

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 17th September, 1913.

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

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the Premier: Eighth annual report of the Public Service Commissioner (with appendix in lieu of the seventh annual report) for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1913.

QUESTION — INTESTATE ESTATES.

Hon. FRANK WILSON asked the Attorney General: 1, Has his attention been called to an article in the *Sunday Times* with regard to intestate estates? 2, Is it a fact that these estates are administered by the Master and the officials without charge, and consequently the public bears the cost? 3, Is it a fact that one large estate has been so administered for over 20 years, the beneficiaries under the will receiving the full proceeds without charge for services rendered? 4, If so, why? and will he take the necessary steps to alter this state of affairs?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL replied: 1, Yes. 2, No. 3, No, but it is a fact that an estate is administered by the Master of the Supreme Court under an order of the court from which the State receives no benefit for services rendered. This estate is, however, one dealt with by the court in its equitable jurisdiction, and had nothing to do with intestacy. 4, The

matter was referred to the hon. the Chief Justice in 1910, on representations made by the Audit Office under the Colonial Treasurer, the Hon. Frank Wilson, and His Honour, while holding he had no power to vary the order in question, made provision for an alteration of the practice to be followed where similar cases arose. This was approved by the then Attorney General.

QUESTION—RAILWAY SERVICE, PERTH-FREMANTLE.

Mr. CARPENTER asked the Minister for Railways: 1, What steps, if any, are taken to ascertain the cause of irregularities in the suburban train service? 2, In view of the frequency of late trains on the Perth-Fremantle line, is any action being taken to ensure a more regular service?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Every instance of delay in the suburban train service is vigorously taken up, and every possible action is taken to improve matters. 2, Owing to the increase in the suburban traffic, the old suburban engines have necessarily to be overloaded pending completion of the regrading.

Mr. Bolton: If they are to be vigorously taken up you will have to increase the staff, because every train will have to be reported.

QUESTION—SHIPPING FACILITIES AT ONSLOW.

Mr. GARDINER asked the Minister for Works: 1, Is he aware of the great loss of stock due to the lack of shipping facilities in the Ashburton district? 2, Will he take steps to expedite the construction of a deep-sea jetty at the port of Onslow?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Works) replied: 1, He is aware that shipping stock from Onslow is difficult and costly. 2, The matter has been considered, but, owing to the configuration of the coast, the construction of a deep-sea jetty is very costly and, so far, the

Government have not considered that there is sufficient justification for the expenditure. It may be possible to provide a deep-sea jetty at Beacon Point for a less sum than for one off Onslow, and a survey to decide this question is contemplated.

QUESTION — STATE STEAMSHIP SERVICE AND FREMANTLE HARBOUR TRUST OFFICIALS.

Mr. ALLEN asked the HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. W. C. Angwin): 1. How many officers are employed in the clerical staff, Fremantle Harbour Trust? 2. Their names, occupation, and salary? 3. Under the new agreement, whereby the secretary of the harbour trust is to manage the State steamers, what members of the staff employed under the old administration will continue in the service? 4. What amount has to be paid by the State steamships for the services rendered by Mr. Stevens and the staff of the harbour trust?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: 1. Twenty-eight. 2. Mr. Stevens, secretary, £600; Glyde, accountant and assistant secretary, £440; Hetherington, chief clerk, £325; Stratford, officer-in-charge, Perth, £275; Timbury, clerk, £220; Cox, clerk, £210; Macartney, clerk, £210; Hancock, clerk, £190; Dodson, clerk, £190; Gibson, clerk, £190; Walker, clerk, £175; Evans, clerk, £175; Burlinson, clerk, £165; Truman, clerk, £140; Fry, clerk, £140; Ogilvie, clerk, £120; Miller, clerk, £120; Currie, clerk, £96; Box, clerk, £84; Thomas, clerk, £72; Leitchford, clerk, £60; Sinclair, clerk, £120; Leitchford, clerk, £140; Garrett, clerk, £195; Lewis, clerk, £195; three messengers at 15s., 17s. 6d., and 20s. 3 and 4. These matters are still under consideration.

SELECT COMMITTEE, CASE OF E. H. HAMEL.

Extension of time.

On motion by Mr. LANDER, the time for bringing up the select committee's report was extended to Thursday, 25th September.

BILL—TRAFFIC.

Report of Committee, after recommitment, adopted.

BILL—UNIVERSITY LANDS.

Introduced by the Premier and read a first time.

RETURN — PEARL SHELL LICENSES, SHARK BAY.

On motion by Mr. McDONALD (Gascoyne) ordered: "That a return be laid upon the Table of the House showing— 1. The names of exclusive license holders in the Shark Bay area. 2. The area held by each. 3. The number of licensees who are in possession of more than one bank. 4. Who they are."

MOTION—COLLIE COAL INDUSTRY.

Commission to inquire.

Mr. A. A. WILSON (Collie) moved—

That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that a Royal Commission should be appointed to report on the best means of utilising the local coal, and for its more extensive use on the Government railways, State steamships, and Government departments generally.

He said: I am moving this in the interests of the State at large and of the Collie coal industry in particular. For many years past the Collie coal industry has been traduced, and consequently the workers in that industry have suffered more than enough. This position has been accentuated year after year by the fact that the Government orders for Collie coal have been curtailed in the summer months. For example, some years ago, an embargo was placed on Collie coal to the effect that for three months in the year no Collie coal should be used on agricultural lines. As the years have gone by the embargo seems to have accentuated the position more and more. Last year it became so acute that it was resolved by those in the industry to send

a deputation to the Minister for Railways asking him to appoint a commission of inquiry to deal with the whole of the Collie coal question. The arguments used on that occasion were reported in the *West Australian*. This Minister was asked that the Government should immediately give larger orders for Collie coal, and that a commission of inquiry should be appointed to go into the question of Collie coal generally. One of the points stressed by the deputation was the fact that 150 men previously employed in the industry had been thrown out of work. That was last December. The Press report continued—

They knew that there was an embargo against the use of Collie coal on the railways in the agricultural areas during the summer months by reason of the fact that it was assumed that the local coal was more dangerous in regard to sparks than the imported article, but they did not admit the alleged dangerous nature of Collie coal. If, however, the Government thought the use of Collie coal was dangerous in the agricultural districts there were other avenues in which more of the coal could be used at present—in the South-West and the suburban districts for instance. They did not acknowledge that the coal sparked more than any other coal. They asked that a commission of inquiry should be appointed, composed not only of Government officers but also of representatives of the companies and the miners. They suggested that the subjects to be inquired into should be: sparking as against other coal, depreciation, transport of the coal for bunkering, shipping of the coal, and the spontaneous combustion of Collie coal upon ships.

The member for Bunbury (Mr. Thomas) supported the deputation and made use of these words—

In regard to the request for a commission the fact that the men interested and engaged in the industry were prepared to submit their product to this test was one of the finest ar-

guments that could be advanced in support of a commission.

The companies said they would stand or fall by the result of the Commission. That is the position at the present time. We desire that a thorough investigation shall be made and even if the result is detrimental to the coal industry we are prepared to abide by the result.

The Premier: What about the men have they been consulted?

Mr. A. A. WILSON: I will take care to look after the men. The Premier can depend upon that.

The Premier: The companies say they are prepared to stand or fall by the inquiry, what about the men?

Mr. A. A. WILSON: I will safeguard the miners' interests as far as I can. The companies must think they have a good case or they would not use the argument. In my opinion they have a splendid case and they will not fall as a result of such an inquiry. The matter was subsequently brought before Cabinet and Cabinet turned the proposal for a Commission down.

Mr. Monger: When was that?

Mr. A. A. WILSON: Last December. Finally the Minister for Railways sent a letter to me under date 11th February 1913, as follows:—

In reply to your inquiry as to the appointment of a royal commission to inquire into certain phases of the Collie coal industry, including sparking, I beg to advise you that this matter has been considered by the Government, and it is felt that a commission of this nature at the present juncture is unnecessary. I would suggest, however, that you take an opportunity of bringing the matter before the Assembly when in session, and if the House expresses an opinion that such a course is desirable, the subject will then be given further consideration.

Now I am bringing the matter before the House in order to get an expression of opinion as to whether a royal commission should be appointed.

Mr. Monger: Will you make it a party question?

Mr. A. A. WILSON: I hope it will not be made a party question. With regard to the embargo placed on Collie coal, this has been going on for the last ten years, and the embargo is still in force under the latest contract between the coal companies and the Commissioner of Railways. Clause 4 of the agreement states—

During the continuance of this agreement the Commissioner will, subject to the fulfilment of his orders for coal, use 80 per cent. of Western Australian native screened coal out of the total coal used for the working of the locomotive engines running over all lines open for traffic on the 1st day of April, 1912, excepting and excluding the Northern railways, Port Hedland-Marble Bar, and the Hopetoun-Ravensthorpe railway, for the whole of the year, and the agricultural districts from the 15th day of November to the 15th day of February of each year.

This year during one week in the summer months, the week ended 13th January, the Government used something like 2,013 tons of Collie coal. In the week ended 2th July this year they used 4,202 tons of Collie coal, or something more than twice the quantity used in the summer. That means that the miner who works five days a week during the winter months—and that is a fair average time for any coal miner to work, owing to the spasmodic nature of the coal bunkering trade—is, as a result of the Government reducing their orders by one-half during the summer, able to get only two or two and a half days' work a week. I can conscientiously say that the average time for coal miners during the summer months is not more than two or two and a half days a week, so that it becomes a question of the companies sacking the men for three months, and of half of the men having no look for work in the country or being allowed by the companies to share the work available in the district with the people who have their homes there. In regard to the State steamships, they are using no Collie coal at all. Although a promise was given that as much as possible would be used by the steamships—that "as much as possible" is simply a

cypher. Practically no Collie coal is used at all in the State steamships. Mr. Sudholz, in an interview granted to us last December, admitted that it was worth 5s. a ton to him for the steamers to use Collie coal. If the manager admits that it is worth 5s. a ton for his steamers to use Collie coal and Collie coal is not used, surely something is wrong. There may be something wrong with the ships that they do not use it.

Mr. S. Stubbs: What did the manager mean?

Mr. A. A. WILSON: He meant that in point of value Collie coal would be 5s. a ton cheaper to use on the steamships. He could get Collie coal for the ships at a price that would be 5s. a ton to his advantage to use it, but the bunkering space was not adequate for it. In speaking of these steamships, I want to draw attention to one fact. Some members of Parliament traduce the very coal which they should uphold. In another place the Hon. F. Connor stated that it would be necessary, if the Government used Collie coal, to insure their steamers against spontaneous combustion, implying that Collie coal was more dangerous to use than any other. I will give that statement—I was going to say the lie direct, but I will not use that term—I will say that I will give that statement a denial. I have before me a book entitled "Accidents in Mines" which gives statistics relating to fires on ships. In the year 1874 no fewer than 95 ships leaving different ports in England were fired by spontaneous combustion. We can come nearer home. Three or four years ago there was a few fires on board ships using Newcastle coal; in fact there was a loss of life, but we did not see very much in the Press about those cases. Some Newcastle coal had been taken on board a steamer at Sydney and a fire broke out during the run from Sydney to Melbourne. When the fire was discovered some of the men were sent down to extinguish it, and two men lost their lives. No lives have been lost through fires caused by spontaneous combustion on ships carrying Collie coal. I want to say a few words in regard to the Commissioner's report. The report is most dam-

aging insofar as his side of the question is concerned. On page 15 of the Commissioner's report he states—

This Department is the purchaser of more than half of the output of the Collie field, and if last year tenders had been invited as then and on previous occasions was strongly recommended. I can see no reason why 8s. per ton at the outside should not have been the maximum rate payable.

The Commissioner is very strong on tenders. Collie coal is already subject to tendering as the Railway Department calls for tenders for Newcastle coal, and it is on the basis of these tenders that the prices for Collie coal are accepted. Dr. Jack, in his report, said that if Newcastle coal was worth 15s. 4d. a ton, Collie coal was worth only 8s. a ton, but he held that the increases in prices should be in the ratio of .522 to one. Newcastle coal has risen in price from 15s. 4d. to 23s. 7d., a difference of 8s. 3d. on the imported coal.

The Premier: That does not apply to all purchasers of Collie coal.

Mr. A. A. WILSON: I am showing the Commissioner's argument. He goes on to say in his report—

This price, 8s. per ton, was said by Dr. Jack, when reporting as Royal Commissioner in May, 1905, to be a figure at which the companies should be able to profitably work, and his report to this effect is well confirmed by the Tramway contract made at that price.

But the Commissioner does not state that Newcastle coal has advanced 8s. 3d. and that consequently Collie coal, according to the opinion expressed by Dr. Jack, should be advanced by 4s. 1½d. a ton.

The Minister for Mines: The companies are selling it at a lower figure to outside people.

Mr. A. A. WILSON: The Collie companies have been very good to the department. On Dr. Jack's showing, the companies are entitled to 12s. 1½d. a ton at the present time, and the miners of Collie are entitled to 1s. 3d. per day increase in their wages. But instead of the Government paying 12s. 1½d., they are paying only 11s. per ton.

The Premier: Should they pay 11s. when other consumers pay only 8s.?

Mr. A. A. WILSON: I will come to that, and will show the bogey. The Commissioner states that he ought to pay more than 8s. and that this is confirmed by the Tramway contract. When the tramway contract was taken by the present Collie Coal Company—that was four months before the previous Government contract was entered into—the Government were not paying 11s. a ton, but were paying only 9s. 10d. to that company, and the Collie Coal Company were supplying to the tramways coal of 9,750 B.T. units instead of 10,500 B.T. units, as is demanded by the Government. Further, the tramway coal did not come under any supervision or inspection. The Railway Department coal is inspected by an inspector, so that the question of 8s. and 11s. falls to the ground. The tramway people get an inferior coal of 9,750 B.T. units against 10,500 B.T. units supplied to the railways.

The Minister for Mines: Our results this year in the locomotives are the worst in the whole history of Collie coal.

Mr. A. A. WILSON: The Minister should take into consideration not only the consumption per train mile, but the questions of the engines and the tonnage. In his report the Commissioner says that the average quantity of coal consumed for the year before last was 31.9 tons per thousand train miles. Last year the Commissioner says it was 34.1 tons per thousand and train miles, thus showing an advance of 3 tons or 7 per cent., but the Commissioner forgets to add that for every thousand train miles there was 38 tons more freight carried. Last year for every thousand train miles the freight carried amounted to 545 tons, whereas this year the quantity was 583 tons, a difference, as I have pointed out, of 38 tons for every thousand train miles. If it was good enough to quote the figures against Collie coal, it should have been good enough to include the figures showing the heavier loads hauled.

The Premier: There would be more effect on the rolling stock. We are using a better class of engine.

Mr. A. A. WILSON: The position is not set down fairly, though I do not mean to say the Commissioner has been consciously unfair. The consumption is shown as an argument against the use of Collie coal. I contend that against these figures should be shown the quantity of freight drawn per thousand and train miles. The next point I wish to deal with is the question of freights. The report further points out that the Collie coal companies are not paying more than $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per mile freight on their bunkering coal. I am going to show that in many cases they pay 1d. per ton per mile. From Collie to Bunbury is 41 miles, and including the terminal charge of 1s. 3d. for the first five miles, they pay 2s. 9d. a ton to land Collie coal at Bunbury. Then there is 6d. a ton extra for wharfage and shunting charges, or 3s. 3d. per ton for 41 miles. If that is not nearly 1d. per ton I do not know what is. I believe it is the intention of the Government to move an amendment to this motion. Up to the present time the Government have acted very fairly to the industry, but this much I will say, the necessity for a Commission is apparent every day. I believe the House will give me fair play in this matter. The question that arises in this: as the years go on something must be done to settle this vexed question, and the sooner it is settled the better for all concerned. We have something like 600 miners in Collie; at the best they never work more than five days a week in the winter and in the summer time they do not work more than two and a half or three days a week. The more railways that are built in agricultural districts will accentuate the difficulty because no Collie coal will be burnt in those areas. The question whether the coal sets fire to the country must be set at rest and the sooner we know the position that Collie stands in, the better. I would be the last to advocate the taking of Collie coal to a district to harm the farmers or any person, but we want to be sure of the position before we damn the Collie coal industry and practically only give the coal miners two or

three days' work a week in the summer months especially. I move my motion.

On motion by the Minister for Mines, debate adjourned.

MOTION—RAILWAY COMMUNICATION TO LAKE GRACE.

Mr. S. STUBBS (Wagin) moved—

That in the opinion of this House it is desirable to immediately extend the railway line eastward from the present terminus of the Dumbleyung line, a distance of about twenty-seven miles, in order to serve a great number of settlers at Lake Grace, who have this season under wheat over three thousand acres, and, in addition, almost the same area fallowed for next year's crop.

He said: The motion that stands in my name is one that affects a large number of people, some of whom have for the past four years been settled upon land east of Dumbleyung. About four or five years ago there was a great demand in the State for agricultural land, and the officers of the Lands Department were busily engaged in surveying and marking out large areas of agricultural land, and the district that the motion deals with—this immense tract of land—was spied out by some of the surveyors and classified as being of very high quality. Quite a number of English settlers arrived in the State just about the time this land was made available for selection, and if any hon. member of the House had accompanied the Minister for Works, who was sent down by the Government to inquire into the wants of the district, and report to the Government as to the character of the land in that neighbourhood, he would have been more than satisfied that the land was worthy of a railway. Not only is there the area that has been selected, but there is available, about 20 times as much land. For the information of hon. members who have not been in the locality, I would like to say that most of the land is of a red, friable nature, and the class of timber that grows on it is York gum, salmon gum, black butt and gimlet wood.

Mr. Underwood: No jam?

Mr. S. STUBBS: Very little jam; but an immense amount of a large kind of mallee. The average area taken up by the selectors there is about 1,000 acres, and when I tell hon. members that over 3,000 acres of that land during the past few months has been placed under wheat, and almost a similar area is being fallowed at the present moment for next year, they will see that the demand for a railway now made is a reasonable one. The distance to the nearest point of railway is at Kukerin, 25 or 30 miles, and hon. members will realise that it is utterly impossible for any profit to be made out of carting such a long distance. It must be remembered that quite a number of settlers in this district for the past four or five years have had to cart their stores from Dumbleyung, until recently, a distance of 50 or 60 miles. Since the line has been extended from Dumbleyung to Kukerin a considerable saving has been effected. Still some of these settlers have now to bring their carts in empty once a fortnight, a distance of 30 miles, to get stores. When the Minister for Works paid his visit to this district a few weeks ago, he asked the settlers how they intended to make a profit out of carting such a long distance, and their reply was a most reasonable one. They said, "Is it not far better to cart in a load of wheat than to take in the carts empty, because the wheat will enable us to pay our way if we cannot do anything more?" That was a reasonable argument. It is a credit to the present Government that they have, since Mr. Johnson's visit, surveyed a permanent route from Kukerin that will serve the area round Lake Grace, and last week a petition bearing a large number of signatures was sent to me asking me to present it to Parliament. I could not do so because the Standing Orders prevented it, that is the reason I am moving the motion now on the Notice Paper. For the information of hon. members, I may say that quite a number of these settlers last week, in a party, took a trip over one hundred miles due east from their present holdings, and they have reported at length in the local news-

papers what they saw during their travels, and I think it would astonish members if they knew the large tract of splendid wheat-growing land lying eastward from the lake. Therefore I feel sure that the House will agree to the motion, and hon. members could spare the time to go down they would see we have, what is not known to many persons in this State, a huge belt of wheat-growing country second to none anywhere.

Mr. Heitmann: What is the rainfall?

Mr. S. STUBBS: I was just coming to that point. The persons who went out were accompanied by one or two men, practical experienced farmers settled at the lake. Mr. McMahon, who has a long experience as a farmer, accompanied the party, and he said the rainfall was equally as good throughout the whole length of the distance they travelled as the rainfall at their particular holding, namely, 14 inches. I have it on the authority of the first surveyor sent out Lake Grace way, Mr. Absalom, that there is no question that the rainfall around Lake Grace approaches from 15 to 20 inches, and it is an even fall. I am not quite certain of the time, but I know it is more than five but nearer six years that he has had experience in this particular district. Therefore, in my humble opinion, the country eastward will be found even of better quality than that taken up on the shores of the lake. I should like also to say that the good land in this particular district, Lake Grace, extends north and south for about 40 miles. It is a belt of country about 40 miles due east of the lake. The lake itself is a long narrow strip of water. For the past two years there has not been much water in the lake because the ground is of a porous nature, but the country round about it is absolutely first-class. I do not know where a similar class of land is to be found anywhere around Dumbleyung. This year, without exaggeration, some of the finest crops in the State are to be seen in this district. To-day one crop of about 1,000 acres is over five feet high at the present time, and I am sure will yield anything from 25 to 30 bushels per acre. I am sure if the Minister for Land

can see his way clear to pay a visit to the district he would soon come to the conclusion that I have not exaggerated any statement I have made as to the quality of the land in the district unserved by a railway. No one will argue for a moment that 25 miles is a payable proposition to cart produce. Within the last twelve months a small area of land has been made available by the Government in that direction, and it was rushed. Quite a number of applications, more than there were blocks, were received, and it is no use for a moment one attempting to blame any Government for sending persons out to such a magnificent tract of land. Ninety-five per cent. of the people out there are perfectly satisfied with their holdings. They have done magnificent work there, they are a credit to any State, and all they want is an assurance from the Government and this Chamber that a line of railway will be built within reasonable time. Unfortunately these people were promised a line of railway about four years ago, and they were told then that it would be built almost immediately.

Mr. B. J. Stubbs: Who promised that?

Mr. S. STUBBS: I am not making any charge against the present Government. The residents there are grateful to the present Administration for having sent out a survey party to permanently survey the line of railway which was promised four years ago, and I am not saying anything against the present Government beyond the fact that if we desire to keep these people in the country—and I can assure members that they are all worthy settlers, many of them with large families, who have been there for three years—they cannot stay there much longer unless they get the facilities they have been promised. Some were sent out by the Lands Department as far back as four years ago, and they have battled hard and worked long hours ever since. I regret that the Minister for Works is not present in the Chamber.

Mr. Monger: He never is present when he is wanted.

Mr. S. STUBBS: The Minister for Works could bear out what I have said regarding the capabilities of these men

and the work which they have done since they have taken up their residence in that part of the State. If the Government can see their way clear to pass a measure authorising the construction of this railway during the present session, they will lend encouragement to the 150 people who reside on the east shores of the lake, and probably another 150 people will be benefited by that line of railway as it traverses from Kukerin to the destination on the east side of Lake Grace. If hon. members could spare the time to visit this district they would not regret the visit, because they would become firmly convinced that we had there the right class of settler, the kind that this State would like to have many more thousands of. If the Government can bring in a measure which will have for its object the construction of this railway within a reasonable time, I am positive it will lend encouragement to those families to still further clear their holdings, and prepare for what, in my humble opinion, is destined to be in the near future one of the finest wheat-producing centres in the whole of this State. I have much pleasure in submitting the motion which I have read.

[The Deputy Speaker (Mr. McDowall) took the Chair.]

Mr. FOLEY (Leonora): Whilst I do not wish to go against the hon. member in his effort to do something for those people who are settled in the district to which he has referred, I desire to say that after making myself familiar with the conditions of those places where railways have been built, and having learnt that a good many men have been settled in many parts of the State where they should not have been settled—

Mr. S. Stubbs: This is first-class land.

Mr. FOLEY: We have the hon. member's statement that this is first-class land and we also learn that there is a 14 or 15-inch rainfall there.

Mr. McDonald: It is on the Commonwealth map.

Mr. FOLEY: There was also a map in the corridor a few months ago show-

ing what the Government, now in office consider to be agricultural land which could be taken up with a reasonable possibility of success. As one who wishes to see agricultural development take place here, I consider that men should be settled upon land where they would have a reasonable chance of making a living. I have been to many agricultural portions of this State, and I find that when one goes there, and especially if a member accompanies a Minister, that much is wanted by the farmers, and that the people who are on the land require the Government to do a great deal to assist them, while, on the other hand, we find that they are very hospitable people, and that they entertain Ministers and members, and do all they can to make their stay as pleasant as possible.

Mr. Monger: The mining people do nothing in that regard?

Mr. FOLEY: I am not pitting the mining people against the agricultural people, and if the hon. member is going to treat my remarks in that way, he is at liberty to do so. After Ministers and parliamentarians have looked at the land they form opinions about it.

Mr. S. Stubbs: The Minister was in the Lake Grace district for three days.

Mr. FOLEY: We find that many of the farmers tell us that the agricultural industry is the backbone of Western Australia. I have always maintained that gold is paramount here, but we who represent the goldmining industry recognise that agriculture is going to play a prominent part in Western Australia, and whilst not opposing this motion in anyway, I would urge upon the Government to use all precaution and to see that all possible data is made available before the question of railway construction or extension is taken into consideration, especially in the far out Eastern districts. If the country around Lake Grace is as good as the hon. member says it is, and I have no wish to deny his statement, and if expert opinion can be obtained to the effect that this land is worth settling, then by all means everyone would like to see it settled; but, unless we have that reliable data, as long as I am a member

of this Chamber, I shall vote against extensions of railways further east than they are at present time. I shall, in future, require conclusive proof that these men are not being placed upon land where they have not a reasonable possibility of making a living.

Hon. Frank Wilson: But they are there already, and they are doing well.

Mr. FOLEY: They were not placed there by this Government.

On motion by Mr. Heitmann debate adjourned.

MOTION—TUBERCULOUS COWS.

Mr. LANDER (East Perth) moved:

That a return be laid upon the Table of the House, showing:—1, The number of dairy cows condemned as suffering from tuberculosis during the period from the 1st October, 1911, to the 1st September, 1913. 2, The number tested with tuberculin, and by whom tested.

He said: I do not expect much opposition to this motion because I am sure it will commend itself to every reasonable thinking member of the House. When we take into consideration the seriousness of the business that is going on through an inefficient inspection of dairy cows, hon. members will agree that it is time the House took action by raising its voice against apathy and indifference. We all know what danger is associated with permitting milk to be supplied from cows that are suffering from tuberculosis. If any person went to the Mundaring reservoir and put poison in the water, the Government would go to any extent to prevent that water from going into consumption. But in regard to tuberculosis in cattle, there is only what might be said to be apathetic inspection going on. I desire to give credit to the Honorary Minister, who is in charge of the Health Department, for the good work he has done since he has been in office in the way of endeavouring to stamp out tuberculosis in cows, and I would also give credit to the Health Department for the good work which they have been doing of late, but I might say that their hands are tied because inspec-

tion is carried out by another department. We have only to take the annual report of the Health Department to find that one out of every 13 deaths is attributed to tuberculosis. The report also states—

It is recognised that some cases of tuberculosis arise from feeding upon milk from infected cows; the course of action now being carried out by the Veterinary Branch of the Agricultural Department must be extended so that a more rapid control of animal tuberculosis and destruction of the sources of infection among them be not delayed. The scheme already recommended by the Public Health and Veterinary Branch officers should be put into operation.

We find that the amount required to carry out the scheme as recommended by the Health Department and also the Stock Department is the paltry sum of about £4,500. But, whilst the Government are able to find money for many other matters which could well stand aside, this most important subject of inspection of dairy cows is badly neglected. I trust that some steps will be taken, and the suggestions made by the Health Department will be put into practical form. The present apology for an inspection of cows is a disgrace. I might say that good men with the highest qualifications and experience have come here to practise, yet advantage has not been taken of their presence, and no inducement is offered them to remain here. During the past few years I have drawn attention to the fact that cows suffering from tuberculosis were being milked and that the milk was being supplied to the hospitals, and I also pointed out that some of the private hospitals had tuberculous cows, and that in a prominent boarding house in this State there was a cow which was badly affected with tuberculosis, and through the kindness of the Press, special attention was drawn to the danger to which the community were in this way being exposed. We have only to take the instance of the Children's Hospital, which, 18 months ago was being supplied with milk from infected cattle, but the Honorary Min-

ister stepped in, and we do not find now that children patients are being murdered as was done at that time. I say that the officers responsible for the inspection of dairy herds at that time should be branded as murderers; in fact, we ought to brand them as assassins who, with knives in their hands went about ready to stab. What did we find when we went to inspect these cows? The first cow that we looked at was suffering from the disease; it had a lot of pustules from which pus was oozing. A report had been put in about the dairy where this cow was, and it stated that the dairy had been under supervision for a considerable time on account of the fact that it was supplying the Children's Hospital with milk. But what state of affairs did we find? I have described the condition of the first cow, and the next four cows that we saw were in just as bad a condition. There was pus coming from the udder, and when they were being milked the pus, no doubt, fell into the bucket, and that was the kind of milk which was supplied to the Children's Hospital. What I have stated was witnessed by Mr. Lovekin, Mr. Battye, and myself, and yet we found that the inspectors were drawing money from the Government and preparing a report stating that everything was O.K. We even found that the milk was allowed to go straight into consumption without being cooled, which we know is a most dangerous thing. That kind of thing does not exist to-day, thanks to the efforts of the Honorary Minister, but the inspection of dairy herds is not being carried out as we would desire it. We find in other parts of the world that they are making every dairyman an inspector, and that compensation is allowed for the destruction of diseased cows. I am sorry to say that kind of thing does not exist here.

Mr. DWYER: Are you in favour of the principle of compensation?

Mr. LANDER: I am in favour of the payment of compensation, and in that respect I am at one with better men than I possibly know how to be in all parts of the world. All over the world the principle of compensation for tuberculous cows in dairies has been adopted.

Mr. Heitmann: You are in favour of anything which will give us a pure milk supply?

Mr. LANDER: Yes, I am in favour of any step which will ensure a pure milk supply, as is proved by my own labours. I have worked all day and up till three and four o'clock in the morning, and what did I get for it? We were howled down and were called liars on every occasion, but when a cow was killed the diseased organs were shown round the town and then deposited with the Central Board of Health. Had that not been done we would have had the same lying reports against us as were made against us in connection with the Children's Hospital. I must congratulate the Government on the steps they have taken in reference to the erection of a sanatorium. One has only to read the report of the Department of Health to find how great a number of tuberculous patients were treated in Western Australia during last year. Mr. Huelin's report on page 10 says, "Medical practitioners reported having seen no less than 843 cases during the year 1912, and assuming that this number included all who died then, there were 588 other known tubercular cases which received medical attention during the year." Having regard to those figures, and knowing the seriousness of allowing tuberculous cows to exist, one must see that it is time the Government took steps to place the inspection of dairy herds on a better footing. This year there are less cows in the dairy herds in the metropolitan area than there were in past years, yet the population is increasing and milk is being supplied. Hon. members will see that there is something radically wrong there. However, I do not wish to say too much on this motion as I intend to have something else to say on another motion. I move the motion standing in my name.

Mr. TURVEY (Swan): I second the motion.

On motion by the Minister for Lands, debate adjourned.

RETURN—FOOD ADULTERATION, PROSECUTIONS.

Mr. LANDER (East Perth) moved—

That a return be laid upon the Table of the House showing the number of prosecutions, the names of the persons prosecuted, and the penalty imposed, for (1) sale of impure and adulterated milk; (2) sale of impure and adulterated liquors; (3) sale of light-weight bread, from the 1st October, 1911, to the 1st September, 1913.

He said: I hope this motion will receive more support than my endeavours in the past, because I do not think there is an honest man in any part of the world who believes in the dishonest practices which are being indulged in very extensively in Perth to-day. It is a standing disgrace to us as a Government and as a House of Parliament to allow things to exist as they exist to-day. I must give the Government credit for all the good work they have done, but they have not gone far enough. When we see cases taken before the police court and paltry little fines of up to £2 imposed, I say in those instances the Government should have gone further and told the magistrate who imposed those nominal fines that if he was not competent to inflict a fair penalty, they would put him off the bench.

Member: They have been fined more than that lately.

Mr. LANDER: We are fining them £20 to-day, because we are putting the boot into them. It is only by forcing them and moving motions in this House that we can influence the cowardly men occupying positions on the bench. I will not call them gentlemen because gentlemen would have the courage to do their duty. I say that they are cowards who are occupying positions on the magisterial benches. The return which I am asking for will show the good work done by the Honorary Minister (Mr. Angwin), and also by the Central Board of Health. I hope that the Minister will resolve to go further than he has yet gone in the metropolitan district if the city council do not take further action. When I first came into the House I brought this mat-

ter under the notice of members, but no action was taken to deal with the condition of the milk supply. In answer to the first question I asked in this House I was told that everything was satisfactory in that regard. But had there been a select committee appointed serious revelations would have been made. I am pleased to know that positions then held by inspectors have been filled by men who seem to be carrying out their duties very effectively. We have only to look at the prosecutions reported in the Press to-day, in which cases the offenders were fined reasonable amounts. In one case a man was fined £20. He was from East Perth, no doubt living in my constituency. If he is in my constituency and I put up for election next year, I hope he will be in gaol so that I will not have voting for me a man who is killing women and children by selling them bad milk. I find that other offenders are in East Perth and I hope the same thing will happen to them. One might as well put a poultice on that wall as impose a nominal fine on some of these people. When it is known that not sufficient milk comes into the metropolitan district from the middle of December till the middle of February, it seems simply shocking that we should sit in the House and allow that state of things to continue. When I have spoken to the Honorary Minister about having an inspection in Perth he has always readily responded, and so has the Central Board, but I am sorry to say that in some cases when the Honorary Minister has arranged for an inspection, it has been known in the streets beforehand that the inspection was to be made. The information leaks out somehow and reaches the ears of these dishonest milkmen. I call dishonest any man who would sell adulterated and filthy milk to be consumed by sick women and little children. We all know that for the first year of a child's life cows' milk is its principal food, because nowadays the mothers have given up feeding their children at the breast and have resorted to artificial food, which is not to the credit of the women of Western Australia. They should give their children the proper mother's milk. I regret to have to say this, but it is a

fact, and even if I have to lose my election for speaking on these matters I will lose it willingly, and have a go at something else. When this return that I have asked for is laid on the Table it will be found that what I said in the House only two years ago has been confirmed by the inspections and the results of those inspections. Members will find also that all sorts of tricks and frauds have been practised in connection with the milk supply. There are instances of men, who no doubt belong to the social purity society, being taken to court and telling the magistrate that when the milk left their place it was pure. When the Minister sends his inspectors out to inspect the dairies he finds that the dairy farmers have been acting fairly and honestly with the milk they sent out. But the inspectors, on following the milk in to those whom I call the milk fiends in the city, found it adulterated before it reached the consumer as far as it possibly could be. Again, we find that these members of the social purity society—you would think that butter would not melt in their mouths—are delivering to the customers milk with 21 per cent. of water in it. The majority of people in Western Australia are working people, and there is not a man or woman in this State who can afford to pay the price of milk for 21 per cent. of water. It is our duty in this House to take some steps towards protecting the public against this abuse that is going on.

Member: You will admit that there are some honest milkmen.

Mr. LANDER: I admit that there are in our midst some honest men who are struggling bravely to make a living. I say that many of the dairymen are good honest men, but I was appealed to when I first came into the House to get a committee going so that the honest men who are in the dairying industry may make a living, which they cannot do whilst we stand by and condone the offences that we know are going on. When I tell the House that there is not sufficient milk coming into the city from December to February members must realise that it is time to take action. Can members not see, since the Government supply of milk

started, the decrease in the loss of life in the Children's hospital from enteritis and colonitis, which is really inflammation of the small and large intestines, brought about by impure, filthy, and dirty milk. When we see that sort of thing going on it is our duty to take action to prevent it. We all know how many diseases are caused through impure milk, tuberculosis amongst them. In many instances this disease is given to the child when it is being fed on cow's milk. It is known to the medical profession, and to most people, that often when a child in its infancy is being fed on cow's milk, the bacilli is taken into the mesentery gland or the bronchial gland in the lungs. It may remain latent until the child has reached manhood, and then it develops. Reference to the statistics and to the authorities will show that this fact is known to some of the most eminent men in all parts of the world. In Victoria a prominent lady came forward and helped with a large sum of money to get pure milk for the babies. We have to give Mr. Connor, the Commissioner for the South-West, great credit for the work he has done. I say he is one of the best men we have had in Western Australia in the matter of the milk supply, and in other directions too, I daresay. In one of our prominent shows the best milch cow was singled out and the prize was given to her, but Mr. Connor found that the animal was affected with tuberculosis. Is that the sort of thing we should allow in Western Australia? No, it is the duty of every one of us to stand up in the House and protest against milk bearing the germs of tuberculosis going out in our midst. It is not only dangerous to children, but there is a danger where skim milk is fed to pigs. Reports of investigations in America show that tuberculosis is one of the most dangerous and easiest things for a pig to catch. In one instance some cows were put into a pen. They had been tested before being put in and found to be affected with tuberculosis, but there were no visible signs that the disease was there, but according to the tuberculin test it was there. Those making the investigation were so particular that they took a number of

pigs, took one out for a contact, and put the others in with those tuberculous cattle, had the place carefully watched so that droppings from the cattle were immediately carried away, and the place kept as clean as possible, yet within about six weeks these pigs were all found to be affected with tuberculosis, and this was the result of them only having been scratching about in the yard. No animals are more susceptible to contract tuberculosis from milk than pigs are. When we know this, and it is backed up by the most eminent authorities in the world, we as a small population should say we are going to follow in the steps of health authorities in other parts. Elsewhere good work is being done, but we do not find Western Australia taking the first step towards getting pure milk for the people. We find men going about on carts with milk in open cans, but in London 30 years ago steps were taken to have the urn locked when it left the dairy. We find in this State there has been most contemptible treatment meted out in the matter of charges against the men. Why do not the dairy-owners or Central Board of Health take some action to bring in a by-law so that when the milk leaves the dairy the can is locked, with a view to getting to the guilty men. Some years ago I was in Osborne Park hunting with the late Inspector Buckley for tuberculous cows, and a man told us that his boss bet him 5s. he could not pass the inspectors, so that every time he got through he won 5s. from this questionable man, who ought to have been in gaol. I have pointed out, in connection with this matter of milk supply, where tuberculous matter had been dropping from the udders of cows. When I wrote to the Press asking for an inquiry on the subject the Government knew the position was too bad and would not have an inquiry. We could have gone to different dairies and caught them in the act of milking diseased cows that were supplying milk to the Children's Hospital; milk was going into the can from tuberculous cows which the late Government brought over here. One gentleman at Cannington had a cow, and there was pus coming from the tit. We were there on the

Tuesday, and some of the milk had been sent in to town on the Saturday. That was one of the cows that the late Government brought into the State, and some of these diseased cows have been the means of ruining the poor dairymen. This subject would warrant any honest man here in speaking for two hours or more, and appealing for some action to be taken. I hope also that the Government will take some action in relation to the adulteration of liquors. I am a teetotaler myself, but not a narrow-minded one. I am not interfering with a man having a bucket of liquor if he likes, and I will have what I like. I have travelled around the country, have talked to police constables and others, and have seen the stuff that is being dealt out. I do not say for one moment that the majority of the publicans are dishonest men, and are serving impure drink, but since the Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister) started to get a move on we find that there are a much greater number of prosecutions than previously. Although not a drinker I have been in and out of public houses with a gentleman, and we have had a drink together. I have had soft tack, and when I have asked him to have a second drink he has said, "For God's sake, Lander, not another one of that stuff." I hope some steps will be taken to ask Mr. Emery and his inspectors to get a move on. When they want to get a move on is between 6 o'clock and 9 o'clock in the morning, then have another shot from 5 o'clock in the evening until 11 o'clock. Let them have a quiz around and they will find what is occurring in a good many places. What is the use of this 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. business? Let them have a go in the evening at hours when inspectors are not supposed to be about. I think we ought to impose a much heavier fine and let us fix the minimum so that the magistrates cannot interfere with it, and if a man is selling adulterated drink, we will warn him up prettily severely. I would like to see power to brand up in front of a man's house in big letters the fact that he has been fined on such a charge, or gaoled, which is the proper thing for it because it is practically steal-

ing. If a man steals a watch or any thing else of a similar nature, the law takes action against him and puts him inside possibly, but a man can steal from us by selling us impure milk, impure food, or adulterated drink, and he is mulcted in a paltry fine. If such a man has only a couple of pounds to pay, he realises that he can make that sum in a couple of hours. When I was in the country a man came to me and said, "Cannot something be done to stop this sort of business? On Saturday night we cleared a man out of whisky, and the following Monday morning he was ready to start again."

Mr. George : Have they any black-boys there ?

Mr. LANDER : It was in the South-West. It is our duty to fight for the public. If a publican is honest, he has the Labour party and the Liberal party on his side, but if he is dishonest, he should have the Labour party and the Liberal party against him every time. If a man is running an honest business we should give him every encouragement. I do not say that every publican or dairyman is dishonest, but I say from the evidence produced by the Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister), since he has been in power, although he has had to stand a lot of abuse, that it is our duty to go a bit further. Another gentleman I would like dealt with is the respectable bread thief. I term a man a thief if he comes to my house and I am supposed to get a two-pound loaf and he beats me for a few ounces. That is what I call a thief.

Mr. Thomas : Of the worst type.

Mr. LANDER : I hope the hon. member for Bunbury will support me in this motion. I hope we will shake up the dishonest milkman, the dishonest publican, and the man who is selling light weight bread. With reference to bread inspection, a man told me how he placed the bread on the scales. The man who told me this is a supporter of the hon. member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. George).

Mr. Heitmann : Then he deserves to be victimised.

Mr. LANDER : He told me he has placed his bread on the scales and on every occasion he has found a deficiency in the weight.

Mr. George : Am I responsible for that ?

Mr. LANDER : When we find these things and know for a certainty they are going on, it is our duty to take some action. I was in hopes the Premier would bring in a measure to deal with light weight bread this year, and I was sorry to find in reply to my question that he has not time. I do not blame the Premier as, in view of the number of other Bills that are before the House, possibly there is not time. But I would like to see some steps taken to bring in a Bread Act, so as to make all bread sold by weight, and not have this dodge of putting a twist on a loaf and calling it a two pound loaf. When you come to rob a man of milk or drink or bread, I am inclined to say it nearly always falls upon the working man. What I am sorry for in this connection is that drink should be included. The burdens are cast on the man who is less able to bear them than are others. I hope other members will take up the question and deal with it thoroughly, and I hope that this party, before the term is up, will have something going to show that we are determined to try to provide a pure milk supply. From about the middle of November until the middle of March I would like to see the Hon. W. C. Angwin in a position to put on a man with a motor car to take milk samples all round the metropolitan area. It is necessary, not only in order that we should have a pure milk supply, but also to save lives. I am confident that many lives would be saved if we could ensure a pure milk supply. I could give truthful instances related to me by a gentleman who has seen these tricks going on in reference to milk supply, but I do not wish to detain the House; so with these few remarks I will move the motion, and I hope it will receive the support of honourable members.

Mr. GEORGE (Murray-Wellington) : I desire to congratulate the mover of

this motion on having had the courage of his opinions to bring it forward, and am the more pleased to second and support the motion because of the fact that this is a question into which no party motives should enter. The whole spirit of the Chamber, I think, should be given to the object which the honourable member has in view. I could have desired that the return should have covered a period of five years.

Mr. Lander : I will move that later on.

Mr. GEORGE : Because I believe there are numbers of persons guilty of these practices who have been carrying on for a long time. If a return of this sort extending over five years was furnished I think the magistrates who have to deal with these cases would deal with them as strongly as my friend desires and the offence deserves. In the old country anyone who sold light-weight bread would not only receive the punishment inflicted by the magistrate, but the abhorrence of the people of the district in which he was situated would be heaped upon him. I do not know to whom the honourable member referred when speaking of someone in my employment as having complained of light-weight bread, nor do I wish to know who it was; but I am glad to hear that the people I employ have the courage of their opinions.

Mr. Lander : He is a very honourable man.

Mr. GEORGE : All my constituents are.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister) : What about the man who sold the light-weight bread ?

Mr. GEORGE : Of course there must be exceptions to every rule. Unless there were people who sinned there would not be an opportunity for my hon. friend opposite to exercise that Christ-like charity of his. In regard to adulterated milk, I have felt for years that this business should be looked after properly. I have known instances in West Perth of children who were actually dying from the bad effects of evil milk administered to them, and who were saved, and have

now grown up, through having been supplied from a private cow. I have known a good many such instances in West Perth. I remember one case of a man supplying milk in the district in which I lived, and supposed to be supplying the very best of milk; yet he was found to have been taking water from a drain in Fitzgerald-street, and was fined £20. That was the only instance I have known of a magistrate having sufficient sense of responsibility to impose a penalty calculated to have a deterrent effect. There is nothing more inimical to life than giving impure milk to children, and I congratulate the Government on having undertaken the task of supplying our hospitals with pure milk. As far as adulterated liquors are concerned, I have always held that the source of a considerable amount, if not the major part, of the insanity we have in our midst, is due to the fact that the liquor supply is adulterated. I have known occasions on which if a man had taken more than one nobbler of the whisky supplied he would have been more fit for the insane asylum or the Fremantle Prison than any other place. When we find that there are publicans—not all of them, because I admit some are as good as any other class units—but when we find that there are publicans who will not have any whisky which they cannot buy at from 5s. to 6s. per gallon bulk in bond the thing is understood. We all know that we are not likely to get a sample of decent whisky unless we pay from 12s. to 15s. per gallon bulk in bond, yet I have heard travellers in the liquor trade say “Oh, it is no use going to so-and-so unless you have a sample at 5s. per gallon.”

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Mr. Underwood: That has nothing to do with adulteration.

Mr. GEORGE: It has this to do with it, that the man who lays himself out for the purchase of immature spirit at a particularly low price is not likely to stop at other practices.

Mr. Male: You cannot import it; it is forbidden.

Mr. Thomas: If it is immature it is impure.

Mr. Male: You cannot get immature whisky out of bond.

Mr. GEORGE: Then if it is not immature, the whisky they get out of bond is hoary with sin and old age. I have spoken of light-weight bread, and I think that anything which can be done should be done to see that when a man purchases bread or meat it is sixteen ounces to the pound, and that the sixteen ounces are each of them a full ounce. During the last few years even the people who tin our jams and fruits have tumbled to this sort of business. We used to buy a 2lb. tin of jam, or meat, or fruit, but to-day we buy what we believe to be a 2lb. tin, and we find printed on the label in very small type the warning “This tin contains one pound fourteen ounces,” or something of that sort. It is supposed to be what everybody would suppose it to be, namely, a 2lb. tin, but it does not contain two pounds. I would like in regard to that to go a bit further, especially in respect to tinned meats. I know it is stated that if meat is properly tinned it will keep almost for ever without going bad; but I would like to see printed on these tinned jams and meats the date on which the contents of the package were tinned. Then a person, if he had any doubts about it, could say “This stuff is too old for me.” This is the more necessary because we find very frequently there are tins of meat which become bulged at the top.

Mr. Turvey: They have matured with age.

Mr. GEORGE: They get into such a state that it is very dangerous for anybody to partake of their contents, and when people are going outback and have to hump their tucker with pack-horses they should have some chance of seeing how long the product had been in the tins. I wish to congratulate my friend on his great earnestness in regard to this question. I have known him for many years, and on this particular point at least he is precisely the man I knew years ago. He is thoroughly in earnest; he has made up his mind as to what he

wants, and he is backed up by the great bulk of public opinion in Western Australia, and I hope he will be backed up by all the members of the House.

Mr. S. Stubbs: He will be by me, anyhow.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): I have no objection to the motion, but I am very much afraid there will be some difficulty experienced in supplying the information before the session closes.

Mr. Lander: You can get over that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): This State is a very large one, and to get all the information required by the motion within three months would be very difficult indeed.

Mr. Hudson: There are very few prosecutions away from the centres of population.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): I propose to give the hon. member some of the information he requires at once, so as not to keep him waiting. During the time mentioned in his motion, as far as the health officers are concerned—that is to say, those employed by the Government, and not those employed by the local authorities—there have been forty-six prosecutions for selling milk below standard. I am of opinion that things to-day in regard to the milk supply are scarcely as bad as the hon. member would have us believe. When this crusade was started, some time ago—and I must say it was started, perhaps, owing to statements which were made, and through the instrumentality of the hon. member for East Perth (Mr. Lander)—certain gentlemen visited a certain dairy in the metropolitan area which was supplying milk to the Children's Hospital. These gentlemen were so disgusted with the condition of the cows and of the dairy that it led eventually to the management of the Children's Hospital abstaining from buying any further fresh milk for use in the hospital, and the hospital went entirely on tinned milk. Since that time steps have been taken in the metropolitan area to see that the people were supplied with pure milk. As the hon. member has stated, the Govern-

ment have established a dairy in order to provide the hospitals of Perth and Fremantle, and the Children's Hospital, with pure milk. The committees managing those hospitals have on more than one occasion expressed their appreciation of the quality and standard of the milk supplied.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): Before tea I was referring to the appreciation which had been expressed by the committees of the various hospitals in regard to the standard of milk supplied to those institutions. Not only that, but so far as the Perth Children's Hospital is concerned, the testimony of the medical officer in charge has been that owing to the Government supply of milk, the lives of many children have been saved. The committee of the hospital pointed out that an extension of the Government milk supply should be made. They find that, whilst they send the child out cured, in a little time, owing to the quality of the milk supplied from private sources, the child has to be returned to the hospital, and they have been making representations to the Government that they should be allowed to supply milk from the hospital to children who have been discharged. Unfortunately, the dairy farm at Claremont is not far enough advanced at present to enable us to enlarge the supply, but no doubt in a very short time the supply will be increased, and we will be able to accede to the desires of the hospital authorities. The hon. member for East Perth in moving the motion alluded to the position as it is to-day. Twelve months ago, when the health officers went out for the purpose of getting samples of milk for analysis, they found that close on 75 per cent. of the samples taken were below the standard, and prosecutions followed very quickly. A good deal of complaint was then made and published in the Press that the Government officers were not prosecuting but rather persecuting the vendors of milk, and it was urged that the health authorities should carry their investigations to the source of supply. As a matter of

fact in some cases the defence of warranty was put up and several cases were dismissed on that ground. The officers then thought that they were being wrongly dealt with, and that there was no justification for such a defence. They have since gone to the sources of supply and tested the milk; they tested it again at the railway station, after it had come from the producers, and on almost every occasion found it up to the standard. Then they followed the milk to the vendor, and in many instances found it below the standard, and prosecutions followed. A few weeks ago the departmental officers again thought it necessary to do something in the way of testing the milk supply, and out of 14 samples taken one Sunday morning between five o'clock and six o'clock, only three were below the standard. That result goes to show that an improvement is being effected. I agree with the member for East Perth that the courts treated these cases very lightly.

Mr. George: The fines were pretty heavy to-day, £15 and £20.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): There certainly is an improvement to-day. I find that out of 46 prosecutions, which have taken place within the time mentioned in the motion, in 20 cases the offender has been penalised only to the extent of £2 and under, and only two were penalised to the extent of over £12. I want to point out that if it is necessary to protect the lives of the people, particularly infants, it is necessary also that the courts shall assist the health officers in carrying out their duties. There is no doubt in my mind that it disheartens the officers of the department, when, after they have been abroad at four o'clock, five o'clock, and six o'clock in the morning, and proved that persons are defrauding the public, the court lets the offenders off very lightly. A small fine does not deter those persons who trade in the manner I have described, and this leniency is detrimental to those persons who are doing a fair trade, because it is impossible for them to compete with those who are selling water instead of milk. During the period covered by the motion, fines and costs to the amount of £243 5s. 6d. were imposed, and that

total shows clearly that something has been done by the Health Department to endeavour to maintain a pure supply of milk from the metropolitan area. I do not agree with the member for East Perth that the employer is always to blame. There is no doubt that in a number of instances the employee is at fault. I remember that a short time ago the officers took samples from three carts belonging to the same person; the owner had never been prosecuted; he had always been considered a man who dealt fairly with the public, yet it was found that whilst the milk in two carts was up to standard, that in the third cart was considerably below standard. That fact shows to my mind that the employee on the third cart had done something detrimental, not only to the public but also to his employer. I am satisfied with the action taken by the Health officers during the last 18 months. I know they have endeavoured to do their duty so far as the milk supply is concerned, and they have endeavoured to do their duty in connection with other frauds on the public also. Unfortunately, their efforts are blocked in that direction, and consequently they are disheartened to a certain extent. With regard to the other question raised by the hon. member, the inspection of liquors, several prosecutions have taken place during the past year. Inspections are continually carried out and fines and costs have been imposed to the amount of £200. That again shows that the officers of the department are alive, and that even in a bad trade an endeavour is made to see that the public are supplied with as pure an article as possible. The Government officers have also taken action in the matter of light-weight bread, and during the period mentioned no less than 44 prosecutions have taken place at the instance of the officers of the Health Department. Fines and costs amounting to £138 have been imposed, once again proving that the Government are doing something to ensure that those who buy bread receive the weight for which they pay. Then there have been a large number of prosecutions by the officers of the various local boards of health, but of those I have no account.

I believe that the officers of those local boards are endeavouring as far as they possibly can to see that the food supply is up to the standard that is required, and to do everything possible to protect the health of the public which is placed in their charge. There is no doubt that if a suggestion which has just been put before me is carried into effect, namely that we should make larger districts and have officers appointed entirely under the supervision of the Government, it might be possible to wipe out any parochialism, or any feeling that might arise in connection with the work of any inspector in a district controlled by a local authority. As the position now is, it is impossible for the small number of inspectors in the employ of the Health Department to carry out the whole of the work throughout the State, but many local boards could be combined, particularly in the closer settled districts, and if an inspector was then appointed under the control of the Government, we could do away with the large number of local inspectors now employed, and who, it is said—although I have denied it—do not carry out their duties in as efficient a manner as the Government officers do. I have no intention of opposing the motion, and I only hope that I may be able to obtain the information required before the close of the session. This is a large State and it is almost impossible to get the information in less than two or three months, and that is my reason for giving some particulars this evening in regard to the operations under the Health Department during the last 12 months.

Mr. THOMAS (Bunbury): I do not suppose there is an hon. member in the House who will raise any serious objection to the motion, but it seems to me that there is one objection, and that is that it does not go far enough. The fact of placing this return upon the Table can be of little use in itself. The debate that has taken place this evening may do some good by drawing public attention to this matter, but beyond that the laying of these papers on the Table can do very little. It is my opinion that the hon. member would have been doing the right thing if he had tabled a motion,

which would have given members the opportunity of expressing a desire to see steps taken to effectively deal with this matter. In my opinion there are few questions that can come before this House of more real importance to Western Australia than this. It is very often winked at and thought lightly of when we read in the Press that such and such an individual has been prosecuted for supplying milk below the legal standard, and when we talk about a man selling light-weight bread little notice is taken of the matter. There is no greater scoundrel in this community than the individual who, in order to enrich himself, sacrifices the lives of individuals, chiefly children, in this country. A man who is capable and guilty of such conduct is an unmitigated scoundrel, and there is only one punishment which can be effective and just, and that is to put him in a place where he cannot repeat the offence.

Mr. Underwood: Would you say the same in regard to the so-called curers of consumption?

Mr. THOMAS: That is another class of individual who should be punished, but when I tried to get a Bill through with that object in view the hon. member opposed it. There is too much sentiment and too much consideration extended to the class of individuals who to-day are trafficking in the sale of inferior milk and light-weight bread. As was suggested this afternoon, if one went into another individual's house and stole a piece of bread of a weight equal to the deficiency in some of the bread sold, one could be prosecuted and put into gaol for a reasonable time, but when a man sells bread which is not up to the required weight and is thereby actually thieving from the purchaser, his case is met by a very light fine. It is not much use talking about what should be done. The Government should take a hand in the matter at once. A measure as effective as possible should be passed providing a punishment to suit the crime, and instead of dealing in fines the second offence should be settled by imprisonment. The Honorary Minister, when speaking in regard to the milk supply, said the condition of things had very materially improved, and that out of

14 samples taken the other day, only three were really adulterated or below the standard. If the condition of affairs is very much improved to-day and 20 per cent. of the samples taken are still adulterated, what state of affairs must have prevailed in times gone by? How many valuable infant lives must have been lost to Western Australia by these scoundrels engaged in this traffic, and yet we hesitate year after year. Last session, or the one before, the same question was raised by the hon. member for East Perth—and I commend him for his earnestness and sincerity—we discussed then what should be done, but another year has elapsed and while many matters of far less importance have been dealt with, this question still remains as it was.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): We have been prosecuting offenders.

Mr. THOMAS: Yes. But the fines and penalties inflicted are not sufficient to in any way deter these individuals from carrying on their nefarious practices.

Mr. Lander: It is a premium to carry it on.

Mr. THOMAS: It is; they can easily pay the fines, and the offence is becoming so common that these men do not appear to lose any business through being prosecuted. The people learn that so-and-so has been fined—

Mr. HEITMANN: As a matter of fact it is no use changing your milkman.

Mr. THOMAS: No, because the other man is just as bad? If after a second offence, the individual capable of this conduct were put into gaol for a fairly lengthy period we would soon find that not only would the percentage be reduced to 20 per cent., but that this class of fraud would be eliminated altogether. With regard to the question of adulterated liquor, I do not know that this is of much importance compared with the other two questions. If a man wants a skinful of whisky and it happens to be a little adulterated, the probabilities are that it will deter him from indulging in the practice for a little longer than would otherwise be the case. The purer the product is made the more he might be encouraged

to indulge in it, believing that it is perfectly harmless and perhaps that it will even prove nutritious.

Mr. McDonald interjected.

Mr. THOMAS: The consumption of an undue quantity of spirituous liquor is not by any means a necessity. In reply to the interjection of the hon. member I might say that the flavour of one is not likely to entice anybody to over-indulge—I am referring to bread, but in the case of intoxicating liquor, the thing is so attractive, the flavour so enticing, and the effect so delightful, that I can quite understand that people are sometimes tempted to take more than is good for them.

Mr. Bolton: You have been there.

Mr. THOMAS: In reply to the hon. member, who has evidently been there, I have had some experience, more than the Honorary Minister, but with regard to the other two matters, I hold that they are of really vital importance, and I do not think that any excuse of pressure of business or of other measures coming before Parliament should be sufficient to account for the treatment of this subject being held over so long as it has been. I repeat that there is hardly any other question that can be dealt with by this Parliament of more real interest and more real importance to the present and future welfare of Western Australia than this one. Therefore, I say that in the matter of immediate legislation, it should have pride of place, and the sooner it is dealt with and the sooner an effective measure is brought forward to settle these individuals now and for all time, the better it will be for this State, and I trust the outcome of the genuine efforts of the member for East Perth, who deserves every possible credit for the attitude he has adopted, will be that the matter will be taken in hand by the Government at the present time, and that good results will follow.

Mr. HEITMANN (Cue): There is one phase of this question with which I wish to deal, and that is with regard to the milk supply. I congratulate the hon. member for East Perth (Mr. Lander) on again bringing it forward. In and out of season the hon. member has en-

deavoured to improve matters in this respect. For the last ten years in this Chamber hon. members have been heard almost every session making some effort to improve the milk supply, and now we have the statement of the Minister that as long as we have a host of inspectors it is possible to keep down the evil, and perhaps lessen it, but the moment we take off the inspectors these people carry on the very same practices again. One hon. member has stated that if the motion has no other effect than to direct the attention of the public to the question, possibly some good will be achieved. The unfortunate part is that the public themselves are ignorant of the consequences resulting from bad milk, and it is not for Parliament to wait until public opinion forces them, but to take the lead and train public opinion. We have heard complaints from hon. members, and from the Honorary Minister that they have not received the assistance of the police magistrates and the police courts generally, because the magistrates have no idea of the great danger arising from the supplying of impure and adulterated milk. The only way to overcome that particular fault is to lay down in the law the fines that shall be imposed for the first and second offences, and that there should be no fine for the third offence. The minimum penalty at the present time is very low, offenders are fined £1. and the amount is not increased with the number of offences. It should not be possible for a man to be convicted of these offences three times. The man who on a second occasion, is found guilty of a charge of this kind should not be allowed to hold a license. One phase of the question touched on by the Honorary Minister should direct the thoughts of hon. members to some other method of dealing with the supply of milk. It has been pointed out by the medical officers of the various hospitals in Perth, and particularly by the committee and medical officer in charge of the Children's Hospital, that the supply of pure milk from the Government dairy has meant the saving of many lives. It is a pity that medical people

will not advocate some means of prevention instead of cure. If they would only realise the widespread effects occasioned by impure milk, and act accordingly, there would be no necessity for perhaps two or three wards in the Children's Hospital, and it would not be very long before much of the sickness among children generally would be prevented. The doctors say "We find that immediately the children go from here cured from ailments brought about in many cases by impure milk and made worse by the supply of impure milk after the disease has attacked them, they go back to be supplied again with the same milk." It seems to me that instead of trying to patch up the little children and instead of stopping at supplying the hospitals with pure milk, an effort should be made to bring about an organisation to prevent milk from going to the people by any other way than through a central depot in the cities and as far as possible in the towns. The only method which has enabled authorities in other parts of the world to overcome the difficulty has been that of organised effort on the part of local bodies in the direction of seeing that all milk supplies pass through a central depot. In some of the States of America the authorities have gone to the extent of insisting that no milk shall be supplied unless it is in sealed bottles. That, according to the authorities on this question, is the ideal of the future. With the hon. member who moved the motion, I think no consideration should be shown to the individual who offends in the direction of supplying impure milk. We have the evidence of the medical profession all over the world that undoubtedly the vast majority of cases of tuberculosis, as well as many infantile troubles, are caused by impure milk, and I will assist the hon. member in every possible way. While I give the Honorary Minister credit for his efforts during the last 12 or 18 months and while at the same time, I give credit to the inspectors in Perth for their efforts, I must confess that at the present time there is room for much more to be done.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (Pilbara) : I have much pleasure in supporting the motion, more particularly in regard to the questions of light-weight bread and the bad whisky. These two articles, in my experience, are necessities; the milk is not. The hon. member who has moved the motion has embraced a very wide range, having mentioned three subjects which seem to affect in a triple sense many of us who are often travelling. For instance, we are apt to get bad whisky, bad milk, and on top of that, a light-weight sandwich. I want to call attention to the positive fact that if people do not care about milk and are afraid milk will kill them, they need not take it.

Mr. Lander: What are you going to do with the sick ones?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I want to say that my mother reared a family of nine, possibly nine as healthy Australians as could be found anywhere, and the only milk we had was our mother's milk; and when I hear this continual talk about loss of child life, and medical men bewailing the fact that so many lives are lost through the drinking of cow's milk, or goat's milk, or something of the sort, I am sure it would be a great advantage if they impressed on the mothers that if they wanted to be sure their babies were getting the best milk, they should give them their own. I believe this is a fact which is lost sight of by many who make brilliant speeches on medical questions, and particularly on the milk question. From the talk we hear we would be forced to the conclusion that milk is an absolute danger to the community, and it has always been a source of wonder to my mind that public men and medical men particularly have neglected the question of impressing upon mothers the necessity of giving their babies the milk which Nature provided for them. I get rather tired of listening and reading about milk. The hon. member for Cue (Mr. Heitmann) has just sprung a new system upon us. I think Mr. Connor lectured upon this subject also, and he told us it was necessary to wash the cow, and almost to shave the bull and wash the calf's feet, in case the milk

should kill someone, and the hon. member for Cue now comes along and considers the milk should be in sealed bottles. I am afraid there is a lot of extravagant language used on the subject of impure milk. I was reading Shakespeare or reciting Shakespeare the other day, and have come to the conclusion that all the penalties that "age, ache, penury, and imprisonment" can force upon us are as nothing to what we fear of milk.

Mr. TURVEY (Swan): I have a little more to say on the subject of milk than the hon. member for Pilbara had. I congratulate the hon. member for East Perth (Mr. Lander) on having moved this motion. I was pleased to hear to-night from the Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister) that though tests had been taken at the dairy farms of this State there was no necessity for prosecution in that quarter for adulteration of the milk supply. I have all along held that a stigma was cast upon the dairy farmers of Western Australia in the past through the fact that these inspections had not taken place at the dairies as should have been the case. I want to say that the dairy farmers of Western Australia, or at least those of them with whom I am in contact, are just as desirous of establishing in Western Australia a pure milk supply as any member of this House; and I will go further and say that they have asked for a central depot to be established in the city from which the whole of their milk supply might be sent.

Mr. Lander: Why do they ask for that?

Mr. TURVEY: Because I think they realised they could not get a fair deal under the system obtaining in the past. These dairy farmers asked that tests might be taken on the dairy farm itself, and, further, at a central depot. It might not be known to some members of this House that the dairy farmers of the Metropolitan-Suburban district, I speak now particularly of the Armadale, Kelm-scott, and Maddington districts, have formed a co-operative society with a depot in the city, to which they send their supplies; and to those people of the metropolitan area who are desirous of securing milk that

is up to the standard required by the Health Department, I would say they should get their milk supply from the depôt which the dairy farmers have established in the city. They have, I believe, their own milk carts doing the rounds of the city now, and, so far as I am given to understand, not a single prosecution has taken place as the result of tests of samples of milk taken from the carts of the co-operative dairying company. They have gone further, and have asked that, if need be, the whole of their supply shall be put under Government inspection. With reference to vendors of milk in the city, the list furnished to the House to-night by the Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister) has shown conclusively that there must be some adulteration taking place even to-day. Notwithstanding that it is decreasing, still we have evidence that adulteration is taking place even to-day, and if the Government could see their way to render a little more assistance—I appreciate the fact that they have already assisted the dairy farmers—it would not be long before the whole of the metropolitan area could be absolutely assured of a milk supply of the best standard, in fact the tests that have been taken on the dairy farms of Western Australia have shown that in each case the standard of milk was considerably above the standard adopted for the whole of the Commonwealth. That being so, Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is necessary to bring forward any evidence whatever that, so far as the milk supply is concerned, the dairy farmers themselves are not only not to blame, but they are absolutely desirous of rendering every assistance to the Government in this respect, and I am glad indeed to have heard from the Honorary Minister to-night that in every instance the tests that were made have shown that the milk supplied was not only up to standard, but above it. I congratulate the hon. member for East (Mr. Lander) again on the persistence he has shown, not only since he entered the House, but many years before he entered the House the hon. member was one who stood out in Western Australia as an apostle in his desire

to secure for the people a pure milk supply. Indeed, for many years he fought almost single-handed against the greatest of opposition. To-day I am pleased to know that he is gaining ground, and that the public are being educated up to the absolute necessity, in the interests not only of the child life of the State, but in the interests of the general health of this State, for securing a pure milk supply. So far as the other matters referred to in the hon. member's motion are concerned, I think these are questions to which the officers of the department could well give a little further attention. Not only in connection with bread, but in connection with other necessities of life, I think a more close supervision and inspection would be to the general betterment of the people of Western Australia. So far as alcoholic liquors are concerned, I believe the inspectors at the present time are using every effort to prevent the sale of impure and adulterated liquors, and I think, so far as the hotels are concerned throughout the State, speaking generally, that they will compare favourably with hotels in any other part of the Commonwealth. I am not only referring to the buildings and the general standard of the hotels, but also to the quality of the liquor that is supplied. I am not sneaking now of some of the way-back shons, where I have heard hon. members refer to pinkey and blackboy whisky being sold; but generally I think our hotels in this State and the quality of the liquor sold in them will compare more than favourably with other parts of the Commonwealth.

Mr. George: That does not say much for the other places.

Mr. FOLEY (Mount Leonora): In speaking in support of the motion I do not intend to say much on the question of adulterated milk, but I want to refer to the second on the list, the sale of impure and adulterated liquors. I have never taken these on myself, and as I do not know much about them I ought to make a pretty good speech. I want to bring before the House the fact that in many districts throughout Australia generally the impure liquor that is sold in many

instances is doing the harm that the good liquor sold by legitimate traders is being discredited for. If the legitimate traders in the liquor trade are given a fair opportunity through the suppression of the illegal sale of intoxicants, I think it will go a long way towards bringing about the desired effect from the standpoint of my friend the hon. member for East Perth, and if the Government can see their way to bring in the legislation foreshadowed in the Governor's speech, namely, the suppression of sly grogeries, they will do a great deal more with such a measure than could be done if we talked from now until doomsday, and did nothing but talk.

Mr. LANDER (in reply): I am very pleased to see the way in which this subject has been received. I was not surprised at the hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister) saying that he was very satisfied with the officers. No doubt he is very satisfied, and so am I to a certain degree, but I say that these officers have not gone far enough; I say the Honorary Minister has not gone far enough. I might tell the Honorary Minister that if I had not such implicit confidence in him I would have gone a bit further and moved for the appointment of a Royal Commission, but I have such confidence in the Honorary Minister that I think if we support and back him up he will go a lot further. He has had a lot of opposition to contend with. It was a mistake to shift the officers from the Central Board of Health to the Stock Department. It would pay this Government to give the Chief Inspector of Stock his full money for a year and say to him, "Look here, old man, you keep away from the office; don't come near the office, we do not want you to interfere with the inspection of stock."

Mr. George: Why not give him a pension for life?

Mr. LANDER: It would pay to do that, if they could not deal with him in any other way. Nearly every man who has come here—and many of them have been men of experience—and who has attempted to take up this question, has practically been driven out of the country.

Whatever qualified man who has come to this country and has attempted to interest himself in this matter, has never received the slightest encouragement from the Stock Department. One of the ablest men we know of, who came here and established himself in the Avon district—I refer to Mr. Asherton Smith—got no encouragement whatever, and he was a man who was willing to devote his time to this most important question. This gentleman gave great satisfaction in the district where he was practising, but his help was not encouraged. The Press of the State are not doing as much as they ought to do. If a murder takes place, we see the Press devoting columns to it, and we see the public rushing after them, but we do not see the Press writing strongly on this milk question. No. They are too cowardly and mean, too small and paltry. What we want in Western Australia is a Press that will speak against things of this description, against the murdering of children and the sending of our fellow men into the asylum through having taken cronk drink. That is the kind of Press we want, and not the Press that is afraid to write because of the little advertisement that may be hanging to it. When we come to a small thing like the "Scaddan gra" as they call it, they will give it three or four columns, and they will do the same if Labour members make mistakes. But have they taken up the cudgels against child murder? No. They have lain dormant. They might have something to say against the member for East Perth, but I can assure them, Mr. Speaker, that what the Press say about me will be like pouring water on a duck's back. Whenever there is a question like this at stake I hope we will always try and force the Press and others to do their duty.

Mr. George: They will do it now.

Mr. LANDER: With reference to the Royal Commission which I was going to suggest should be appointed, I do not think it is necessary now to ask the Government to proceed on those lines, because of the action the Honorary Minister has taken. I am glad he has gone as far as he has told us, and now that he sees he

has the support of the House, I hope he will go even further and see that proper inspection is made by the health officers. In the Health Department he has some of the ablest and most fearless men we can find, without the necessity to apply the whip to them. But the heart and the spirit of these officers has been broken by the contemptible actions taken by Ministers in the past in the way of preventing them doing their duty. We find that the files are thick with reports on filthy dairies, and yet they were not able to take action. Now, however, they have a free hand, and I hope that close inspections will be made from the middle of December to the middle of February. If this is done, many convictions will be obtained. With these few remarks, I will let the matter go for a time.

Question put and passed.

BILL—LEGAL PRACTITIONERS' ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

Resumed from the 10th September; Mr. Holman in the Chair; Mr. Hudson in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported on a new clause moved by Mr. Dwyer to amend Section 14 of the principal Act—“(a), by inserting after the words ‘years,’ at the end of subclause (e), the word ‘or’; (b), by adding a paragraph as follows:—(f), Being a barrister or solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand—(i.), has for a period of not less than three years prior to admission to practice in New Zealand been engaged in the office of a barrister or solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand exclusively in acquiring a practical knowledge of law; and (ii.). has for a period of not less than five years at any time subsequent to his admission to practice in New Zealand been engaged in Western Australia as a law clerk in the office of a practitioner of the Supreme Court of Western Australia; and (iii.), has obtained from the Barrister’s Board (whose decision shall be final) a certificate to the effect that he is a fit

and proper person to be admitted a practitioner.”

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It was understood that progress was reported at the previous sitting to give the leader of the Opposition an opportunity of consulting his legal friends outside.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I thought you wanted time to consider the new clause.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It was his hope that the amendment would be rejected, because it must be evident to everyone that this was letting men into the profession by side doors, one at a time, as it were. Neither the Bill itself, nor the proposed new clause did anything like adequate justice to those who felt they had just cause for complaint by the position they were now in. If we passed the Bill and added the proposed clause, we would leave out, perhaps, a large number of deserving cases, that was, deserving as viewed from the standpoint of those who were seeking admission under the measure as it was before members. Without this Bill and without the proposed clause, there were means of getting into the profession open to all youths of the country or to all who came here with proper qualifications, and open to those who did not desire to take the ordinary avenues of admission, but who, by virtue of having served a number of years as managing clerks, and passing the final examination, sought to become members of the profession in that way.

Mr. George: What would you do with men from the Old Country?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Men with proper qualifications were entitled to admission, and after they had been here for six months there was no difficulty.

Mr. George: In the case of a managing clerk?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The managing clerk would have to come here and serve the requisite number of years. The period was five years.

Mr. Dwyer: A man can be admitted in England after serving a certain number of years as a managing clerk.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: That was so. He could pass his examination there, become admitted and come to this

State, and all he would have to do was to qualify by residing here for six months. If he failed to be admitted in England, he would have to be a managing clerk in this State for the period specified and then pass the final examination.

Mr. Thomas: Why should not the years spent in England as a managing clerk count?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The hon. member would recognise that in this State we wanted some privileges, more especially as we had our own laws, our own procedure and our own methods of administering the law here. Therefore, we took it that a man was better qualified to enter into the profession after having served five years as a managing clerk in the State than the man who perhaps had had some years of experience, say, in England.

Mr. Thomas: Some allowance should be made for the man who has served in England for some years as managing clerk.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Some allowance was made. Before a man could become a managing clerk, he must have had previous experience in a legal office, and if a man came to this country already qualified as a managing clerk, he could probably get an engagement with a legal firm and then he would only have the requisite number of years to serve before taking his final examination. It was not very long since managing clerks could not obtain admission to the profession unless they were content to go back into articles and pass the preliminary, intermediary and final examinations. The privilege to managing clerks existing at the present time was granted in our State not many years ago. Now we could see where we going. We admitted managing clerks from our own State or any part of the world under the conditions I have referred to.

Mr. Thomas: We are liberalising the profession.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It was questionable whether that was so. The hon. member was a man of culture and education and he must know that the

true spirit of liberalisation in the sense in which he used the term, embraced a wide knowledge, a keen understanding and a generous nature, and these things were not obtained from inexperience. If we desired to have the profession liberalised, we must have in it men of learning and understanding, men of attainments and of large local knowledge. It was not liberalising the profession to introduce every newcomer; if the profession was worth anything at all there must be some qualifications, some training, some knowledge of those principles which, in their summary, constituted what we called law, and there must be some training in the application of those principles. To assume that anyone without necessary study and experience could enter the law was to limit the profession exceedingly. Certain standards had been fixed, and those standards must be attained before a person could be held qualified to give legal advice and conduct legal actions.

Mr. Thomas: And construct a good bill of costs.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: If inclined to retort, how easy it would be to retort upon the chemists. The lawyer's bill of costs was subject to the review of the taxing master, and if found cheating in that respect the lawyer could not only be mulct in a penalty, but if the offense were egregious he could be struck off the rolls.

Mr. Underwood: It would have to be quite egregious.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The hon. member might know all about classics, but he certainly did not know much about this subject. If a lawyer were found cheating at all he was liable to be struck off the roll. That was the position in regard to the lawyer, and it might not be inadvisable to make the same rule in regard to chemists and doctors. However, the point was that it would be a dangerous innovation to make special doors of entrance into the profession for particular cases. It would be unfair to make laws for John Smith, while leaving out in the cold William Brown and James Jones, whose cases

were just as much deserving of consideration.

Mr. George : Is this a one-man Bill?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL : It was, and the member for Perth (Mr. Dwyer) was endeavouring to make it a two-man Bill. It was to be hoped the Committee would not accept the proposition. If it could be shown that it was desirable to broaden the profession without seeking to give any individual an advantage over his fellows, then by all means bring in a general measure for the purpose, but do not, by stealth, as it were, seek to introduce particular legislation of this kind.

Mr. UNDERWOOD : The amendment was deserving of support. We should liberalise the Act, if only in the smallest possible way. The legal profession was too much of a close corporation, and every opportunity should be taken to break down close corporations.

Mr. George : All close corporations ?

Mr. UNDERWOOD : Yes, any that prevented a man joining with a view to getting his own living. He could not understand why the Attorney General was opposing this. The following extract from a speech which the hon. member had made in New South Wales some time ago was of interest at this juncture. On that occasion the hon. member said—

How absurd it is to talk of the new Government as a democratic Government. Why there are four lawyers in it, men who live in the rustic past, who are representatives of the worst protective system the world has ever known. What a happy family they must be with four lawyers in the Government. If there is one thing more deleterious than another to democracy, one thing which has stood in the way of the growth of the democratic feeling more than another, it is the superabundance of lawyers in every legislature. They stand on the track of reform. You cannot propose any reform without a lawyer has something to say against it. They sit on the fence and bid you back when you want to open the gate and get further ahead. They

are like the advisers of Canute, who took him down to the rising sea and told him to sit there in his chair and to command the tide to cease to flow. They always say "backward" to the great uprising stream of thought. They are ever saying to mankind's highest ideals "Whoa! the old state of things was good enough for our fathers, and it is good enough for us." They live upon what has been bequeathed to them in the shape of parchment and redtapeism. They have four of these glorious representatives of the middle ages in the present Government, and still they call themselves a democratic Government. A democratic Government with Sir Henry Parkes at the head of it!

It was a pity that the Attorney General had gone back on the fine liberal sentiments expressed by him a quarter of a century ago.

The Attorney General: Those were New South Wales lawyers.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: One would have thought by the hon. member's attitude towards the Bill that they had been New Zealand lawyers. He desired to say a word or two in regard to lawyers and their honour and honesty. There were lawyers who, as men, were as honourable and honest as any other men. But unfortunately the system allowed them to do things which no other man was allowed to do. For instance, a lawyer could put in the most extortionate bill ever heard of, and could have that bill cut down by 100 per cent. by the taxing master, and it was not thought anything dishonest.

Mr. George: If it was cut down 100 per cent. he would have nothing left.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: It might be more strictly accurate to say cut down by 50 per cent., but he was of opinion that if the bill were cut down 100 per cent. the lawyer would still be well paid. There were innumerable instances of lawyers putting in bills of costs which had been cut down by one-half. He remembered the case of the timber combine against Messrs. Holman, Jones, and Ryan. In that instance Mr. M. L. Moss had put in a bill for £480, and it was cut down to

£320. If he remembered correctly, Sir Walter James' bill in connection with the Buzzacott appeal case had been cut down by something between £100 and £200. Then there had been the case, the other day, in which Mr. R. S. Haynes had put in a bill for 500 guineas, and the Prime Minister had told his officers to pay whatever counsel was entitled to, and those officers had cut the bill down to 250 guineas. If a grocer, a milkman, a publican, or even a member of Parliament, was to put in bills of this description, with the idea that he might get paid if the man he was billing did not know sufficient, he would be put down as attempting to do something dishonest. Yet we found that the people who were being trained to be our judges of the future, to protect us against dishonesty of every description, had this rule in their close corporation that they could put in any bill they liked, and could subsequently reduce it if necessary. Moreover, there was in this profession the peculiar rule that a lawyer could put in what costs he liked. Lawyers had long perusals and short perusals, long refreshers and short refreshers, and short and long consultations. They had a fee for receiving a telegram, another for opening it, a third for perusing it, a fourth for giving it consideration, and a fifth for replying to it. Those were some of the costs that were allowed in a lawyer's bill, and having all that scope he yet charged 100 per cent. beyond what he could get legally. Apart from that, there was this peculiar position, that after employing a lawyer, who claimed enormously exaggerated costs, one had to employ another lawyer to cut him down. Then there was yet another lawyer called the taxing master, who was supposed to hand out justice to the poor unfortunate layman. Well might the Attorney General a quarter of a century ago say they were a block to progress and liken them to those who had advised old Canute to try to stop the rising tide of the ocean.

Mr. GEORGE : The member for Pilbara had surpassed himself in his humorous remarks, but they had no application to the matter before the Com-

mittee. If the amendment was meant to benefit one man, and it was to give him justice that was no reason why it should be cast out, but having opened the door for one particular individual entrance was made easier for others. This afternoon he had met a man desirous of entering into practice in this State. That person had 20 years' experience in the old country, ten years as a managing clerk, but he had not passed his examinations before coming to this State; he felt, however, that if this Bill could be made to suit one particular case, it could be made to apply to his case also. Then, if it was made to apply to that case, there would probably be a dozen more persons who thought that their cases might equally be treated. This seemed a matter which only legal experts could deal with, and he was inclined to agree with the Attorney General.

Mr. HUDSON : All that was now under discussion was the amendment proposed by the member for Perth. The clauses of the Bill had already been passed. He was still of opinion that by adding something to the qualifications of a practitioner from New Zealand, the Committee would be discriminating between New Zealand and the States of the Commonwealth. At the present time there was no special embargo on practitioners from New Zealand. It was admitted that the amendment was a one-man proposition. The Attorney General had made a great deal of the point that the Bill also was a one-man proposition. That was not so; the Bill applied to a class. There were four judges in the State, and some day there might be five, and there probably would be many associates wishing to practice. He opposed the amendment.

Mr. TAYLOR : The amendment was opening the door for some particular individual to be admitted to the profession, but the Bill also showed on the face of it that it had some particular person in view. If Parliament passed a Bill to assist one individual, and other individuals felt that their cases could be met in the same measure, they were

justly entitled to take advantage of the proposed legislation during its passage through Parliament. There was no doubt that there were other people in the State who desired to come within the scope of this measure.

Mr. Hudson : The measure has been passed and accepted by the House.

Mr. TAYLOR : The measure had been accepted without too close a scrutiny by the House. He had been satisfied with the Bill on the second reading, but in view of the statement since made as to the effect of the Bill, he thought the Committee would be doing the proper thing if they rejected the measure altogether. He looked forward with great hope to defeating it on the third reading. Parliament should not be considering legislation for the benefit of one or two individuals who had been successful in catching the ear of a member. If there was any necessity for a Bill to throw open the doors of the legal profession, he would support it; let anyone who chose put up his shingle and practice, and let there be open competition. Members talked of trades unions and preference to unionists, but the legal profession was a narrow protected industry. There was nothing protected to the same extent as this profession.

Mr. Green : The Bill widens it.

Mr. TAYLOR : The Bill widened the profession for one individual, and if the amendment was accepted the profession would be widened for two. He hoped the Committee would reject not only the amendment, but the whole measure.

Mr. McDONALD : How did the member for Mount Margaret reconcile his statement that the legal profession was a narrow protected industry with his opposition to the amendment. As a matter of fact, until a few years ago, Victorian lawyers had laboured under the same disabilities as people from New Zealand did at the present time, and only after a lot of work, both in this State and in the other States, had those disabilities been removed. The terms under which a man was admitted to practice law in Western Australia were that he should be articled to a reputable firm of lawyers for a term of five years,

and pass certain examinations. The amendment merely asked that a person, being a barrister or solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, who for a period of not less than three years prior to his admission to practice in New Zealand, had been engaged in the office of a solicitor exclusively in acquiring a practical knowledge of the law, and who for five years subsequent to his admission to practice in New Zealand had been engaged as a law clerk in this State, should be admitted. Probably the standard of examination in New Zealand was just as high as that set for law students in this State. On that account we could presuppose equal knowledge in the students.

Mr. Taylor : It is not so.

Mr. McDONALD : The Dominion was equally as advanced as Western Australia, and if it was good enough for New Zealand it was good enough for Western Australia. Why should we not be sufficiently liberal to admit those who were on equal terms? The member for Perth sought to protect present day practitioners by asking that anyone, subsequently to practising in New Zealand, should serve five years in this State as a law clerk. The amendment would receive his support.

Hon. FRANK WILSON : At the previous sitting when the amendment was discussed, he had asked that progress should be reported in order that fuller consideration might be given to the proposal. Members of the legal profession had then been unable to come to an agreement on such a vital question, and it was hardly to be wondered that lay members of the Chamber had some difficulty in deciding how to vote. The legal profession ought to be safeguarded, not so much in the interests of its members, as in the interests of the community. Solicitors were trusted just as doctors were, and it was necessary to have honourable, capable men. With the Attorney General, he thought it undesirable to legislate for individual cases. Perhaps the individuals concerned might be all that was desirable, and might prove an acquisition to the profession. Nevertheless it would be dangerous to adopt a practice of legislating for indi-

viduals. Such men ought to be able to enter the profession by the usual means, namely, serving their articles and passing their examination. The member for Perth had said that men could not always undertake the examination after many years of their life were past. Many persons had done so, and the Attorney General was a living example of one who when well on in life had served his articles, passed the necessary examination, and had been admitted to the profession which he adorned to-day. The Attorney General and others like him, who had proved their capability to worthily hold the position, had a claim to consideration, even the moderate consideration of not allowing others who had not been equally as serious in their endeavours to fulfil the requirements laid down to enter the profession. If we threw the door open to all comers, perhaps hon. members might not object very strenuously, but the public would require more serious and deliberate consideration. It was a question of protecting the public and making members of the profession prove their efficiency before they could collect fees for their advice. Notwithstanding that in this profession, as in all others, complaints could be laid at the door of solicitors, notwithstanding illustrations of excessive charges and notwithstanding numerous instances where those admitted had acted dishonestly, he would deem it his duty to oppose the amendment, and if the Attorney General called for a division on the third reading he would vote against the Bill.

Mr. DWYER: In justice to himself, he desired to correct some impressions held by hon. members. It had been said that the public required to be protected. He challenged anyone to say that the public would not be fully and amply protected under the amendment. A man must be admitted to practise as a barrister in New Zealand, he must have had certain experience in New Zealand corresponding to the service of articles, he must spend five years in the office of a practitioner in this State, and he must receive a certificate from the Barristers' Board that he was a fit and proper person to be admitted to the profession. Therefore there could

be no danger to the public or the profession. The amendment was intended to meet an individual case, though it was put in such a form that anyone else who filled the same requirements could be admitted in the same way, and thus it would have a general application. Members of the profession had come in for a good deal of abuse at the hands of the member for Pilbara who, for the sake of being humorous was never averse to stretching his imagination to any extent, and, unfortunately for his accuracy, his imagination acted as a sort of covering for the small amount of knowledge he possessed. Any member of the profession who looked to his reputation was careful that his charges were reasonable in order to ensure a continuance of his clients' support and to keep his name and fame fair before the public.

Mr. HEITMANN: What about Haynes's £500?

Mr. DWYER: The member for Pilbara referred to two cases, Buzacott's appeal and the timber workers' case, in which two bills of costs were taxed. In these cases, the bills of costs would be submitted knowing that they would be cut up as much as possible by the opposing solicitor. The taxing master acted as a sort of arbitrator, and fixed the amount, and there was an appeal from his decision to a judge so that the public were amply protected. He had no sympathy with any member of the profession who made exorbitant charges, and though there were black sheep in every fold, considering the ancient fame and honour and glory of this profession, of which he (Mr. Dwyer) had the honour to be a humble member, it was scarcely fair that men should come forward, even hon. members of this Chamber, to besmirch that fame and glory. There had never been a movement for the amelioration of the people, never any legislation introduced having for its aim the uplifting of the masses, and the widening of the humanitarian spirit, at any rate in Great Britain, that had not for its advocates and upholders some members of the much-decried legal profession.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: In rising again his desire was to emphasise the

fact that, notwithstanding the statements made in all good faith by the hon. member for Yilgarn (Mr. Hudson) that the measure was one giving relief to a class, it was in fact intended for, and aimed at granting relief to one particular individual now an associate in the Supreme Court.

Mr. Hudson: If you make a disclosure of that kind, would it not be as well to disclose the source of your information?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: There was no reason which he knew of why he should, and he did not know why the hon. member should insinuate there was any necessity for it. There was no necessity to disclose the name, but there was one particular individual who had approached not only the hon. member for Yilgarn but other members to obtain a Bill, and this measure was the result; and the hon. member for Perth had been approached by his friend, who was suffering in some particular manner by virtue of his being a New Zealand barrister, New Zealand not having reciprocity with this State, owing precisely to the fact that the standard of admission in New Zealand was not the standard in the States of the Commonwealth, and therefore reciprocity between Western Australia and New Zealand did not exist. It was part of the protection of our privileges in that respect that he (the Attorney General) desired this clause should now be defeated, because if it went in we might lose reciprocity; the standing of a Western Australian barrister or solicitor might be lowered in future.

Mr. S. Stubbs: That is a serious matter.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It was to some extent a serious matter; if he had to leave Western Australia and go to some other part of the British Dominions, he would not want to make any sacrifice of what he had gained in order to obtain admission into the profession. Perhaps he ought to say just one word in reference to the speech made by the hon. member for Pilbara. He (the Attorney General) had no idea that so many years ago he was capable of putting his thoughts into such epigrammatic language.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Chickens have a nasty habit of coming home to roost.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It was perfectly explicable. It was a speech he had forgotten, but at the time he was talking of Sir Henry Parkes and his four lawyers whom he (the Attorney General) knew personally, and therefore he knew the calibre of their minds and the phase of lawyerism which they represented; for the legal profession was one that contained all sections of humanity within its ranks. The most conservative could obtain its shelter and find clients, and within its ranks, too, the most liberal minded could find a place and also obtain clients.

Mr. Heitmann: I think you spoke of the profession and not of individual members.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It was of both, and he knew of those representatives of it. If he was absolutely mistaken, then it was because he was in the position of all the hon. members who had spoken against the legal profession to-night; he had not entered through the vestibule, he had not gone through the ordeal, he had not tasted of its waters, he had not sounded its depths, or climbed its altitudes. At the time he was absolutely standing outside; it was a speech of his boyhood. Twenty-four years was so long ago that he had had time to be born again. He could quite understand the attitude of the hon. member for Mount Margaret (Mr. Taylor) and the hon. member for Gascoyne (Mr. McDonald). He had been precisely there; he had always in his youth looked upon the legal profession as a close corporation which stood as a menace to the advancement of humanity. That was natural, and it was remarkable that always throughout history it had been so. In the peasants' rebellion the first thing they attacked was the lawyers, the first place they burnt down was the Temple, and the first books they burnt were the legal books, deeds, and parchments. Similarly, in the time of the Cromwellian revolution it was the lawyers who were abused and the lawyers who were chased and hunted.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): You have always been bad.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: We had always been accused by those who never understood us. Now the profession of the law was called a close corporation. There were, however, some men sitting behind him and around him who had belonged to some particular trade. Take the case of an engine-driver. What a farce it would be to allow him (the Attorney General) to take a position on a locomotive and drive the express to Kalgoorlie. Forsooth, they would not allow him to take charge of that engine, and he would say, "You are a close corporation."

Mr. Taylor: You would have human life in danger on the train.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: We had human life in danger through bad lawyers; many a man had been hanged through having a bad lawyer. There was not one phase of human life but the law entered into it. One could not be properly registered as to his birth, but the law came in. Even before one was born legality stepped in, because if one was born of one woman and not of another, one's whole rights to property were involved, and so, from one's cradle to boyhood, from boyhood to manhood, right through one's life the law followed one at every step, and every misstep injured one's property or one's liberty and sometimes ruined one's life.

Mr. Taylor: Can you blame us then if we have a down on the law?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: A down on it? What did the hon. member mean? Here was a maker of the law, here was one who stood in the position of a member of the highest court in the land, a court that was above others and dictated to other courts, a tribunal where all human rights and all human interests were considered; here was one who was a law-maker, who had helped to make statute after statute, or had helped to spoil statute after statute; here was one capable of sneering at the law when his whole lifetime's interest was involved in the making of laws. He (the Attorney General) was astonished that one should have so little knowledge, so little sense of his own responsibility as to deride the law, which he lived by making, and sneered

at its interpretation, which the hon. member by his conduct had rendered necessary.

Mr. Taylor: It is not the law, but the devil's brigade we are up against.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The devil's brigade was better than imps of ignorance. It was easy to sneer at the devil's brigade, but when people were in trouble they always came for assistance to the devil's brigade.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): There is justice and there is law.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The law was as much justice as this House could make it. If we did not make our law justice, whose fault was it? Lawyers might divert it, but lawyers had to sometimes show the absurdity of the law, and lack of justice through bad drafting, and the tinkering with good laws that took place here in this Chamber.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): Half of it is done by lawyers, what about that?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The lawyer carried out the wish or will of the one who desired the measure drafted, but when the measure came before this House, how often it occurred that in passing through Committee and passing through other phases, and through the two Houses, it got so utterly altered—

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was going outside the amendment.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It had been necessary for him to answer an interjection making an imputation against the legal profession, it being one of the arguments that we should widen the profession and admit those who were not qualified, and he was showing the profession was not the narrow, mean, and contemptible thing some hon. members would have it believed. He would not pursue the argument that the law-makers were here in this Chamber, and sometimes did their work so badly that law interpreters were absolutely requisite.

Mr. Heitmann: Laws are most complex when drawn up by lawyers themselves.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: No they were not. We had good lawyers and bad lawyers, just as we had good doctors and bad doctors, and good engine-drivers and

bad engine-drivers. Although it was true that at times we might find members of the profession who were despicable, just as they might be found in other ranks and walks of life, he could not blind his eyes to the fact that members of the legal profession had, notwithstanding the things he had said in his youth, more to do with the uplifting of the European world than any other body of men. The great leaders of the French Revolution were lawyers, the great embodiment of that Revolution, Robespierre himself, was a lawyer.

The CHAIRMAN: The Attorney General was not confining himself to the question of the amendment.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It had been said by members that the profession was narrow, illiberal, dark and gloomy, and closed as well, and with the permission of the Chairman and the indulgence of the Committee he would like to introduce a little light. Strictly speaking, he was aware that he was out of bounds, but in view of the arguments which had been used the Committee might allow him a little latitude, just to show that great men and great leaders were lawyers. Mirabeau was himself a lawyer, Danton was a lawyer—

Mr. Taylor: Were they alive when you made that speech in New South Wales?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: No, they were as dead as the hon. member's intelligence. Coming to ourselves, should we forget the debt that was due to the great Robespierre, or should we forget what we owed to Sir Walter Scott, or to Lord Macaulay, or should the human race ever forget its gratitude to the great Abraham Lincoln. All these men were lawyers. The legal profession was compatible with the development and the unfoldment of the highest pages of humanity. Therefore, he need say no more on that, though if it were his theme he could largely dilate upon it. His point again was that we must preserve this profession for the sake of the public. As we would not allow the surgeon to hack us unless he had his qualifications, as we would not permit the physician to pre-

scribe medicine for us unless he had his qualifications—

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): We allow quacks to do that.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: We did not, and just as we did not allow people to speak upon a theme in regard to which they had no qualifications, or did not make any previous preparation, so we ought to preserve the public, in regard to the interpretation of our laws and in the application of them, from the quacks of the community, who would make the ranks of the profession so that there would be no room for good men in it.

Mr. Dwyer: You do not mean to infer that this amendment has reference to quacks.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Not in the least. Both the men in question were men to whom he would be only too willing to give a helping hand, but he wished to repeat that at the present time they had a chance of entering the profession if they took the course which was open to them.

Mr. S. Stubbs: Just as you did.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: And as others had done. These men could get there if they went to the trouble, and it was unfair to those who were making the sacrifice, and who were compelled to make sacrifices, to have a side door open for some and not for others. Above all, there should be fair play to the public, who required some security as to the qualifications of all who entered the profession, and fair play to ourselves who were not playing with legislation but were dealing with it seriously and on broad lines. On those grounds we should reject both the measure and the amendment.

Mr. McDONALD: There seemed to be a danger of the amendment being jeopardised by want of information on the subject, and the Bill itself appeared to be threatened on the third reading. When the amendment was being moved by the member for Perth he drew attention to the fact that the barristers of New Zealand had to pass in various subjects, amongst them, jurisprudence, constitutional history, Roman law, inter-

national law and conflict of laws, English law, contracts and torts, real and personal property, evidence, criminal code, and the practice and procedure of the court. He did not know exactly what subjects were demanded by the Barristers' Board in this State, but he did not see that they could go much further than that, and a man with that knowledge guaranteed by examination, added to the fact that he must serve five years in an office in Western Australia before being admitted, had, he maintained, done more than he should be asked to do. The fact that there was no reciprocity with New Zealand was no reason for withholding the concession. The best thing to guarantee reciprocity was to grant the concession, and notwithstanding the remarks of the Attorney General and the leader of the Opposition he ventured to hope that the Committee would pass the amendment and agree to the third reading of the Bill.

New clause put and negatived.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

BILL—HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 10th September.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): The question which it is proposed to deal with in the Bill introduced by the member for Cue (Mr. Heitmann) is one which has engaged the attention of the officers in charge of the Health Department, and it appears to me that there is ample provision in the existing Health Act to deal with what the hon. member desires.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Has this Bill been recommended by the Health Department?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): The Principal Medical Officer informed me that he had no objection to the passing of this Bill, but he also stated that he has the power under the

existing Health Act to make regulations embodying everything that the Bill contains. As a matter of fact, there are already under consideration regulations which require to be submitted for the approval of the Governor in Council, providing for the prevention of the spreading of tuberculosis in the State, and there have also been prepared draft regulations to prevent expectorating in public places, in factories, and in public vehicles, except into a receptacle specially provided for the purpose. That regulation has been submitted for approval also. I have discussed this matter on more than one occasion with the officers of the Health Department, and while we realise that the spitting habit is a dirty one, and is one that is likely to spread disease, at the same time, it is thought that there is a possibility of laws of this kind being violated by being carried too far. I am one of those who think that it is almost an impossibility to impose laws or regulations which we are almost sure will be violated daily: My idea was that in the first place we might provide that the regulations should apply to those persons suffering from infectious diseases, and I suggested to the Principal Medical Officer that in the case of persons who could not afford to purchase receptacles in which to expectorate the Government might provide them free of charge, and I also suggested that to those persons who could afford to pay, these receptacles might be supplied at cost price. This is a matter which he has under consideration, and which he has discussed on more than one occasion with the late medical officer of the Perth Public Hospital.

Hon. Frank Wilson: You will have to provide for the cleansing of the receptacles.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): We would have to rely principally on the persons using them. Of course if a person empties those receptacles in a public thoroughfare it will be liable to lead to a greater danger than the actual spitting in public places. I approve of the laudable object which the member for Cue (Mr. Heitmann) has in view for

we must all realise the danger that exists and the beneficial results that would accrue if we could induce all persons to refrain from spitting on public thoroughfares. It is a step we should take, not by law, but rather by persuasion and education. I am afraid if we embody this in an Act of Parliament we will be for some considerable time continually in the law courts for the purpose of enforcing this law. I would much prefer that the present Health Act be given a trial, and that by regulation we try to regulate the evil gradually with a view to carrying into effect the complete stoppage of spitting on public thoroughfares. I agree with the hon. member that the medical profession has pointed out times without number the danger of expectorating on public thoroughfares. If the Bill had no other effect, it would have the effect of educating the people to the danger they run by expectorating in public places. It is also true that we rarely see a woman spit in a public thoroughfare, and if women can avoid spitting in public places, why cannot men do the same? If the hon. member will leave the matter as it stands to-day, we will try to make regulations to educate the public with a view to preventing spitting in public thoroughfares.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. T. H. Bath): In regard to the measure introduced by the member for Cue (Mr. Heitmann) I want to say candidly I do not think it is advisable to pass it into law, not because I do not realise the necessity for taking some steps to prevent indiscriminate expectoration, which I am convinced is a serious cause of the spread of disease, but rather because I think that the object which he seeks to accomplish can be gained in a simpler and more effective fashion. This is one of those points where the prescription of the law imposing a penalty is likely to prevent that public education on this matter which should be secured by other means. I am satisfied this is one of those directions in which we require something in the shape of a semi-public educational association which by persistent advertis-

ing, and by the spread of literature of an effective kind in the shape of dodgers and pamphlets, and which would be assisted, as it ought to be, to the fullest possible extent by the Health Department, can build up a public opinion throughout the community, which as time goes on will practically eliminate this habit of expectoration as one of the sources of infection, and the main cause of the spread of disease. If, on the other hand, we enact this penal measure, and in order to give it effect start on a wholesale course of prosecution, then we are likely to defeat the very object which the hon. member has in view, namely, the education of the public and the leading to a better condition of things in this particular respect. Then, too, the Honorary Minister has pointed out that power can be taken under the Act and by the provision of regulations to prohibit and penalise expectoration in exceptionally risky places. In my opinion that course ought to be taken at an early date. But in order to effect the wholesale prevention which the hon. member seeks in this measure, I pin my faith to some form of organisation of the public, which will take the matter up, not only in this particular direction, but in the direction of disseminating information for the prevention of spread of the disease, and its elimination as the years progress. I think the hon. member would be well advised not to proceed with this measure.

Mr. S. STUBBS (Wagin): While I support the object of the hon. member for Cue, I feel, like the hon. members who have just spoken, that the courts will not be able to deal with the number of cases to come before them if the Bill becomes law. In any street, in any town of Australia or of any part of the world, one meets thousands of people, if it be in a large city, smoking. Now, 19 out of every 20 smokers are healthy persons. Very often a smoker will get some nicotine or a piece of tobacco in his mouth, and, if he does not thereupon expectorate either into a handkerchief or on to the footpath, he will swallow the poisonous matter. The doctors certify

that the spread of consumption is largely ascribable to unhealthy persons expectorating on the footpath. I am at one with the laudable object which the hon. member for Cue had in introducing the Bill. Everyone who knows the hon. member is aware that he has been identified with the Perth hospital for a number of years, and has given a great deal of time and attention to the study of diseases. On many occasions in the House he has shown himself capable of explaining anything that has to do with the cure of diseases, shown that he is earnest and capable of explaining exactly what he means when rising to speak. I am sure he deserves on this occasion, as on many previous occasions, the thanks of hon. members for his endeavour to minimise the great curse of the whole world—consumption. But I am afraid that his objects will be defeated if the Bill becomes law, for the simple reason that thousands of people will be penalised in the law courts, and therefore the Bill will not do the good he hopes it will. On the other hand, if we have regulations framed such as the Honorary Minister and the Minister for Lands have suggested, some good will certainly accrue, and the people will be educated to the danger of expectoration in public places. I have no doubt that it would be better to drop the Bill at this stage. Any regulation which has for its object the education of the public to a sense of the danger arising from indiscriminate expectoration on the footpath by unhealthy persons will commend itself to every hon. member and to every right-thinking person in the community. I do not think the Bill will have the effect the hon. member desires.

Mr. TURVEY (Swan): I just desire to say that I hope the announcement made by the Honorary Minister to-night will meet with the approval of the member for Cue (Mr. Heitmann), who introduced the Bill. I give that hon. member every credit for his sincerity and enthusiasm in his persistency of endeavour to arouse public interest, and educate the public on the necessity for taking some steps to combat the spread of tuberculosis. The member for Wagin (Mr. S. Stubbs) said

that if the Bill became law it would penalise certain individuals, particularly smokers, and that it would restrict in a degree the liberty of those subjects. But against that I place the wholesale sacrifice of life by the spread of the dread disease consumption. The more one reads medical works and studies medical authorities on this matter, the more is one convinced that until some such steps are taken as outlined in the Bill, it will be impossible to cope with the spread of that dread disease. Every eminent medical authority of the world has pointed out conclusively that the two main sources of the spread of this disease are first through the sputum of infected individuals, and secondly, through an impure milk supply. I want to say also that it is by the expectorating in public places that the infection is spread. Medical authorities prove conclusively that whilst the sputum of an infected individual is in a moist state, little harm is done. It is when the sputum dries in the street, pulverises, and flies about in the air that infection takes place. Therefore I feel with the member for Cue, that though the passing of such a measure as this may operate harshly on certain individuals, still we have to consider the interests of the community as a whole. I would be ready to support him, but for the announcement made by the Minister that the Health Department by regulation will take action almost the same as is required by the Bill. I hope that announcement will meet with the hon. member's approval. I appreciate the fact that the member for Cue has presented this Bill to the House, because after all we are here in the capacity of law makers, and I am personally of opinion that the first duty of any Parliament or any statesman is to look to the national health. Public health is public wealth, and it is due of us as representatives of the people to assist in every possible way to maintain the general health of the community. Therefore, should the member for Cue desire to go on with this Bill, if he is not satisfied that the announcement made by the Honorary Minister goes far enough, I am prepared to support him.

Mr. ALLEN (West Perth): This is a subject on which every member could express an opinion at some length if necessary. I wish to congratulate the member for Cue upon the earnestness and enthusiasm with which he has always interested himself in this matter of expectorating on footpaths and public places. But I think that in this Bill he seeks to go too far. I regret that the authorities have not been more alert in dealing with those people who do expectorate on footpaths. Quite recently the local governing body made a raid on women for wearing hats unprotected, a very dangerous practice, and by making an example of a few they have done more to educate the women to an appreciation of the danger of the practice than by any other means, so much so that they have almost brought the practice to an end. I do regret that they have not taken similar action to deal with people who expectorate on footpaths. I know of no more dirty habit, and if the Honorary Minister will take steps to deal with offenders in that direction he will do much to abolish this filthy habit. It has, of course, the more serious aspect, that it is a factor in the spread of disease. I sympathise with the member for Cue in his anxiety to put a stop to this practice, but I feel sure that if only steps are taken to deal with those offenders who persistently spit on footpaths and to bring them before the police courts, we will do more to educate the public, and will do away with the necessity for this Bill.

Mr. FOLEY (Mount Leonora): I was pleased to hear the Honorary Minister express his intention, as Minister controlling the Health Department, to assist the member for Cue in his endeavour to stop expectoration, not only on footpaths, but in all other places, in the interests of public health generally. I think the Minister could well direct his attention, not to the footpaths first, but to the public halls of this State. The Central Board of Health has been very alert during the last few years in seeing that there are a certain number of doors provided for quick exit in the case of fire or panic in halls used for entertainment, more es-

pecially since picture shows came into vogue, but as one who assisted in controlling a hall which was used for picture show purposes, I can assure members that it was disgraceful to see that floor on the morning after an entertainment. I think that if the Health Department directed their energies to making it a penal offence for anyone to expectorate in a public hall, they would be doing a great deal more good than by taking action against expectoration on footpaths. On the gold-fields consumption is prevalent, I am sorry to say, perhaps to a greater extent than anywhere else in the State, not because of the climate, but because of the occupation followed by a majority of the people. Night after night we see parents taking their children to picture shows because they are a cheap form of entertainment, and if consumption is the contagious disease which some people reckon it is—

Mr. S. Stubbs: There is no doubt about that.

Mr. FOLEY: There is a doubt as to it being as contagious as some people say it is, but if it is so contagious I say that the health authorities should direct their energies to seeing that expectoration in public halls is prohibited. They can do that to a large extent by assisting those who have charge of the halls. The miners' union with which I was connected before entering this House went to the expense of providing a hall, not for the revenue it would earn, but because it provided a place where the people in that remote centre could have enjoyment at a reasonable rate, and we found that even after we prevented smoking the expectoration was a disgrace to any civilized community. The central board were careful to see that we had sufficient doors to the hall, and week after week, and month after month, we were put to expense in providing exits, sometimes unnecessarily, but they never interested themselves in the matter of preventing expectoration in the hall. I am sure members feel that the member for Cue is to be commended for his action, but I will more commend the action of the Honorary Minister if he will do something to remedy the evil of expectoration in halls, and do it in a practical manner,

which, I think the provisions of this Bill will not do.

Mr. HEITMANN (in reply): Needless to say it is some disappointment to me to find in this Chamber so little interest taken in matters of this description, and so little encouragement for one to introduce a Bill dealing with a matter of so much importance.

Mr. S. Stubbs: No one discourages you.

Mr. HEITMANN: Whilst I thank members for their commendation, I would prefer the Bill to be torn to pieces a dozen times and the contents to be shown to be absolutely and positively against public opinion and impracticable, rather than I would have people tell me that they believe the Bill is a good thing, but it would disturb the present conditions in some way or another. But if my Bill has done nothing else, at all events it possibly will have galvanised the Health Department as well as the health boards in various parts of the State into action. I have considered this matter from all points of view, and I have recognised all along that it was an extreme step to take, but it was impossible for me to find where I was to draw the line to modify the measure. I am not very much concerned about the individual who would be handicapped by a Bill of this description. Reference was made to smokers, but I am a smoker and I feel so strong on this matter that if smoking or spitting is to be given up, I say for the good of the community, let us give up smoking. But I can smoke from morning till night, and whereas at one time I used to expectorate, I do not do so now.

Mr. Green: That is only after a lot of practice.

Mr. HEITMANN: Not after a lot of practice. Whilst we find that many object to the Bill because it will not allow them to expectorate in public streets, we do not find any individual wanting to expectorate in his own drawing-room, and I contend that what should be the standard of cleanliness and health in the home, should be the standard of cleanliness and health in public places. I agree with the Minister for Lands that what is desired is

something which will educate the public. As was pointed out by the member for West Perth, what has educated the women of the city to the danger of hat pins is the punishment that has been inflicted, and whilst I know we cannot make people clean, or temperate, or moral by law, yet the fact of having the punishment together with education will give a better education. I see nothing in the way of giving effect to this Bill. As a matter of fact, the officer who is the Minister's expert adviser, is a strong smoker. He is continually striving for the prevention of disease, he is the only adviser the Honorary Minister has—I must admit that the Minister cannot give all his time to this question, and must take the advice of his expert officers—and that officer advises him that he can recommend this Bill. Yet we find members of the Chamber so little interested, and having so little appreciation of the dangers that they say it will inconvenience some people, and that it is a bit sudden and drastic.

Mr. S. Stubbs: That is not quite fair.

Mr. HEITMANN: I am sorry if I am not quite fair, but that is how it appeals to me. I have noticed since I have been in the Chamber that the treatment meted out to this Bill has been meted out to all questions relating to public health. If it was a matter of pounds, shillings and pence, and there was a possibility of wiping out some of the deficit we would spend hours in discussing it; if it was a question of licensing bicycles under the Traffic Bill we would spend hours in discussing that, and the time will come when we will give hours to the consideration of this disease, which is so closely associated with the filthy habit of spitting. The Minister for Lands has mentioned the question of education. I will admit that any movement which has raised the question of public health has been in the direction of public education, but even with the education there must be some punishment. In the streets of London to-day, I was told only yesterday by a medical man, there are sign boards on every side, "Spitting prohibited; penalty, £2." So after all it is not new, and surely what can be done in London can be done here.

Mr. Foley: Thousands die of starvation in London every year.

Mr. HEITMANN: I cannot connect starvation with spitting.

Mr. Allen: They have signs in the streets of Perth.

Mr. S. Stubbs: Yes, and in the railway stations.

Mr. Green: And in the tram cars.

Mr. HEITMANN: And it shows the absolute fallacy, and one might almost say hypocrisy, of them.

Mr. Allen: It would not be if they were followed up.

Mr. HEITMANN: I admit that, but I am afraid that the effect of the notices and the power of the municipal council to make by-laws will be almost the same as the regulations under the Health Act. I trust it will not be so, but personally I am prepared for the time being to cease my action and to observe the effect of the regulations to be brought in. If the Honorary Minister has his say, they will be brought in, because I know he is most anxious to do something in this direction. I will watch developments for twelve months, and if there is then no improvement I will introduce another Bill. Not very long ago following out my desire to educate the people as I have educated myself to whatever standard that might be, I travelled in various parts of the State and endeavoured to get the co-operation of my trades unions to form a society for the study and prevention of tuberculosis, and one of my unions, the Murchison, offered to give me—and the offer is still standing—five per cent. of their total revenue, and their revenue runs into hundreds of pounds a year, to secure equipment to precede the necessary work for the formation of this association. I believe the finest method of education in regard to public health, and particularly in regard to the diseases in which bacteria play the whole part, is through the medium of pictures. Had I been able to secure off my own bat the necessary equipment during the last two or three years, I would not have introduced this Bill to the House, because with the education which the people would have received through an organisation of this descrip-

tion, particularly by means of vivid pictures depicting the vitality of bacteria and the extraordinary danger from infection by these bacteria, there would have been no necessity for a law to prohibit spitting. With these remarks I have no desire to proceed any further, because I recognise that while hon. members are sympathetic, they have not given the matter sufficient thought to lead them to believe that it is possible to bring about a drastic change such as I admit would be brought about if my Bill was carried into law.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[No further order made.]

BILL—ROADS CLOSURE.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

BILL—GAME ACT AMENDMENT.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 18th September, 1913.

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

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew): With regard to the question asked yesterday by the Hon. Mr. Gawler, I may say that the Chief Electoral Regis-