately called him to order.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was not in order in reflecting on the Chair. The hon. member was imputing that he was not getting the same consideration in Committee as other hon.

members received, and the hon. member, or any other hon. member, would not be allowed to reflect on the Chair.

Mr. HOLMAN: On every occasion when he rose to speak he was always called to order.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member could rely upon that if he was out of order.

Mr. HOLMAN: It would be interesting if he were told exactly where he was. It had been his intention to refer briefly to the scope of the manager's work, but, in view of the Chairman's ruling, it would be necessary for him to go very fully into the question in order to make himself clear. In the course of interviews he, in his official capacity, had had with the manager of the Savings Bank, the manager had informed him that the scope of his operations was limited owing to the fact that an Order in Council had been passed which prevented the granting of interest above a certain sum. The manager's scope of operations was limited to the granting of interest on amounts deposited up to £1,000. It would be very much better if we allowed that amount to be increased. That limited the operations of the bank to a considerable extent, and in this way the manager did not receive fair consideration. It would be better to allow the manager a little more latitude, and permit him to make recommendations with regard to the extension of the bank's operations. In his official capacity he (Mr. Holman) had been compelled to withdraw money from the Savings Bank and deposit it in another institution simply because it was not possible to obtain interest from the Savings Bank. This was not the fault of the manager who had no say in the matter. We should be in the same position as we were with the Agricultural Bank, the manager of which institution made recommendations as to the best ways and means of extending the operations of that bank. The manager of the Savings Bank was a most capable man, and the whole institution was well governed, and the public always received every consideration there. The Treasurer might explain whether it was his intention to allow the manager to have an opportunity of exer-

cising some power in the direction suggested.

The PREMIER: The amount on which the Savings Bank paid interest was in excess of the amounts in similar institutions in other parts of the Commonwealth with, he thought, one exception. In this State interest was paid up to the full deposit of £1,000. It was a question of seeing how the capital of the bank could be profitably employed. The interest which had to be paid took some earning, and we wanted to see that we did not get more capital than could be handled. At the present time the deposits at the bank amounted to over three and a half millions sterling, and there was rather a larger reserve at present than he cared about. There was no desire to show any profit as long as we could pay interest.

Mr. Walker: What are the investments of this institution besides the Agricultural Bank?

The PREMIER: The Coolgardie Water Scheme, and the metropolitan water supply and sewerage works were being financed out of this institution. There were also investments in inscribed stock, and in private mortgages. The Public Accounts would show all. There were also municipal loans, and all of course were controlled by statute. The principal investments were in inscribed stock and the advances to Government institutions such as the Agricultural Bank and the different works which had been referred to.

Mr. Jacoby: What about the roads boards?

The PREMIER: It would be possible to finance the loans of the various roads bodies if the Bill which was at present before the House went through. The matter which the hon. member for Murchison had referred to would be taken into consideration by the financial advisers of the Government. It had to be very carefully considered, but it might be possible for something to be done.

Mr. HOLMAN: Although the Savings Bank did not pay interest on more than £1,000, or allowed a deposit to be made of a greater amount, a private individual could go to that bank, and he could open

half a dozen trust accounts, and it did not come within the scope of the manager to prevent that.

Mr. Underwood: And that multiplies his work.

Mr. HOLMAN: Naturally, because instead of one entry there would be six, and the whole work would be multiplied by six. An hon. member could make a deposit of £1,000 and obtain interest on that, and he could open a trust account in the name of Tom Jones, and he could operate on that account, and others too if he desired to open them, and he could get interest on all the accounts. If half a dozen accounts were opened the work involved would be increased sixfold, and there would be six times the responsibility thrown on the shoulders of the manager. If we allowed a man by subterfuge to deposit his money in trust and so create six times the amount of work, surely it would be better to give the manager wider scope. The Treasurer ought straightway to extend the operations of the bank; then, instead of having the number of the accounts inflated to 150,000 we would be able to reduce them by perhaps 5,000 and so materially reduce the work.

The Premier: I do not think it would be anything like that.

Mr. HOLMAN: On behalf of different organisations he himself had two or three trust accounts in the bank. Would it not be better to give the manager a much freer hand in the matter of developing the bank? Certainly it was unreasonable to ask the manager to conduct the business on the lines laid down. Would the Treasurer make an inquiry into the matter in the immediate future?

The Premier: I have already informed the hon. member that I am prepared to go into this matter and see what can be done.

Mr. GILL: The object he had had in raising the discussion was to discover whether the increase in the salary had been by way of special consideration. There were in the Estimates several instances of special consideration, a system to which he had the strongest objections. He agreed that we were not paying the manager of the bank sufficient for the important duties he discharged. The insti-

tution was exceedingly well managed and he had never heard any complaint against it. Consequently he felt that the manager was not receiving all that he deserved. The maximum salary for the position should be increased.

Mr. HARPER: We had in the manager of the bank a very competent officer, but when members talked about making large increases in salaries it was to be remembered that the taxpayers would have to provide the money.

Mr. Bolton: The bank made a profit of £9,000 for the year.

Mr. HARPER: But if the salaries were to be increased all round there would be no profit at all. As he had said, the manager was very competent; but there was no comparison between the duties of a savings bank manager and those of the manager of a private bank. The scope of savings bank business was very limited as compared with the business done by private banks, and the responsibilities on the manager were nothing like those on the manager of a private institution. No doubt as population increased and the Government Savings Bank grew in importance the manager of the bank would find himself in a much better position than he was to-day. References had been made to the fact that the Commonwealth could pay higher salaries than could we in Western Australia; but the Commonwealth had more money than we had.

Mr. Underwood: These increases would come out of the pockets of the depositors.

Mr. HARPER: But this was a special case. At the present time our financial position was not such as would justify an all-round increase of salaries. The Treasurer was to be commended for exercising economy until such time as we could better afford to increase salaries.

Mr. HEITMANN: The Treasurer had said it was not always advisable to compare the salaries paid to different officers in order to arrive at what should be paid to any particular officer. On the other hand there were times when this course should be adopted. Private employers recognised service and ability, and if we wanted good service the Government

on behalf of the taxpayers could afford to pay good salaries. He remembered 16 years ago calling upon the member for Beverley at Southern Cross, and asking for a job, and he would venture to say the member for Beverley was at that time receiving considerably more than the manager of the Savings Bank to-day. Surely the State, if not an ideal employer should, at all events, be in advance of the average private employer in that respect. Amongst the really good men whom the State had lost through not paying sufficient salaries were Mr. Julius, who had been engaged as a civil engineer in the Railway Department and who, through dissatisfaction, had gone to Sydney, where he was now earning £2,000 a year; and Mr. Triggs, also of the Railway Department, who had taken a position under the Federal Government. The more striking instance was the loss of Professor Lowrie, who at the present time ought to be worth £5,000 a year to the State, and who, because the Government were not prepared to recognise his worth and give him a free hand, was proceeding to another State. Before long the Federal Parliament would be branching out into Commonwealth banking and insurance if the State Governments did not take the matter up, and perhaps the first officer whose services they would secure would be the manager of this bank whom the State Government had failed to recognise. The policy of the Government in not paying good salaries to good officers was a very dear one indeed, and it was time the Government decided to pay them according to their worth.

Item, Clerks, £4,798.

Mr. HOLMAN: The work of these clerks was important, and although the Manager was being raised to his maximum salary many of the other officers were underpaid. They, too, should be increased to the maximum under the classification, because they had a very important work to do. By treating their officers liberally the Government would set a good example to private banks.

Item, Office cleaner and night watchman at 8s. per diem, £147.

Mr. BOLTON: Generally speaking, night watchmen were kept working 12 hours a day for 8s. That was insufficient payment for their very arduous duties. Would the Premier assure the Committee that the night watchman in this case would get at least 1s. per hour.

The PREMIER: The officer had been receiving 7s. per day, but the Estimates provided for an increase to 8s. What his hours were he could not say; probably he was on duty from closing time to opening time, but no doubt there would be some arrangement for him to camp on the premises. The institution was not very extensive and in all probability the watchman slept there. In such a case members could hardly object to him being 12 or even 14 hours on duty.

Mr. BOLTON: If this watchman had to remain on his feet for 12 hours the Premier should go into the question.

Mr. GILL: This man had to work 12 hours, and was fully engaged cleaning up the premises during the whole 12 hours. The remuneration paid was not satisfactory, so it would be well to have inquiries made.

Mr. McDOWALL: A similar officer in the Supreme Court buildings, after being 19 years in the State service, was only receiving 8s. a day. It was not a living wage, and the matter should be inquired into and increases granted.

Item, Commission payable to Federal Government, etcetera, for services rendered by postmasters at agencies, £4,000.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Would the Premier say how money received from the Federal Government for postal services was distributed among the State officers? There were many railway officers doing postal work. The State received a lump sum for that work, and the railway officers received little consideration for doing the work.

The PREMIER: Instead of opening branches of the Savings Bank the services of postmasters were availed of, and this item was the percentage paid to the Federal Government for the work. Inquiries would be made into the point mentioned by the hon. member, and explanation given on the Railway Estimates.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Government Stores*. £8,769:

Mr. ANGWIN: In referring again this year to this vote it would be realised he had a grievance in connection with the department. His protest was against the Government taking steps to build stores in Perth at a cost of £12,000 or £14,000 without the sanction of Parliament, when there were suitable buildings at Fremantle, in the shape of the old customs house and the bulk stores adjacent, these buildings being now let at a small rental to a Fremantle merchant. Several years ago in regard to this department the Minister announced that the removal of the stores to Perth was on account of the report of a commission of investigation. It was pointed out that the officers could control the stores better when the buildings were close to their offices in Perth, and that the material stacked at Fremantle deteriorated. In regard to the last point the truth was that the material depreciated owing to the carelessness of those in charge of the stores when they were at Fremantle. As to better control in Perth, he (Mr. Angwin) contended that it was not possible. It was pointed out in 1900 that the removal of the stores from Fremantle to Perth would mean an enormous saving. The Estimates for 1908-9 showed a vote of £8,770 and the enormous saving was shown by the fact that the Estimates now before the Committee showed the vote at £8,769, while items previously charged to Stores were now charged against the respective departments. The year before the Government stores were opened in Perth, 1907-8, the stores manager received a salary of £408; this year it was £435. The inspector received £232; this year it was £285. Clerical assistance cost at that time £3,108—and that not only applied to the central stores, but to the general stores department, and to the Tender Board, which to-day was managed under the Stores Department—and had now increased to £4,525. For the storemen the amount had increased from £1,281 to £2,053; the total in 1907-8 was £5,029, and to-day it was £7,298. The arguments that he used at that time that there would not be any



saving effected by the change, had been conclusively proved. The report of the special commission appointed to make inquiries in connection with the department, and which was to be found on page 27 of the Public Service Commissioner's report, after recommending that certain assistance should be given, pointed out that the adoption of a method on the lines they suggested would effect the saving of an immense amount of work. If it was possible to do that, there should have been a reduction in the cost; yet, though the work referred to would be saved, the commission were only able to recommend the saving in expenditure of the small sum of £328 per annum. The present Estimates, however, showed an increase which was considerably over that sum. The arguments of the Minister in the past were that owing to the stores being centrally situated there would be no necessity for departmental stores. The commission on the 29th October said that in the past it had been the practice for a number of departments to have stores branches of their own, and they noted with satisfaction that these were now being brought under the control of the stores manager, who had arranged that the department would be able to effect a saving of at least two or three officers' positions. In spite of this report, however, it was found that there was an increase. Later on the same commission presented a report in which they stated that the creation of the central Government stores department was of recent date, and that they were of opinion the individual Government departments did not fully avail themselves of it. That statement contradicted the one which they previously made. The arguments previously used by the Premier with regard to the stores that there would be an immense saving if the stores were brought to Perth had not been justified by results. This year's Estimates showed that there was to be an increase of £775. Last year there was a reduction of about £618, but the Minister explained that the considerable saving which he estimated would take place could not be brought about last year owing to the exceptional expenditure during that year.

The Premier: When was that?

Mr. ANGWIN: Last year, on the 16th November.

The Premier: You are quoting the then Premier's remarks. I was not Premier then.

Mr. ANGWIN: The statement was made by Sir Newton Moore, who was Treasurer, and who no doubt was guided by his officers. Soon after that the then Premier went to England, and the duties were carried out by the present Premier, and, instead of finding the decrease which was anticipated, we found an increase this year of £775. It might seem parochial to draw attention to the unwise step in removing the Government stores from Fremantle to Perth, but there had been a definite statement made that Fremantle was the proper place for these stores, because there was provided at the port communication with all parts of the State by sea and rail. While many business people found it necessary to establish themselves in Perth, there was no need for the Government to remove the stores to Perth. The business people had opposition to contend against, but that did not apply to the Government, because the Government had not to enter into competition with any other person with regard to its stores. When the Government found that the large buildings erected for stores at Fremantle with their grounds could be used to better advantage, it was the duty of the Government to see whether they could get other suitable buildings in the same locality. Instead of that they came to Perth and were now occupying a building which the commission stated was unsuitable. There were suitable premises at Fremantle which might have been availed of, and these were connected by rail, and were close to the wharves. It was found, however, that the Government had decided to erect in William-street, away from the railway station and seaboard, a stores building at a cost of from £14,000 to £16,000, and it would be necessary when this building was completed to provide for haulage to and from that place. It meant increased expenditure, and would be detrimental to the administration of the department. The Government had not given this matter full consideration, nor had they borne in mind the fact that

there were numbers of suitable stores already in existence. He hoped hon. members would see that justice was done and that the stores would be situated at Fremantle.

The PREMIER: The hon. member would scarcely expect him to traverse the whole of the arguments used, which the hon. member had faithfully put before the Committee each year ever since it was first decided that the Government stores should be removed to Perth. The hon. member admitted that the cost in 1905 had been largely in excess of what it was this year. That in itself ought to be accepted by the hon. member as some justification for the change. Moreover, there had been an enormous direct advantage due to better supervision of the goods supplied to the different departments, and in consequence the better value received.

Mr. Collier: How can you get a better article by the change?

The PREMIER: By the closer supervision that now obtained.

Mr. Angwin: How can the supervision be closer than it would be at the port?

The PREMIER: Because all the main sources of supply were in the city of Perth and suburbs, and instead of the goods being sent to the country without supervision they were delivered to the stores, supervised, compared with samples, and then despatched to their destination. It would be unwise to interfere with what had proved to be a decided reform, merely because Fremantle had suffered slightly by the removal of the stores to Perth. It would be unwise to stop the erection of up-to-date buildings for this very necessary department and house it in the old, ramshackle buildings referred to by the hon. member.

Mr. Angwin: They are new buildings.

The PREMIER: No, they were old, ramshackle buildings in Cliff Street, altogether unfit for office accommodation. The point open to the hon. member, and which the hon. member had taken advantage of, was that this year's Estimates showed an increase of £775; and

the hon. member had proceeded to threaten further increases in the years to come. Possibly there would be increases; indeed, it was to be hoped the business of the country would warrant further increases, which could be accepted as a criterion of progress and advancement. It was absurd to suppose that with all the work in hand to-day there would be no increase in the cost of the department. The fact that a large amount of work which in the past had been done haphazard by the different departments was now being concentrated, was another point in favour of the change.

Mr. Angwin: It is not being concentrated.

The PREMIER: It was true there was an increase of £775 shown, but let the hon. member also consider the increase in work. For the 12 months ending September 11th of the first year of the amalgamation of the stores 8,281 requisitions for stores had been received, whilst during the last 12 months 10,168 requisitions were received. During the earlier 12 months referred to 17,800 orders had been placed with contractors and others, while during last year the number of orders so placed had amounted to 22,300. The hon. member would realise this meant an enormous increase in the work of the department. Rightly or wrongly the Government had decided to give the recommendations of the Royal Commission a proper trial, and that course had been endorsed by Parliament. So far as he knew there was nothing which would warrant the Committee or the Government altering the decision to build the new stores and put the department under one roof, which would serve to effect further economies.

Mr. ANGWIN: After the statement made by the Premier it was clear that the matter had not been fully considered by the Government, otherwise the Premier could not have stated that the buildings at Fremantle were in a ramshackle condition. As a matter of fact, these stores were in thorough good order. The enormous saving claimed by the Minister in connection with the removal

of the Stores Department did not exist, because each of the several departments still had its own stores branch, even though, perhaps, such branches were now known by other names. The Royal Commission had reported that the several departments did not fully utilise the Stores Department.

The Premier: All the goods are purchased through the Stores Department.

Mr. ANGLIN: No, the Royal Commission had declared that that was not so, and surely that ought to convince the Premier. The Premier sheltered himself behind the Royal Commission, some of the members of which had since admitted that they had been in error in arriving at the recommendations made. It was a pity that before committing himself to the large expenditure entailed in the proposed new building, the Premier had not taken into consideration the fact that there were stores at Fremantle which would serve the purpose and obviate that expenditure.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Indenting Office*, £2,372:

Mr. HOLMAN: What was the necessity for an indenting office, seeing that the Premier had stated that the bulk of the stores were purchased locally. What work was the office doing?

The PREMIER: Only small stores were purchased locally, but for larger supplies tenders were called locally and in London, and whether the purchase of imported material were made through the London office or the local merchants, there was still necessity for inspection and supervision in London. The manufacture of rails and fastenings, of machinery for lighthouses, raw material for the workshops, etc., had all to be carefully inspected. In the olden days as much as £10,000 and £12,000 had been paid in commission on work which was now being done by the indenting office for £2,000 odd.

Mr. Anglin: What is the item for income tax?

The PREMIER: The Government paid the English income tax of the officers engaged in the indenting office, who otherwise would have to pay both West-

ern Australian income tax and English income tax.

Vote passed.

Vote—*Literary and Scientific Grants, etc.*, £13,805:

Mr. UNDERWOOD: What was the necessity for a grant for literature. Any grants for the teaching of literature were absolute failures, because literary ability and literary taste were things born in the individual rather than taught. It had not been the university and university extension lectures that had produced Shakespeare and Burns. As Carlyle had said, the best university was the possession of books, and seeing that to-day books were procurable at a price that was within the means of even the poorest man, all expenditure for the teaching of literature in universities was totally wasted. The successful literary man was not a mere echo of some other genius; he had to possess originality, and literary accomplishment could not be taught under any set rules. Did anyone imagine that literary teachers could have taught Mark Twain to write his books; could members imagine ponderous, pedantic university dons teaching Mark Twain how to write humour? There was something very wrong in the system of university examinations, in connection with which some of the papers set for the students dealt with absurd questions, that had nothing to do with the advancement of literature or of this life, or of anything that could be of any use to anybody except to keep university pedants in a comfortable billet.

*Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.30 p.m.*

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If books were not within the reach of all people we should endeavour to cheapen them, or extend the system of libraries and reading rooms. Generally speaking, it was a waste of effort to try to teach anyone to be a great writer, or even a speaker. The modern system of university examinations was merely a test of memories, and not a test of intelligence. There was no attempt to ascertain whether students could disseminate the knowledge they acquired. Very absurd questions were set on subjects that could be of no practical use to the students in after life. The course followed

in the universities, testing the memory rather than the intelligence, was one reason why so many university men were failures in the world. All the great writers who had spoken on the question condemned the system; even Dickens and Marryat ridiculed those pedants who considered that because they had attended a university it was all that was required of them.

Mr. WALKER: All would agree that the spread of intelligence and the means of intelligence was beneficial to every state, and that knowledge and the storing of knowledge tended towards progress. Every step of progress in history was preceded by intellectual vigour, emanating in nearly every instance from those institutions which were considered to be the seats of learning. It was one of the regrets one felt to-day that the expression of English orally was a terribly neglected study. There was little or no training whatever in that respect. The hon. member had told us that a modern university, quoting Carlyle, was a collection of books, but there were books and books and the hon. member wanted to deal with a little more solid knowledge instead of the flashy pages of Eastern literature, if it could be called literature. Notwithstanding his boast of originality, the hon. member's views were too often tainted, if not saturated, with the percolations from a certain journal issued from Sydney. What was literature in its proper sense? It was a store of thoughts expressed in the highest and noblest forms of the greatest thinkers of the age. It was in literature that this age was enriched, for it meant that we were living to-day in the brief span of the allotted three score years and ten, with, at our service, the accumulated experience of the sages who had lived in all the generations that had preceded us. It was by literature that this age was enriched. It meant that we had at our service the accumulated experience of the sages. It widened our outlook: through it we could worship in the groves of Athens and hear the voice of Socrates teaching the youths to love the truth. Through literature we could be with all the great thinkers of the world,

ancient and modern, old and new. For our intellectual gems we turned to the national poet, to the blind Milton, to the fiery Shelley. Where would our intellectual storehouses have been were it not for literature? Then there were the lesser poets who had sung so sweetly, the Bobbie Burns, the Wordsworths—

Mr. Underwood: What about Henry Lawson.

Mr. WALKER: Henry Lawson was a personal friend of his, and had not been appreciated by his fellow Australians. We were enriched, fortified and made more capable by literature, and literature was best preserved through our schools of learning. These universities had been to the world as lights in the darkness. It was one of the greatest things in the career of Cromwell that in the midst of his panoply of war he had had time to found the university of Durham. If it were necessary to go further one had only to think of what the men from the universities had done in that great struggle which set free Europe from the thralldom of all the old past superstition. Erasmus was a university man. Sufficient had been said to show that universities had the great quality of preserving and fostering knowledge. They classified knowledge and enabled people to become acquainted with the particular branches for which they had special aptitude. That was an inestimable benefit. Crush out the seats of learning and the schools would follow; wipe out the schools, and to what would mankind be reduced? All men who studied at universities breathed their knowledge into the whole world, and the poor peasant was enabled to receive the beneficial effects of the knowledge obtained in the university. He hoped the sneers of his hon. friend would not be repeated, but that his honourable friend would realise that all the liberties he enjoyed, the very power to speak as he had done this afternoon was due to the myriads of lives spent in the accumulation of knowledge.

Mr. Heitmann: Has it been distributed through the universities?

Mr. WALKER: Undoubtedly. Had it not been for the universities, where would learning have been during the dark ages.

during that period when superstition was all-prevailing?

Mr. HEITMANN: They have many superstitions now in the universities.

Mr. WALKER: Because the struggle against superstition was a perpetual one. Given a man rich in brain qualities but without knowledge, that man would be found bristling with superstitions; for if there were no knowledge to occupy the brain, then the brain would find fancies to occupy itself, and it was by those fancies that superstition was fostered. Therefore, to rid the world of superstition it was necessary to increase the stores of knowledge, to add to the distribution of that knowledge. For every fact the world knew would knock out some untruth; every great thought would knock out some foolish error. "I am the logos, I am the word, I am discourse, I am speech, I am literature, I am knowledge, I am truth"—that it was which had ennobled that section of humanity called Christians, and differentiated them from the barbarians and the savages.

Mr. HARDWICK: The member for Pilbara had delivered a long dissertation on literature, but he could not be regarded as the morning star of educational reform. It had been said that to be conscious one was ignorant was a great step to knowledge, and the hon. member had made an admission of his ignorance. He had mentioned many poets, both ancient and modern, and it was surprising that he had not also gone into figures and fractions, because if there was one thing with which he should be able to deal fluently it was fractions, particularly vulgar fractions. If comparisons were not odious, he might liken the hon. member to the younger Cleon, the demagogic shoemaker, of whom it had been said "his power was in his tongue, and by dint of a loud brawling voice and a pandering to the impulses of the populace he became a power in the council of the Athenians." The member for Kanowna had made a very eloquent and learned speech, but his conclusion had been disappointing, because one had fully expected him to say, "And that is how Bill Adams won the battle of Waterloo." He

had traced education along the narrow and uncertain lines of history, and through the gloomy shades of tradition, almost to the age of pre-historic man, when, he would have members believe, our ancestors enjoyed greater freedom of the forests, and when, although it was not officially recorded it was generally understood, they took an afternoon's nap of from 1½ to two hours in hanging by their tails from cocoanut trees. It was futile for the hon. member to be constantly digging into the catacombs of antiquity in order to demonstrate the truisms of to-day. Members were the people's choice, and it was for them, the Parliament of to-day, to solve the problems of the State. The solution was not to be found in books of antiquity relating to times when the conditions of the people were entirely different from what they were to-day. On another occasion the hon. member had waxed eloquent about the dark blue lemonade and the red flowing wine, and had described the young god Bacchus, the god of wine, fleeing away into the mountains of Epsidam, where the lions roared and the "whang-doodle" moaned. Those long speeches which had no particular bearing on the question did not assist members one iota in coming to a conclusion as to how to carry on the affairs of the State.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The university teacher of to-day was, as had been described by Carlyle in *Sartor Resartus*, burnt out to a dead grammatical cinder. There was no live coal or spirit in those teachers, because if they were geniuses they would not continue teaching. In regard to freedom, we did not owe so much to the great writers and orators as to men like Wat Tyler, the Chartists, and the father of Sir Francis Drake, men who were not scholars, but gave their lives for freedom.

Item, Adelaide University, local examinations, £100.

Mr. HOLMAN: How was this money expended? The heavy fees charged the children should pay for the cost of the examinations.

The PREMIER: The fees received were not sufficient to cover the expenses. This was a grant given annually to the

board managing these examinations. The balance sheet of the board showed that the year was started with a credit balance of £252, and finished with a credit balance of £281.

Mr. Angwin: The Education Department ought to be able to control these examinations.

The PREMIER: It was hardly possible. When we had our own university this grant would disappear.

Item, Public Library of Western Australia, £3,500.

Mr. ANGWIN: There was an increase of £500. To test the feeling of the Committee in regard to the reduction in the hospitals vote he intended to move that this item be reduced by £500. When we were decreasing grants for the sick and needy it was not the time to increase items such as this. There was altogether an increase of about £1,400 on similar items, whereas the hospital vote had been reduced by about £3,650. It was disgraceful to increase the item for the public library when there was such a large reduction in the hospitals vote, and as a protest he moved an amendment—

*That the item be reduced by £500.*

The PREMIER: The hon. member would not improve the position of the hospitals by reducing the grant to the library. The grant for the library was cut down year by year owing to the stringency of the finances, and the institution was starved for new books; and now we had a chance of giving the committee £500 to expend on books so badly needed in the institution, it would be very unwise to accept the amendment. The hon. member could not give one instance where a poor individual had to go without hospital attendance. The accommodation provided by hospitals was all that was necessary. The vote for hospitals was merely reduced because there was extravagance and undue expenditure.

Mr. Collier: A doctor at Kalgoorlie sent a man to gaol for not paying for an operation performed in the Kalgoorlie hospital.

The PREMIER: The operation could have been performed in the Perth hospital without charge. One would like to

know the facts of the case so that inquiry could be made.

Mr. Collier: I will give you the facts.

The PREMIER would be pleased to have them. Because economies were effected in the hospitals which had over-run the constable it would be wrong to starve other institutions.

Mr. Walker: Have you money to supply outback institutions; you have been cutting them down?

The PREMIER: The grant was not altered, there was no cutting down, but there was a fixed scale which had been in existence for some time.

Mr. A. A. Wilson: The scale has been reduced.

The PREMIER: The grant was the same, and it would be distributed on a scale equitable to all. There was also the travelling library. It would not do to send out the same books year after year to the outback institutions. New books were required to send out. It would not be possible to help hospitals by crippling the library.

Mr. ANGWIN: It was to be regretted that hon. members by a majority could not assist the hospitals, because the Government had been defeated on the question once previously, and they took no notice of it. We could not get away from the fact that while the Government did not have the money with which to assist the hospitals they were able to find money to assist the library. It was not true that there had been extravagance in connection with the management of the hospitals.

The CHAIRMAN: It would be better if the hon. member discussed the question of the hospitals when the medical vote was being considered.

Mr. ANGWIN: The Government had acted in a manner which would be detrimental to the interests of the State. It would be far better to starve the public library than to neglect those who required medical attention. In any case the library would not be starved if it did not get the increase.

Mr. A. A. WILSON: The amount as it appeared on the Estimates would receive his support, because it was essen-

tial that the library should have an augmented supply of books. The library distributed books among the country towns, but some of these books were out of date, and the increase to £500 would assist towards the purchase of new books, and no doubt the country libraries would benefit.

Mr. Angwin: You will not get any new books.

Mr. A. A. WILSON: Most certainly we will.

Mr. Bolton: You will be disappointed.

Mr. A. A. WILSON: If I am disappointed I will make a noise about it. Some of the books, which had been sent to Collie and the timber mills were disgraceful, and it was about time some up-to-date books were distributed among the country libraries.

The Premier: That is what the £500 is for.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item, Travelling Library, £250.

Mr. HOLMAN: After hearing the complaint made by the member for Collie, we should endeavour to do something better. Personally he was under the impression that the travelling library was very good and of great assistance, but the question remained whether it was advisable to vote another £250 for this item in order to add to or improve the books which were sent out. Would the Treasurer inform the House whether any portion of the £500 increased grant for the public library would go towards this travelling library?

The PREMIER: Speaking from personal knowledge, he could not say how they managed these affairs at the library; he did know, however, that the library was badly off for books. During last year 177 cases, containing over 7,000 volumes, had been distributed among the country libraries, and in connection with that distribution the expenses were heavy.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: There should be no objection offered to this vote, because the value of libraries was recognised. The Government, however, had not been too generous in giving assistance in the

direction of establishing libraries in country centres. The Ministers should be reminded that there were important centres with populations of 300 and 400 people, and these places had only received £25 towards the establishment of libraries. Why was it that the usual subsidy paid on the membership basis had lately been withheld? He had made application on two occasions during the last two months for the subsidy on behalf of one district, and so far it had not been paid.

The Premier: For this financial year?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Yes.

The Premier: The vote has not yet been allocated; you only get it in the last half of the year.

Mr. A. A. Wilson: If the balance sheet is not presented in time by an institute, that institute does not get its grant.

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

Mr. HOLMAN: This amount was not nearly sufficient, especially when we considered that Perth got nearly double the amount received by all the societies outside. It would be found that nearly the whole vote was taken up by a few centres, such as Kalgoorlie with £240 and Boulder with £110, while the remaining institutions had only about £1,000 distributed among them all. If we could increase the grant to the Perth Public Library by £500, surely we could have shown a little generosity to the institutions in the back country. The only amount granted to Peak Hill in twelve months was £12. To get a few books to Peak Hill practically the whole of that £12 would go in cartage. The more remote the district the greater consideration should be given it. In these outback places the library constituted the only entertainment and recreation available to the people. That the grants to these small institutions in remote districts should be increased was a reasonable request and one that ought to receive the support of the Committee.

Mr. MURPHY: This was an important subject on which he had felt strongly

for many years past. He agreed with the member for Murchison that the major portion of the money under the item should be spent among the outback libraries. The Fremantle Literary Institute, of which he had been president, participated largely in the annual grant. He was opposed to the principle of this, and, as a matter of fact, he had lost his seat as president because he formed a deputation which asked the Government to withhold the whole amount from the Fremantle Literary Institute with a view that it might go to the assistance of smaller libraries in outback districts. The more populous centres were much better situated in regard to reading. For instance, in Perth we had the Public Library and the Perth Literary Institute, the latter participating in the grant to the amount of £60, whereas Peak Hill received only £12 and Marble Bar £7 10s. With a view of affording greater assistance to these smaller institutes in remote centres many if not all the institutes in the metropolitan area could well afford to do without any grant at all. It was to be hoped the Treasurer would favourably consider the claims of small struggling back-block institutes as against those in the prosperous centres. The Fremantle Literary Institute possessed property valued at £15,000, and had, last year, received a grant of £80. Clearly so great an anomaly in the distribution of the fund was unfair to the pioneers who were opening up the back country.

Mr. ANGWIN: There was a great deal of truth in what the member for Fremantle had said; but it was to be remembered that it was Perth, rather than Fremantle, which received all the plums in respect to libraries. For his part he would like to see the Treasurer refuse any institute unless there was connected with it a free public library.

Mr. Heitmann: That is provided for in the regulations.

Mr. ANGWIN: If so the regulations were not carried out. For instance, there was no free reading room in connection with the Fremantle Literary Institute, which, according to the member for Fremantle, had received £80 last year.

Mr. Murphy: That is quite correct.

Mr. ANGWIN: If any item in the vote was to be increased by £500 this was the item most deserving.

The PREMIER: There could be no doubt that we required to foster as much as possible the outback institutions; but there was a great difficulty in connection with the distribution of the grant. It had been found necessary to set up a scale on which to distribute the grant, more or less equitably, in order that the sparsely populated centres should get some assistance. The scale of financial membership had been set up, with a minimum of £5. This had been tried for some years, but it had to be confessed that it was not altogether satisfactory, inasmuch as a line of demarcation came into operation. For instance, according to the scale, an institute with 100 members received £28, while if that institute succeeded in raising its membership to 101 its grant immediately went up to £60. That had caused a lot of trouble for it had resulted in forcing the local authorities to get extra financial members at the end of the year in order that they might send in a certificate and claim the higher subsidy. Obviously it would be profitable for an institute to pay the subscriptions for ten or a dozen members in order to secure the higher subsidy. He had in consideration a new scheme under which it was proposed to do away with this scale and grant the subsidies on the amounts collected. To place the system on an equitable basis it was proposed that the endowment should not exceed 15s. for each pound subscribed, with a minimum of £10 and a maximum of £100. Looking at the matter casually he was of opinion that the difficulty might be overcome by fixing a minimum subscription for each member.

Mr. O'Loughlin: You only gave £25 for 100 subscribers in my district in connection with the establishment of a library.

The PREMIER: It was very seldom that more than £25 was given to any institution to start with. That was a special grant. The whole matter was under consideration and he hoped to place it on a better footing than in the past, when the system had been decidedly haphazard.

Mr. Heitmann: Where there are municipalities hand the subsidies over to them.



The PREMIER: That could certainly be done.

Item, Zoological Gardens, £3,600:

Mr. HOLMAN: The item was increased, but if the vote were still larger and the children were allowed free admission to the gardens he would not object. Increased facilities were being given to school children, and there was no doubt the director of the gardens did a lot to educate the children. Would the Premier consult the authorities as to whether the charges could be reduced, even to the extent of allowing the children to visit the gardens at all times free of charge?

The Premier: Under what age: school age?

Mr. HOLMAN: The privilege ought to be extended to children up to, say, 15 or 16 years of age.

The PREMIER: It was highly desirable to make the gardens free to children, if not altogether, at any rate on special occasions. The director had done excellent work in educating the children, of whom 2,500 had attended his lectures upon nature study during the year. He would be pleased to consult with him as to what arrangements could be made in the way suggested. If the suggestion were adopted it might require an increased vote to make good to the gardens the loss of revenue.

Mr. ANGIN: Had the mortgage held by the National Bank over the gardens been lifted? It had been understood last year that the Savings Bank would take over that encumbrance.

The PREMIER: Before leaving the Treasury 18 months ago he had left instructions to transfer the mortgage from the National Bank to the Government Savings Bank, but there had been some difficulty about the current account. He did not know what had been done since but he would look into the matter and see if finality could be reached.

Item, Acclimatisation of fish, birds, and animals, £200.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: In some waters which had been stocked with fish at considerable expense, notably the Collier river, certain individuals were in the habit of netting. That was a selfish and nefarious practice and an injustice to the people

of the State, and steps should be taken to prevent it.

The PREMIER: Every effort ought to be made to bring those offenders to book. The object of stocking the rivers with fish was to enable people who followed the piscatorial pastime to enjoy themselves with rod and line, but not to allow any persons to sweep the fish out of the river with nets. Honorary inspectors were appointed in the various districts, but it was very difficult to have the waters watched as they were watched in the old country. The Government had to depend a great deal on the good judgment of the individuals.

Mr. Underwood: How about the penalties for those who are convicted?

The PREMIER: Penalties were provided in the Act, and if they were not heavy enough it was to be hoped that Parliament would amend the Act and make them more severe. He understood that his colleague intended to prohibit the sale of those kinds of fish which had been introduced into the rivers, and that might be effective in checking netting, to some extent.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: It might be advisable to make netting a more serious offence. Very few notices were posted on the rivers, and something more might be done in educating people to an understanding of the seriousness of the offence. We should educate the general public to consider it an offence which should be put down. We might offer rewards, and if the penalties were not severe enough make them heavier.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Lithographic*, £5,955—agreed to.

Vote—*London Agency*, £4,260:

Mr. SCADDAN: We heard from the Premier that the Government had decided to offer the position of Agent-General to Sir Newton Moore. When did the Premier propose to put that offer in definite form; if it had been put in definite form had Sir Newton Moore replied; and if Sir Newton Moore had accepted the position when would he take steps to take up his duties? The Premier might also explain why it was found necessary to

put Mr. Cyril Jackson in the office of Acting Agent General.

The Premier: I have explained that.

Mr. SCADDAN: No, the Premier had only explained that Mr. Hare, who was Acting Agent General, was taken ill and had to be relieved. Was Mr. Jackson, who had been out of touch with Western Australia for some years, the only person available? Members were anxious to know when Sir Newton Moore, if he would accept the post, would take over the control of the office, because things were unsatisfactory as they had been carried on for the last 12 months. Sir Newton Moore had promised to give consideration to the office on his visit to London. What was the outcome of that visit? Was it proposed to relieve Mr. Hare permanently, or to bring him to Western Australia to get into touch with the progress made here? Also was it proposed to bring out some of the officers for the same purpose? It would seem that a policy of drift had been adopted in regard to the London Agency. Was the London Agency considered simply a nice place where someone might be put away for a time to make himself prominent in society? That was a wrong policy to adopt. If we were to have an agency it should be conducted in a business-like manner. The members of the Opposition would all agree that the sooner Sir Newton Moore took over the position, if he intended to do so, the better it would be for the agency and for the State; also that the Government could not have made a better selection.

Mr. Butcher: That is no good unless the Government give him power to reorganise the office.

Mr. SCADDAN: What was proposed to be done in the way of reorganisation? There was nothing on the Estimates to show any reorganisation had taken place. Was the matter to be allowed to remain in abeyance until Sir Newton Moore reached London, and was Sir Newton Moore then to be given full control to deal with the office as he saw fit? Members of the Opposition agreed that in Sir Newton Moore we had not only an able politician, but a man among men, and a man with certain business abilities which would re-

dound, not only to his own credit but to the credit of the State. We could be sure there would be no complaints from the London end with Sir Newton Moore in charge. It would only rest with the Government here at this end to see that proper arrangements were made, and that Sir Newton Moore was given the earliest opportunity of taking over the London office; but it would appear that the Government were not too anxious that Sir Newton Moore should leave for some time.

Mr. Walker: And the question is, why?

Mr. SCADDAN: Yes. Why was it not desired that Sir Newton Moore should proceed to London at once? Mr. Hare, the Acting Secretary, and later the Acting Agent General, had to be relieved, and a person with no knowledge of the State was appointed. It was a matter for complaint against the Government that they had not negotiated with Sir Newton Moore immediately on his return to the State, in order to stop the drift in the London office.

Mr. Walker: Why select Mr. Cyril Jackson?

Mr. SCADDAN: Was it not a fact that Mr. Jackson was out of touch with Western Australian progress?

Mr. Angwin: He was never in sympathy with Western Australia.

Mr. Walker: He was most unpopular when here.

Mr. SCADDAN: The whole thing should be taken in hand at once. It was possible the Government had not asked Sir Newton Moore to take on the duties earlier for political party purposes.

The Premier: It is possible in the hon. member's imagination.

Mr. SCADDAN: Immediately the Redistribution of Seats Bill passed by a statutory majority and the Government secured, according to their ideas, a renewal of their tenure of office, they would relieve Sir Newton Moore of his duties here and send him to London. This meant that for political party purposes the Government were prepared to allow the London office to drift. Ministers were not concerned for Western Australia, but for holding office.

Mr. Bolton: Sir Newton Moore would not lend himself as a tool to them, would he?

Mr. SCADDAN: One could not say that. It was doubtful whether the offer had yet been submitted to Sir Newton Moore. That was what the Premier could tell us. Had Sir Newton Moore accepted the office? If so, when did he propose to take up his duties? After the Government negotiated the Redistribution of Seats Bill through the Chamber. One could not believe that Sir Newton Moore would allow any Government to use him for party purposes in the direction indicated. If that was the idea of the Government, Sir Newton Moore could not be a party to it, the offer could not yet have been made to him. The Premier should say what the qualifications of Mr. Jackson were to act as Acting Agent General, and whether it was not a fact that when Mr. Jackson was here he was most unpopular and completely out of touch with Western Australian life.

The PREMIER: The hon. member seemed to imagine all sorts of misdeeds on the part of the Government, and that the Government had a great political intrigue at work, and were using Sir Newton Moore and the Agent General's Office as a means to an end. As a matter of fact, he had not given the London office any thought during the last six weeks; other matters occupied him too much; but the hon. member could be informed that as soon as Sir Newton Moore's health was good enough the position would be offered to him. The hon. member blamed the Government for not appointing Sir Newton Moore immediately on that gentleman's return from London.

Mr. Scaddan: No; from the Eastern States.

The PREMIER: Sir Newton Moore was not back from the Eastern States more than a fortnight, and his health had not been too good during that fortnight.

Mr. Scaddan: Have you offered him the position?

The PREMIER: I have.

Mr. Troy: Officially?

The PREMIER: Of course it was offered officially. Sir Newton Moore was now consulting his medical advisers to see

whether he could take the position or not. But even if Sir Newton Moore could not immediately leave the State, the State would not suffer very much. So long as Sir Newton Moore was in London for the next financial negotiations there was no need to worry about the agency, because it was being carried on in the meantime under very good management. Mr. Cyril Jackson was a very able man.

Mr. Scaddan: How long has he been appointed? About four or five weeks?

The PREMIER: Yes.

Mr. Scaddan: Yet you have not given any attention to the office for six weeks.

The PREMIER had not said so, but had said no thought was given to the office as to the question of reorganisation, or the appointment of Agent General, because the hon. member had kept him too busy in other matters. Mr. Hare cabled out, saying his health had broken down, and that he was suffering from insomnia, nervous prostration, and loss of memory, rather similar ailments to those from which, unfortunately, Sir Newton Moore also suffered; and Mr. Hare asked to be relieved immediately, and it was arranged to give him three months' sick leave and one and a-half months' accumulated leave. His medical advisers recommended a long sea voyage, and Mr. Hare was now on his way to Western Australia and would be here before Christmas, when we would be able to hear from him exactly what his intentions were. It was understood he wished to consult the Government in regard to his possible retirement.

Mr. Angwin: That is a good job.

The PREMIER: Mr. Hare naturally wanted to see what provision would be made by way of pension if he retired, or, perhaps, he might be glad of an exchange. Sir Newton Moore was good enough to take the matter of reorganisation of the office in hand to a certain extent, though not to any great extent, when he was in England, and had prepared a report in connection with his visit to England. This report was now being printed and would be laid on the Table of the House. Its contents he (the Premier) had not seen; but it would show all the suggestions Sir Newton Moore had made. The reorganisation of the London

Agency was not a matter that would show on the Estimates. It was more a matter of exchange or rearrangement of duties than actual expenditure. Mr. Ranford had now served the term for which he was sent home and had been recalled.

Mr. Collier Hear, hear!

Mr. Walker: Are you not advertising for another?

The PREMIER: Yes. Mr. Ranford was recalled from the 1st January, and would come back to the State, or he might make application to be continued in the position. That was the position as far as this office was concerned. It was proposed to make another appointment, and advertisements were now being called.

Mr. Walker: What is the salary?

The PREMIER: The salary would be about £400. When that position was filled, and after Mr. Hare had returned, it would be possible to come to a decision with regard to what was to be done about him. Sir Newton Moore would then be consulted as to whether he would go to London. At any rate details of organisation must naturally be left to whoever took charge of the office. It would not be possible to suggest from this end what course should be taken in the matter of the details of the office work.

Mr. Walker: Has there been any consideration of an alternative in the event of Sir Newton Moore declining to accept the position?

The PREMIER: The Cabinet then would have to take the position into consideration.

Mr. Scaddan: You take it from the standpoint that "what is to be will be."

The PREMIER: There were plenty of troubles day by day without creating others. The difficulties would be met as they arrived. If Sir Newton Moore could not take up the position, then the Government would be capable of solving the problem by appointing someone else. From his personal knowledge of Mr. Cyril Jackson, brief though it was, extending over two years, the State had a very able officer indeed in charge of the London Agency at the present time. Mr. Jackson had Mr. Hare's assistance and advice for several weeks before Mr. Hare left for Australia, and, if there had been any diffi-

culties with regard to grasping the details of the office, something would have been known of them by cable. In Mr. Jackson we had one of those men who was recognised as an organiser, and although he made enemies in the State when he filled the position of Inspector General of Schools he also made a host of friends. He (the Premier) would not give two-pence for the man who had no enemies. If he was any good at all a man would be bound to make enemies. The State would have nothing whatever to complain of as the result of the appointment of Mr. Jackson. It was not an easy matter to select a gentleman with the ability and time at his disposal to take charge of an office of this description for three, four, or five months. The State was very fortunate indeed in securing the services of Mr. Jackson. It was to be hoped that Sir Newton Moore would be in England by April next, so that he might take charge of the conversion loan the Government would put on the market at that time.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Was it the intention of the Government to do anything towards abolishing the London Agency? If the Agents General were instructed to confer with the object of concentrating the work in one office in London, it would be to the advantage of Australia.

The Premier: That is unification.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The High Commissioner should be in London to speak for each of the Australian States, as well as the Commonwealth.

The Premier: I think we should all be in touch.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: In the conflicts between the different Agents General they were apt to forget that their duty should be to speak for their country, and not the individual States. In a recent cable there was some reference to the representation of Australia at the Festival of Empire. He did not know what the festival was, but the representatives of the different States, according to this cable message, were interviewed by the Earl of Plymouth on the subject of representation at the festival. The cable read—

In consequence of the Commonwealth's refusal to participate in the

Festival of Empire, the Earl of Plymouth recently approached the Australian Agents-General with a view of the States utilising the offer of a large free space at a total cost of £20,000, to cover lighting expenses. The Earl stated that not desiring that Australia alone of the dominions should be unrepresented at the Festival, he would become personally responsible for £7,000, the cost of the erection of a copy of the Commonwealth Parliament House. Several Agents-General met the Earl of Plymouth yesterday, and agreed that it would be a pity if Australia failed to take advantage of his generous offer, particularly as the Festival would be held in connection with the Coronation. Had the Government instructed the Agent General to incur that expenditure of several thousand pounds so that the State might take part in this Festival of Empire? And this, too, after the Commonwealth had refused to expend any money on representation.

The Premier: What is the date of it?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The 17th November.

The Premier: I have no information about it.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Premier should make some inquiry about the matter. It was certainly time that we made some protest, because if it was not considered good enough for the Commonwealth to make a display, if a display was necessary, the Agents General should not be instructed or be permitted to do what the cable suggested.

The Premier: The States are sovereign States.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: That was understood. At the same time it was not good policy. He honestly believed that if Australia had one representative in London, and we gave him all the assistance we could, and authority to speak for every portion of the Commonwealth, we would make better progress. Personally he thought the wrong man had been selected, and if the man who appointed him had appointed himself greater satisfaction would have been given. The States should certainly confer with the Federal

Government in the hope of bringing about a concentration of the work in London, and so abolish the office of Agent General.

Mr. Walker: What would you do in the event of conflict of interests?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Conflicts should not exist, and the time was rapidly coming when we would hear no more of conflicts. In the meantime the Premier might inform the House whether he knew anything about this Festival of Empire.

The Premier: I have no knowledge of it. There may be some intimation of it in the office; if there is it has not reached me.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Had the Agent General been empowered to agree to this expenditure?

The Premier: Not without reference to us out here.

Mr. ANGWIN: It was to be hoped the Government would not take into consideration the advisability for some considerable time, at any rate, of closing up the London Agency. Surely the hon. gentleman did not hold the States responsible for all the Agents General did. For instance, Tasmania was not to be held responsible for the action of its Agent General in his association with the Premier of Western Australia in floating wild cats on the London market.

The PREMIER: The strongest exception would be taken to the hon. member's remarks. The hon. member knew well that he (the Premier) had not tried to float wild cats on the London market. Dr. McColl had been good enough to protect him (the Premier) against accusations of that sort in London.

Mr. ANGWIN: The Minister had misinterpreted his remarks. What he meant was that Dr. McColl had not been given instructions from the Tasmanian Government to take a hand in that matter. As a matter of fact the Premier, willingly or unwittingly, had helped to float wild cats in London by his action in regard to the Bullfinch, and according to the newspaper reports he had been rebuked in London for his remarks. It was necessary that each of the States should be represented in London, but

if the London office was to be left in the same condition as it had been in for the last 12 months, then we would have to consider whether or not it should be closed altogether. The gentleman representing the Commonwealth in London would deal with Australia generally for years to come, and so it would be necessary to have the States represented also. He could not agree with the Premier that the gentleman now acting as Agent General would work to the advantage of Western Australia. That gentleman had the necessary ability but it was useless if not exercised in the interests of the State. He did not believe that Mr. Cyril Jackson had any thought for Western Australia.

Mr. MURPHY: The member for Forrest had inferred that because the Commonwealth Government refused to have anything to do with the festival referred to, none of the States should have anything to do with it. That was an extraordinary doctrine. Possibly within the next few years an exhibition might be held at some one of the large centres of Europe, and the Commonwealth might not be prepared to take part in it. Surely that would not be held to be sufficient to preclude Western Australia taking part in it.

Mr. O'Loughlin: If this were a good scheme the Commonwealth would be likely to take it up.

Mr. MURPHY: That was so, but what he was arguing was that in such matters the States should take their own action, independent of any action taken by the Commonwealth. The States would be only acting within their rights in doing what they considered best for themselves.

Mr. BOLTON: Did the Government intend to be represented at the Coronation by the leader of the House, and, say, the leader of the Opposition? He believed it was the duty of the Government to tell hon. members whether they intended to be so represented. We had already been advertised by Sir Newton Moore's visit to London, and if the Premier and the leader of the Opposition attended at the Coronation Western Australia would not be forgotten. Certainly

the State should be officially represented on such an occasion.

Mr. COLLIER: It was disgraceful that the office of Agent General should have been allowed to go begging as it had done. Eighteen months ago it had been rumoured that there were dissensions in the Cabinet over the appointment of a successor to Sir Hector Rason, yet to-day the Government were unable to tell the House anything about the position. So far as he was aware, Sir Newton Moore had not yet definitely stated whether he would accept the position. Surely members should know at this stage whether Sir Newton Moore had any idea, now that his health would permit him, of accepting the position early in the new year. It was time the matter was definitely settled instead of being allowed to drift on for another few months.

Mr. Butcher: He does not know whether he can go until he consults his medical adviser.

Mr. COLLIER: Only a few days ago a statement had appeared in the Press that Sir Newton Moore was as well as ever he had been. To his belief Sir Newton Moore was well enough to accept the position and would take his departure to-morrow if the Government would appoint him, but the Government had never offered him the position. It was to be hoped that they would make the appointment straight away, and not defer it because of the position of parties in the Chamber. Members had never been placed in possession of any information with regard to the internal working of the Agency. Surely if it was necessary that members should have the reports of the various departments each year, it was more necessary that they should have a report of the work of the London agency, seeing that it was so far removed from the State. Each year the officials in London circulated a great deal of literature regarding this State, but members had no idea of what it contained, except from the scrappy information which appeared in the Press from time to time. It would be only fair to post to every member a copy of the pamphlets published in London, because it

had been stated from time to time that the information circulated was absolutely incorrect. He had with him a copy of a pamphlet issued in London which contained an absolute untruth, and somebody should be brought to book for that. One statement was that reserves were specially set apart for English colonists who desired to form groups for the purpose of assisting each other on their farms, and still another statement was that first class land was obtainable at 10s. per acre. The Minister for Lands knew that to be absolutely untrue.

The Minister for Lands: I did not supply it.

Mr. COLLIER: But the Minister knew it was untrue.

The Minister for Lands: As soon as we found out we cabled home to withdraw the pamphlets.

Mr. COLLIER: That showed how the office was run when wrong information could be circulated broadcast and only withdrawn after some months, when perhaps it had done a considerable amount of harm in bringing people to the State under false pretences. The Agent General's office had been merely a haven of rest for every incompetent.

Mr. Heilmann: The derelict's retreat.

Mr. COLLIER: When Sir Newton Moore had returned members had been told that he was deserving of great credit for his reform of the agency. What reform had taken place? The reform which was principally required was a regular exchange of officers possessed of up-to-date knowledge, so that we should not have again the spectacle which had been presented recently of Mr. Ranford making himself ridiculous by scouting round the country as a matrimonial agent. He agreed with the remarks of the member for Forrest; if the High Commissioner were asked to assist the States he could very often do more good than the Agents General, because he was likely to catch the public eye more, and his words would carry greater weight than those of persons like Cyril Jackson and Reginald Hare. The address delivered by Sir George Reid on 11th November at Birmingham University would do more good for the Commonwealth, and incidentally West-

ern Australia, than all the speeches made by Mr. Hare in 12 months. On that occasion the High Commissioner had said—

Every nation aimed at maintaining its integrity and national character, and therefore, without a thought of offensiveness and with a feeling of genuine respect for the Japanese and the Chinese, he maintained that the Australians were justified in trying to build up a country such as the home land. The world-wide cry was for cheaper meat, and when the tariff barriers were removed Australia would have an opportunity of supplying meat to millions of people. The Commonwealth's progressive land tax would bring millions of fertile acres, now locked up, into cultivation. He eulogised Australia's manufacturing, industrial, social, and political status, and declared that Australia had done more for the settlement of industrial disputes by arbitration than any other country.

That speech would do more to bring immigrants to Australia than all the learned lectures of Ranford. The circulation throughout England of that statement by the High Commissioner that the legislation of Australia would bring millions of acres of fertile land, which was now locked up, into cultivation, would result in a rush of immigrants to these shores. He trusted that if the Government decided to maintain the office as it was at present, they would before many months send home Sir Newton Moore, a man who would be well able to do justice to the position, or if he could not go, the Government would appoint somebody else competent to take the office.

Mr. FOULKES: There had been nothing so calculated to lower the status of the London Office as the action of the Government in regard to it during the last 18 months. Their action had been most unsatisfactory. Every appointment made to the post of Agent General in the past had been confined entirely to the one class of men, namely Cabinet Ministers. Every Ministry seemed to have had the idea that Cabinet Ministers were the only men capable of filling the office. Why there had been a vacancy in the post for the last 18

months nobody had been able to explain. One stop-gap after another had been appointed. The first man to whom the position had been offered was Mr. Septimus Burt, a man who had given great service to the State and had been Attorney General at one time. Ministers could easily have found out that Mr. Burt had been recommended by his medical adviser to take a change of air, and to do no work whatever; but he had only been in London a month or two when the Government asked him to take the post of Acting Agent General. He had refused, and another stop-gap had been found in the person of the secretary, Mr. Hare, and now when his health had broken down, Mr. Cyril Jackson had been put into the position temporarily. There was no reason why a permanent appointment should not have been made 18 months ago. All the talent was not in the Ministry. Many people outside the ranks of members of Parliament were capable of filling the post. New South Wales had looked outside the ranks of Cabinet Ministers, and a civil servant was appointed as Agent General for that State with eminent success. It was a puzzle to know the duties of an Agent General from these Estimates. There seemed to be no provision with regard to sending out immigrants to Western Australia.

Mr. Gill: Provision is on the Loan Estimates.

Mr. FOULKES: Even in times of financial stringency some provision was made out of revenue in past years, yet there was nothing on these Estimates to show what had been done. Complaints were made in regard to the work of the officers at Home, but it was not fair to blame them for carrying out the policy the House had agreed to some years ago with regard to securing domestics and farmers for the State. These officers were informed that immigrants would get contiguous holdings granted to them. A Mr. Clarke was so informed in England by Sir Newton Moore, and even on his arrival in the State Mr. Clarke was again promised by Sir Newton Moore that the utmost would be done to give him and his party contiguous holdings. Unfortunately, Sir Newton Moore resigned and Mr.

Clarke was left to the tender mercies of the present Minister for Lands, who repudiated all the promises made by Sir Newton Moore. These immigrants were informed they must go before a land board, and they were kept waiting about Perth for three months before being accommodated with land. According to the Minister, every immigrant must go before a land board. Nothing was more calculated to check immigration than a policy of that kind. People would not take the risk of coming out from Great Britain to wait for two or three months in Perth and dance attendance on land boards.

Mr. Hudson: That is what happens to those who come from the goldfields.

Mr. FOULKES: The Minister always said no distinction would be drawn between immigrants and residents of the State, and that might appear very plausible at the first glance; but residents of the State were also kept waiting for many months.

Mr. O'Loughlin: Your protest has no effect.

Mr. FOULKES: The officers of the London Agency should be selected from the ranks of the civil servants in the State, and appointments should be for a period of two or three years only. Then the officers of the London Agency would be more likely to be in touch with affairs in this country.

Mr. BOLTON: Did the Government propose to be represented at the Coronation by a member of the present Government?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No invitation had been received by this State, and the matter had not even been considered by Cabinet.

Mr. GILL: The action of the Government during the last 12 months was sufficient reason for the abolition of the office of Agent General. It had been a stop-gap business since Sir Cornthwaite Rason resigned. If the position was of no more importance than one to be offered to any carpet-bagger that came along we might as well abolish it. It was pleasing to hear the Premier say that Mr. Hare was coming to Western Australia. It was to be hoped Mr. Hare would remain here, because it would be to the advantage of



the State and to the advantage of the London Agency if someone from the State replaced Mr. Hare. It was also pleasing to hear that Mr. Ranford, who was not the most suitable man for his post, was coming back. It was no news. The *Sunday Times* had already announced it. It was said by that newspaper that Mr. Gilbert, from the Melbourne Agency, was to replace Mr. Ranford, that Mr. Farmer, one of the under secretaries, was to replace Mr. Gilbert in Melbourne, and that Mr. Ranford was to take Mr. Farmer's place. One would like that news confirmed by the Premier. Undoubtedly Mr. Hare was out of touch with the State, and if a suitable position could be found for him in Western Australia we should let him occupy it. It was of great advantage to the State to have exchanges of officers. Mr. Ranford's judgment was not all that could be desired; an energetic man in London could do more satisfactory work.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: We did not want a lecturer at all in London, not even the most eloquent man we could send there. The country should be allowed to talk for itself, and as soon as we obtained a change of Government he felt confident that the country would talk for itself, and it would not be necessary to send a Ranford, or a Gilbert, or a Farmer to London. The whole vote as at present managed was a total waste. The position of Agent General was in no way required. The great abilities of Sir Newton Moore were admitted, but to send him to London as Agent General would be to put him out of his place. The office in London should be in the nature of a business office and not an office of an ambassadorial kind.

Item, Agent General, £1,500:

Mr. COLLIER: Would the Premier explain what salary Mr. Jackson was getting?

The PREMIER: Mr. Jackson would be paid at the rate of £1,500 per annum.

Item, Clerks, etcetera, £878.

Mr. FOULKES moved an amendment—

*That the item be reduced by £5.*

His object in moving the amendment was

in order to emphasise the fact that we should establish the principle of selecting the officers of the London staff from the ranks of the civil servants here.

Mr. COLLIER: What is your object?

Mr. FOULKES: The object was to establish the principle that the clerks should be selected from the ranks of public servants in Western Australia.

Mr. COLLIER: It was not easy to see how the amendment would effect the purpose. Even if the amendment were carried it would not be necessary for the Government to recall the present clerks and substitute others from Western Australia.

The PREMIER: The reducing of the item would have no effect at all. He was looking into the matter with a view to seeing if we could send responsible clerks Home in future; but it was scarcely practicable to send Home young men to fill positions at £100 a year. It was just as essential that the officers in the London Agency should have a knowledge of London procedure as it was they should know Western Australia. Again, would we be justified in sacking the men who had served the State well for the last five or 10 years, in order to send youngsters from Western Australia?

Mr. JACOBY: As far as the responsible officers at the London Agency were concerned, the officers coming into contact with the general public, a knowledge of the State would be of the utmost value; but for the ordinary routine clerk it was better that he should know London and London methods. When we had sent men from Western Australia members criticised them.

Mr. O'Loughlin: They were not Western Australia's best.

Mr. JACOBY: In any large business it was only to be expected that some officers would not be up to expectations. Were we to condemn the Government because one or two officers in London had proved lacking in judgment? Such a thing might have occurred in any Government, and it was known that the Government were doing their best to rectify mistakes of the sort.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: We required up-to-date Western Australian knowledge in all our employees in the London office.

The Premier: In the boy who licks the stamps?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: We should arrange for frequent exchanges between the clerks in the London office and clerks here in the State.

Mr. FOULKES: Several times he had gone into the London office and found no one there who knew anything at all about Western Australia.

Amendment put and negatived.

Vote put and passed.

Progress reported.

*House adjourned at 6.16 p.m.*

## Legislative Council,

*Tuesday, 6th December, 1910.*

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### PAPER PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: Report of Sir Newton J. Moore on his visit to Great Britain.

### RETURN—TIMBER LEASES, PARTICULARS.

On motion by Hon. M. L. MOSS: Ordered. That a return be laid on the Table showing: 1, The number of timber leases held under the Land Act, 1898, and the Land Regulations in force prior to the

passing of this Act. 2, The names of the lessees, the areas of the leases and the localities in which they are situate. 3, Whether the terms or conditions of the leases have been complied with. 4, If not, what leases are liable to forfeiture for non-compliance with such conditions.

### BILL—MOUNT LAWLEY RESERVES.

*In Committee.*

Hon. W. Kingsmill in the Chair.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Reserves vested in His Majesty:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: When the Bill was under discussion previously a point had been raised as to whether the transfer had taken place from the owner, Mrs. Slade, to the Crown or whether it was sought to get a transfer through the Bill. He had then stated that he had information from the Crown Law Department that the land had been transferred in the ordinary way, but on looking through the papers he now found that the transfer was here attached and signed by Mrs. Slade on 18th March of this year, so that the land had been transferred by Mrs. Slade to the Crown for the sum of 5s.

Hon. M. L. Moss: I am quite satisfied with that statement.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 3, 4—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

### BILL—PERTH MUNICIPAL GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

*Recommittal.*

On motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY Bill recommitted for the purpose of further considering Clause 9.

Clause 9—Votes of ratepayers, how taken:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment—

*That Subclause (1) be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu:—*  
*"For the taking of such poll, a special roll of ratepayers shall be prepared, re-*