

borrowed money produce a profit. If private persons can borrow money profitably, surely the Government can borrow money to serve those parts of the country which do not enjoy, as these goldfields do, direct railway communication with Fremantle. The water scheme is now in operation along the Eastern Goldfields line, and that water scheme will be found of much benefit in bad seasons to come. We have had a good season, but bad seasons are bound to come round. As regards duplication of the line, I hope that will be necessary; but there is not the slightest doubt that if last year the Eastern Goldfields Railway was able to carry the enormous quantity of water required along the line, and, in addition, to carry the pipes for the water scheme, it can certainly, with good management, carry twice the traffic it has to carry now. I have seen seven water trains a day pass through Chidlow's Well; and at the same time, it has to be remembered, the pipes were being carried over the line as well. If that could be done, then, with good management, the line is equal to double the traffic passing over it now. We want at the head of the railways men with sound business ideas, who will push the railways as they would push a private business; not men who bluster about the country. Any man travelling about with his eyes open sees that under the new management things are no better than they were years ago, when everybody was crying out about mismanagement of the railways. I hope duplication of the Eastern Goldfields Railway will soon be necessary, but undoubtedly the line, under good management, will be able to cope with all the traffic for years to come.

THE PRESIDENT: We are not dealing with railway management now.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: We are dealing with the Esperance railway.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; but not with railway management.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: I merely wish to say that with good management the present railway will answer all requirements for years to come. I will not support either the original motion moved by Mr. Connolly, or the amendment moved by Mr. Jenkins. True, the amendment would not in reality bind us to anything, but I do not think that we should dis-

approve of a thing at the beginning of a session and then support it in another form at the end of a session.

Amendment (Mr. Jenkins's) put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	18
Noes	...	...	...	9

Majority for ... 4

AYES.	NOES.
Hon. G. Bellingham	Hon. R. G. Burgess
Hon. T. F. O. Brimacombe	Hon. J. M. Drew
Hon. W. G. Brookman	Hon. A. Jameson
Hon. E. M. Clarke	Hon. R. Laurie
Hon. J. D. Connolly	Hon. W. T. Loton
Hon. J. W. Hackett	Hon. E. McLarty
Hon. S. J. Haynes	Hon. M. L. Moss
Hon. A. G. Jenkins	Hon. G. Randell
Hon. W. Maley	Hon. J. E. Richardson
Hon. C. Sommers	(Teller).
Hon. J. A. Thomson	
Hon. J. W. Wright	
Hon. J. T. Glowrey	
(Teller).	

Amendment thus passed.

Question as amended agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 11th December, 1902.

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The **DEPUTY SPEAKER** took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the **MINISTER FOR MINES:** Copy of Report made by the Inspector of Mines

at Coolgardie relating to the flooding of Bayley's Consols Gold Mine.

Ordered: To lie on the table.

QUESTION—WATER WEIRS, AVON RIVER.

HON. G. THROSSELL asked the Premier: Whether, in view of the great necessity and importance of water conservation throughout this State, he will cause an examination and report to be made upon the utility and cost of constructing a series of weirs along the course of the Avon River, say, from Beverley to Newcastle.

THE PREMIER replied: The matter has already received considerable attention, but no definite scheme has yet been arrived at.

QUESTION—WATER RETICULATION, NORTHAM.

HON. G. THROSSELL asked the Minister for Works: 1, Upon what terms and conditions private residents in Northam have been permitted to reticulate water to their premises from the Coolgardie main. 2, Whether, in the event of Northam adopting a system of reticulation under the Water Board, these residents will come under the control of the municipality, and be exempted from any water rate. 3, If not so exempted, whether their outlay for such reticulation will be refunded to them.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, The terms and conditions are that consumers pay the Government for all work done within the Railway Reserve, as that work has necessarily to be carried out by the Government, and further, that the consumers carry out all further work themselves. The consumers pay yearly, in advance, for a minimum consumption, and undertake to pay at standard rate for all water consumed in excess of the minimum. The consumers also pay a yearly rent for the use of meters. 2, All arrangements subsequent to the undertaking by the municipality of a reticulation scheme will have to be made on such terms as is permissible by the Bill which may be passed by Parliament, but care has been taken to warn each consumer that any arrangement now made with him is only temporary. 3, The arrangements being distinctly temporary,

all outlay is being incurred by each consumer at his own risk.

QUESTION—GOOMALLING TOWNSITE, TO DECLARE.

MR. QUINLAN asked the Premier: 1, Whether, in view of the demand for town lots for business and other purposes, it is the intention of the Government to declare and survey a townsite at the terminus of Goomalling. 2, The probable date at which such survey will be made and allotments made available.

THE PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, The survey is delayed pending action by the Goomalling Roads Board in regard the closure of a road which interferes with the subdivisional scheme; the survey will, however, be completed and the lots thrown open as soon as possible.

QUESTION—RAILWAY STORES, RESHIPMENT TO ENGLAND.

MR. BATH asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Whether it is a fact that railway material and parts of locomotives recently in stock in the Railway Stores are being reshipped to England. 2, If so, whether he will institute inquiries as to the reason for such action.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1 and 2, No. Plans have been forwarded to the Agent General, with a view to ascertaining whether these obsolete railway stores could be disposed of in England or elsewhere.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by MR. HIGHAM, leave of absence for one fortnight granted to the member for Geraldton (Mr. Hutchinson), on the ground of ill-health; also on motion by MR. BUTCHER, leave for one fortnight granted to the member for East Kimberley (Mr. Connor), on the ground of urgent private business.

SITTING DAYS, EXTENSION.

THE PREMIER moved:—

That, in addition to the present business days and hours, the House shall, for the remainder of the session, meet for the despatch of business on Fridays at 2.30 p.m., and shall sit until 6.30 p.m. if necessary, and if requisite from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

While sorry to trespass farther on the patience and good temper of members, he

moved this motion with a desire to urge on as rapidly as practicable the completion of the business before the House. That end could be attained by the addition of one sitting day, and without injury to the value of the work. The volume of business now before the House consisted almost entirely of matters of detail, as to which members had all the information they needed and required only time for discussion. No farther time was required for deliberation. The great majority of members were anxious to push on business; and if the motion were carried they would not be unduly pressed if that could possibly be avoided. By far the wisest course was to add another sitting day, and, if possible, finish before Christmas. The danger was that if the session extended beyond Christmas, members would return from the holiday adjournment full of vigour, and with a mass of new motions and a great variety of other matters to submit to the House; so the result would be that the flood-gates of eloquence would be reopened. He hoped the House would assist to bring the session to a close by carrying the motion.

MR. NANSON: Members on the Opposition side, fully realising the necessity for pushing on business, offered no objection to the motion. The only question was whether Monday or Friday would be the more convenient day; but he took it that the Premier had ascertained from individual members which day was the more suitable.

THE PREMIER said he had gathered that Friday would be more suitable.

MR. NANSON: If Friday was decided on as an additional sitting day, he hoped the House would not sit after 6.30 p.m., in order that country members might have an opportunity of getting away by evening trains. From the fact of this motion being made, he inferred that the Government had considered their position in regard to the Constitution Bill, and that notwithstanding the defeat of the measure in another place they intended to let matters take their normal course. One was glad to know that some Bills had been passed: it almost seemed as if every measure introduced had been rejected. In view of the attitude of the Legislative Council the Government might consider

the advisability of consulting the constituencies.

MR. DAGLISH: The trouble was that members of the Council could not be compelled to consult their constituents.

Question put and passed.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Administrator received and read, assenting to the following Bills:—Local Inscribed Stock Amendment, Mines Development, Companies Act Amendment, Stamp Act Amendment, Post Office Savings Bank Consolidation Act Amendment, Fremantle Harbour Trust, Agricultural Bank Act Amendment, Indecent Publications, Public Service Act Amendment, Municipal Institutions Act Amendment.

BREAD BILL.

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS.

Schedule of nine amendments made by the Legislative Council now considered, in Committee.

No. 1—Clause 3, strike out the word "loaves," in line three, and insert the word "Coburg."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: "Coburg" was a well-known trade term.

Amendment agreed to.

No. 2—Clause 3, in the definition of "standard wheaten bread" strike out paragraphs (a) and (b), and insert the words "without any mixture or division is the whole produce of the grain, the bran or hull thereof only excepted":

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This amendment disclosed a desire to introduce an innovation not to be found in any Bread Act, so far as he was aware. The intention was to allow the baker to leave the pollard in the flour of which standard wheaten bread was made. This amendment would entirely destroy the value of the definition of "standard wheaten bread," and altogether its effect on the Bill would be disastrous. He therefore moved that the amendment be not agreed to.

Question passed, and the amendment not agreed to.

No. 3—Clause 8, after the word "weights," in line three, insert "or other sufficient balance":

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There was no objection to this amend-

ment. The efficiency of the balance, after all, was a matter for the inspector, and, beyond the inspector, for the bench sitting on any case brought by any inspector under the measure.

Amendment agreed to.

No. 4—Clause 9, strike out the clause:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:

This amendment struck at the principle of enforcing the carrying of scales by bakers on their carts. A deputation from the Master Bakers' Association which had waited on him some time ago had stated that although this provision appeared in the Bread Acts of the Eastern States, it was not directly enforced. He told them he would make inquiry, and had since done so, but found that the state of affairs in New South Wales was not exactly as the bakers had represented to him. The practice there was to strictly enforce the carrying of scales on carts for selling bread to customers, and the same applied in Victoria. The object of the Bill was to protect the public against unscrupulous bakers. This provision would be a deterrent; but, on the other hand, the amendment would allow bakers to do away with the use of scales on carts for selling bread to customers, and as this would practically destroy the deterrent clause, he moved that the amendment be not agreed to.

Question passed, and the amendment not agreed to.

No. 5—Clause 14, after "shall," in line 1, insert "wilfully."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This amendment would do no harm, and he moved that it be agreed to.

Question passed, and the amendment agreed to.

No. 6—Clause 15, after "customer," in line 1, insert "on the premises of any seller of bread":

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This was almost consequential on the striking out of Clause 9, and practically took from the customer the right of having bread weighed when purchasing. He moved that the amendment be not agreed to.

Question passed, and the amendment not agreed to.

No. 7—Clause 16, strike out "seven," in line 2, and insert "five":

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This amendment was to alter the Sunday time for bakers from 7 to 5 o'clock. Seven

o'clock was as far as he was disposed to go; therefore he moved that the Council's amendment be not agreed to.

Question passed, and the amendment not agreed to.

No. 8—Clause 16, after "Sunday," in line 2, insert "except with the permission of an inspector":

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The amendment proposed to give a permissive power to an inspector for meeting emergencies, where large quantities of bread were called for hurriedly. He moved that the amendment be agreed to.

Question passed, and the amendment agreed to.

No. 9—New Clause (repeal):

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This clause was to repeal Section 11 of the Act 3, William IV., No. 2. The intention was to remove legal tautology, same provision as in the repealed section being comprised in the Bill. He moved that the amendment be agreed to.

Question passed, and the amendment agreed to.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a committee comprising Mr. Moran, Mr. Johnson, and the Hon. W. Kingsmill as mover, drew up reasons for objecting to amendments, 2, 4, 6, 7, as follow:—

No. 2.—The definition proposed by the Assembly is that universally adopted in other Bread Acts. The amendment proposed would destroy one of the principal objects of the Bill.

No. 4.—To strike out this Clause would destroy the deterrent effect of the Bill against the sale of light-weight bread. This principle is embodied in the Acts of the other States, and is there strictly enforced.

No. 6.—Consequential on No. 4.

No. 7.—The Assembly is of opinion that the word "seven" affords a sufficiently liberal concession to the bakers.

Reasons adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Resumed from the previous sitting;
MR. ILLINGWORTH in the Chair.

WORKS DEPARTMENT (Hon. C. H. Rason, Minister).

Public Buildings, £278,006 (resumed) :

Item—Ravensthorpe school, additions, £200 :

MR. THOMAS : Last March he visited the school at Ravensthorpe, and every day he went the school was over-crowded. A deputation asked him to apply to the Inspector General of Schools. Application was made, and the Government decided to grant some money. The member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Johnson) had said there was no need for extra accommodation at Ravensthorpe school, also that the Ravensthorpe goldfield was defunct. The Minister could satisfy members that the Ravensthorpe field was not defunct. It was true the copper leases were under a cloud, because no means were available locally for releasing the copper in the ore ; but that question was being dealt with by the Government. An engineer had been making examination, and his recommendation would doubtless be such that means of treating the copper ore would be put on the field almost immediately, and thus farther additions to the school would be necessary. Apart from the copper leases, there were about 40 stamps at present crushing gold quartz, and the yield was about a thousand ounces a month. The yield was, moreover, greatly increasing. This would mean employment for a considerable number of people, and it would necessitate the enlargement of the school at Ravensthorpe, if there were no copper leases there at all.

MR. JOHNSON said he regretted that his remarks at the previous sitting had led to the waste of so much time this afternoon.

Item—Subiaco School Quarters, £600 :

MR. THOMAS : The figures disclosed that £735 had been expended on a work estimated to cost £650. How many teachers were the quarters intended to accommodate ?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS : The amount of £600 was necessary to complete payment for work already done. He did not know how many people the quarters were intended to accommodate. He could only state that quarters asked for as necessary by the Education Department had been supplied.

MR. THOMAS : Perhaps the Minister for Education could give the information desired.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : The quarters, which were in conformity with the school, were intended for the accommodation of one officer. He did not admire the quarters very much and did not think £700 an exorbitant price for a decent house. [MR. MORAN : A bit steep.] Head masters were usually married men with families, and the Subiaco school was of importance.

MR. THOMAS : School quarters costing between £700 and £800 were too expensive. If portion of the quarters erected was intended for the headmaster, and portion for other teachers, the amount would not be excessive ; but many nice houses in Subiaco, capable of accommodating a family, had not cost more than £300 or £400.

MR. DAGLISH agreed with the member for Dundas (Mr. Thomas) that the cost of this building had been too great. Undoubtedly, a private person erecting a similar building would get far better value for a far smaller sum. He understood that these quarters were built to a standard design, which was to be used by the Education Department for quarters all over the country. If that was so the standard design should be altered without delay, since the building was a positive eye-sore, its appearance resembling that of a barn. If the Minister for Works and the Colonial Secretary would inspect the building, they would doubtless take immediate steps to prevent the erection of any more quarters of that type.

MR. MORAN : Officers of the Architectural Branch ought to remember that this country was Western Australia, and not Switzerland, and that quarters should take the bungalow form.

MR. JOHNSON : One was sorry to hear that the design of this building was a pet design of the Chief Architect. Would the Minister give an assurance that no more buildings of this disgraceful type would be erected ?

MR. TAYLOR : Did the Colonial Secretary and Minister for Education propose to increase the teacher's salary in view of the cost of upkeep of this mansion ?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Government did not consider it necessary to pay the teacher compensation for living in the house.

Item — Woodville school quarters, £350 :

MR. THOMAS: Where was Woodville, and how many children attended the school? The total cost of the building had been £600, as against £500 estimated.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Woodville was between Bayswater and East Perth. Not expecting to be asked the question, he could not say how many children attended the school.

Item—Water Supply, purification and filters for schools on goldfields, £500 :

MR. THOMAS: One was glad to learn that the goldfields school children were to be supplied with decent drinking water, and it was to be hoped that a similar course would be adopted for the benefit of railway travellers. What kind of filter was to be used? Water bags hung in the open air speedily became filled with dust and dirt.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: The title of the item conveyed that the intention of the Government was to provide goldfields school children with better drinking water than had been supplied in the past.

MR. BATH: While on this item, perhaps the Minister would state whether provision was made for removing as well as supplying water. After a rainfall, the playground of a goldfields school was frequently a lake, and the water remained stagnant for days owing to the want of drains.

Item—Coolgardie School of Mines, £2,000 :

MR. HOLMAN: It had always been understood that the old Exhibition building would be utilised for the purposes of both a technical school and a school of mines. There was no necessity for spending £2,000 on another building. Unless some satisfactory reply were made, he would move that the item be struck out, since its excision would not mean that the school of mines would not be established.

MR. MORAN: This item required a deal of explanation. The Coolgardie Exhibition building was capable of accommodating all the schools of mines in Australia.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: This item was not intended for the erection of a new building. The stone portion of the Coolgardie Exhibition building was being converted into a temporary school of mines. Provision was being made for the erection of lecture rooms, assaying offices, furnaces, demonstration room, and general offices for the staff. The item also included fittings and furniture.

MR. NANSON: An expenditure of £5,000 was provided on this year's Estimates for a school of mines at Kalgoorlie, and a farther sum of £5,000 was to be spent in the ensuing year. Was it necessary to establish two schools of mines within 30 miles of each other? Surely the Murchison goldfields had some claim to have a school of mines established there; and if the mining industry warranted the starting of two schools, the Murchison should have one of those schools.

MR. WALLACE agreed with the last speaker, and protested against the establishing of two schools of this kind within 24 miles of each other, where seven trains a day ran each way. He regarded Kalgoorlie as the proper centre for a school of mines; therefore he moved that the item for a school of mines at Coolgardie be struck out.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: The Exhibition building at Coolgardie had been adapted for the purposes of a school of mines, and that school was now in working order. That school was promised for years past, money being voted on the Estimates. Now some of the money voted had been spent, and the school was started.

MR. JACOBY: When any portion of expenditure on the Estimates had actually been made, that fact should be indicated in the Estimates. Was it intended to keep two separate staffs for two schools on the Eastern goldfields? The same lecturers might attend each school alternately.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: For years past, including the last year, money was voted for a school of mines at Coolgardie. The Exhibition building had

been adapted to the requirements of the school, the Government expending the greater portion of the £2,000 for that purpose, feeling satisfied that Parliament would approve of the expenditure, as it had been previously authorised. The school was now in full swing, and had a large number of students.

MR. THOMAS: The students attending were 104.

MR. TAYLOR suggested that the amendment for striking out the item be withdrawn; and as no money had been expended on the other item for a school of mines at Kalgoorlie, that item might be struck out when reached.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

MR. THOMAS: Had any attempt been made at the Murchison to start evening classes, and if so with what result?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: It would be wise to allow the items for this purpose to go through, on the assurance that the Government desired to watch the working of these two schools of mines, before determining whether there should be such schools in different parts of the country or whether there should be only two. It was the desire of the Education Department to control this kind of instruction, believing that their system of technical schools would provide all that was necessary in the way of instruction for numerous mining centres, instead of starting a complete school of mines with expensive equipment at each centre. After a few months' experience the Government would be better able to judge as to the policy to be pursued in that respect. The Mines Department intended to conduct these schools of mines for that purpose only, and not merely as schools for technical instruction. The Education Department had established a technical school in Perth, which was an unqualified success; and it was thought in the department that schools of this kind could be extended to different parts of the country. He believed many persons would be only too willing to start technical schools if any encouragement were given. In the meantime it would be better to watch the working of these two schools of mines, so that some decision might be come to next year.

MR. NANSON was not aware that this House had ever distinctly expressed an opinion as to whether there should be

a school of mines on the Eastern Goldfields. Members had always recognised that there should be one school of mines there, and the proper site would be near the big mines. It had been a question on the Eastern Goldfields, and to some extent in mining centres throughout Australia, as to where the school of mines should be. Now, we had the testimony of the Minister for Mines that one school was going to be a success, and that if we had a number of schools dotted over the place they were not likely to be successful; yet the Government were asking us to agree not only that a school should be started at Kalgoorlie, which should ultimately become one of the greatest mining schools in the world, but that there should be a branch school at Coolgardie.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: If the money were not wanted for a mining school at Coolgardie, every penny that had been expended would be useful for the purpose of a technical school there.

MR. NANSON: When Sir John Forrest went out of office, it was thought we should have an end to expenditure without Parliamentary sanction, except under special circumstances such as an outbreak of plague. No one could say the school of mines was so urgent that we could not have waited for it.

MR. THOMAS: The money had been voted for the last four years.

MR. NANSON: No one could say this question was of such urgency that we could not have waited for the sanction of Parliament in the most complete form. The present Government was the very last Government which should set the very evil example of anticipating a vote of Parliament.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: Just prior to the amount which was voted last year expiring a very influential deputation waited upon him and urged that he should not allow the vote to lapse as it had been allowed to do in past years, but that he should have the work gone into at once. He gave authority for that work to be done. It was the height of absurdity for the leader of the Opposition to get up and say the Government had no authority to do this work.

MR. THOMAS: It was started before the vote lapsed, was it not?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: It was. The Government had authority year

after year to start a school of mines, and a director was engaged. The work was a useful one. It was the intention of the Education Department to at once start a technical school, if it was found that we could not keep a school of mines in Coolgardie. He did not understand how the leader of the Opposition could call it an illegal expenditure.

MR. THOMAS said he had always advocated the establishment of schools of mines. He stated last week that he wanted to see a school at Kalgoorlie, one at Menzies, one farther north, one at Cue, and branches at other smaller centres. We could not have too many schools of mines on our mining fields in Western Australia. We could not go in too much for technical education. The committee in Coolgardie did not view this from a parochial standpoint at all. They not only advocated a school of mines for themselves but also schools for their neighbours. He thought we could put the whole of the Coolgardie exhibition building, with the exception of the tower, inside this chamber. The school had been established and there were now about 100 students in it, although the classes were started only a few weeks ago. The solid work was to begin in January. What was being done at present was only a sort of preliminary canter, to form classes and get the school into working order. The fact of the students being at the Coolgardie School of Mines was sufficient justification for the item being passed, especially as most of the money had been expended. He would be willing to vote for a similar expenditure in any town where sufficient students for a school of mines could be obtained. As to this school being temporary and dependent on the success of its working, he must remind members that an item for this school had been on the Estimates year after year for five years past. The money had been expended in fitting up the Exhibition building for the purposes of a school of mines, and the results were highly satisfactory.

MR. NANSON: The Minister for Mines had misled the House, perhaps unintentionally, in regard to the item having been passed in the Estimates of last year. Those Estimates showed a proposed expenditure of £1,500 for a school of mines at Kalgoorlie—not at

Coolgardie as the Minister had said. It appeared now, according to an explanation made privately by the Minister for Mines, that the word "Kalgoorlie" was a clerical error, and that the name should have been "Coolgardie." However that might be, the fact remained that the item passed on the Estimates was for a school of mines at Kalgoorlie. That item was passed without debate, and the expenditure was, therefore, authorised for a school at Kalgoorlie and not at Coolgardie. In expending £1,500 at Coolgardie on a school of mines, the Government had done this without parliamentary sanction.

MR. MORAN: The vote of a sum of money towards an Exhibition at Coolgardie years ago was passed on the understanding that the building would afterwards be available for a school of mines. He knew that was also the intention of the Throssell Government, which followed the Forrest Government. Coolgardie was the mother town of the goldfields. It had a large population, and was the centre of a good mining district. He was glad that in this matter the former policy was being followed of establishing a school of mines at Coolgardie, and he said this irrespective of the claims of Kalgoorlie to have a school of mines there.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Immediately after the Address-in-Reply had been passed in the last session, Mr. Monger (for Mr. Morgans) asked if it was the intention of the Government to take immediate steps to establish a school of mines in Coolgardie, in accordance with the promise of the late Government and the desire of the present Minister for Mines. To that question the Minister for Mines replied that the Government proposed to ask Parliament for a sum of money sufficient to establish a school of mines at Coolgardie, tentatively, as promised.

MR. NANSON: The Government asked for nothing of the kind. The statement in the Estimates for last year was for a school of mines at Kalgoorlie, not Coolgardie. There was no discussion on it, and members understood that the item meant what it professed to mean. It was monstrous to tell us now that "Kalgoorlie" was a clerical error for "Coolgardie." Almost any vote on the

Estimates might be diverted from the work actually authorised, and the money be spent on some other work, if that kind of excuse was to be accepted. His contention was that the State could not afford two schools of mines at a distance of 24 miles apart. He was in favour of establishing a school of mines at a centre on the Eastern Goldfields, and on a scale such as would be likely to attract students from all parts of the State and even from outside.

MR. F. REID: Having been intimately connected with the movement for establishing a school of mines at Coolgardie, he remembered that Sir John Forrest promised a deputation to place on the Estimates £3,000 for establishing a school of mines at Coolgardie. Immediately the people of Kalgoorlie heard of this, they sent another deputation to Sir John Forrest, and that deputation had the impudence to claim that half of the £3,000 should be granted to Kalgoorlie for a school of mines there. The people of Coolgardie deserved their school of mines. They had been the first to originate the idea, and other districts did not begin to bother about it until Coolgardie proposed a school of mines and ultimately got money placed on the Estimates for the purpose. The school was now established, and had 104 students attending it.

MR. THOMAS: And only two of them came from outside of Coolgardie.

MR. REID: The building now used for the purpose was taxed to its utmost capacity, and if the students increased in number it would be necessary to provide more accommodation. He knew that many other students intended going to that school after the Christmas holidays. That school being a success, it should be continued; though he did not see why there should not be a school of mines also at Kalgoorlie. The method in some of the Eastern States was to have a school of mines in a central district, and for lecturers and instructors to attend technical classes in other parts of the country, instead of having a number of separate schools on a large scale.

MR. HOLMAN: The Murchison district had been treated disgracefully in regard to education and in regard to mining. The Minister had indicated that he intended to watch the experiment of

the school at Coolgardie, and that the success or failure of that school was to determine whether schools of mines should be established in other places. That was not a right principle to apply in the case of the Murchison, which was so situated that it ought to have a separate school of mines. Seeing that the Government received so large an amount of taxation from the dividend duties, therefore from the mining industry, they should be able to afford a school of mines for the Murchison, which was the second goldfield in importance in the State.

MR. TAYLOR: After the Exhibition at Coolgardie had closed, the people of that place argued that the building should be made use of as a school of mines; and in fact that was the only sound argument they had for establishing a school of mines there. Now that the school was started, and seeing that money had been expended there without parliamentary sanction, he must say that if a school of mines were started at Kalgoorlie it would be likely to draw away many of the students now attending the school at Coolgardie. A school of mines should be established in Kalgoorlie as the metropolitan centre of the Eastern Goldfields. Coolgardie as a reefing centre had gone down, the returns being small. There should be one school of mines at Kalgoorlie, and one in the Murchison district.

At 6-30, the CHAIRMAN left the Chair.

At 7-30, Chair resumed.

Item—Abattoirs, £3,000 :

MR. WALLACE: If members would refer to the report of the Chief Inspector of Stock, they would see the great necessity for abattoirs in order that there should be proper supervision over the meat supply. He asked the Minister to inform the Committee if it was intended to erect these abattoirs at an early date, and to let us know the site, if possible.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS said he had much pleasure in informing the hon. member that it was intended to make a start with the erection of abattoirs. The site had been fixed at Robb's Jetty (Fremantle), and the work would be put in hand forthwith.

MR. HOPKINS: Last session he took great interest in the matter of abattoirs,

and the more he inquired the more he was satisfied of their necessity. If they were of use in the interests of the health of the people living in the metropolis, they would be of as much benefit to communities elsewhere. In New Zealand, abattoirs were established in every centre, and the proportion of meat unfit for consumption ran to five or 10 per cent. In the Governor's Speech it was distinctly stated that abattoirs were to be provided for the city and for goldfields centres. He had no desire to tie the Minister's hands, but he moved as an amendment that the words "metropolitan and goldfields" be inserted. If it were left to the municipalities of Kalgoorlie, Boulder, or Coolgardie to establish these abattoirs, they never would be established. He hoped the Government would make arrangements upon the same lines as those adopted elsewhere, under which, if a beast was condemned, the Government paid a third of the value, the person who sold it a third, and the butcher a third. [MEMBER: £3,000 would not go round.] The amount would not build the abattoirs at Robb's Jetty, but it would set them going. Next year we would have an adequate sum to pay for both.

DR. O'CONNOR: What scheme was going to be carried out? Was it the scheme of Mr. Cavanagh or someone else, and what was the cost likely to be?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: This sum of £3,000 would not cover the whole cost. The scheme proposed to be adopted was that sketched out by Mr. Cavanagh, subject to such modifications as might be deemed desirable with such modern experience as had been gained by Mr. Grainger during his recent trip, when he made a special study of abattoirs. He could not say what the ultimate cost would be, inasmuch as the final estimates had not been prepared, but £3,000 would give a good start.

MR. HOPKINS: The original estimated cost of the plan prepared by Mr. Cavanagh was some £20,000; but when giving evidence last year Mr. Cavanagh stated that £8,000 would amply meet the requirements of the State for some years to come.

Amendment passed.

Item—Katanning, Lands Office, etc., £1,000:

MR. JACOBY: It would not always be necessary to keep a land agent at Katanning, and in his opinion it was rather extravagant to put up a building, as it was not likely that the influx of farmers would continue at the same rate as now. He suggested that premises should be rented, because it would not be necessary to keep an officer there more than four or five years. The buildings were not started, were they?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: No.

Item—Lands Department, Strong-room fittings, £8,500:

DR. O'CONNOR: The room in the Titles Office, where many of the officers worked, was perfectly disgraceful. It was not fit for anyone to work in.

Item—Mammoth Cave, electric lighting and development, £3,000:

MR. JOHNSON desired that either this item or the item "Yalingup Cave, electric lighting and development, £1,800," be struck out. He would be guided by the Minister or member for the district as to which should be struck out. We could not reduce the amount and erect a plant for less than the £3,000: we could not put up half the plant this session and the other half next session. Let us light up the most desirable of the Caves, and light up the others next year.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was thought absolutely necessary to light the Mammoth Cave with electricity. In regard to the other item it had been proposed to erect an accommodation-house at Yalingup, and the house was almost completed. It was part of the scheme to light that accommodation-house with electricity, and the same plant would also light the Cave; so that if the hon. member asked him which of the two works was most necessary, he placed him in a quandary, because he thought both necessary. If the lighting of Yalingup Cave were wholly independent of the accommodation-house, he should be prepared to say perhaps the second item should be struck out; but we had to bear in mind that the plant which would light the accommodation-house at Yalingup would, with little extra expense, almost nothing worth considering, light the Cave.

MR. JOHNSON moved that the item be struck out. We could not afford to do the two works.

MR. PURKISS urged the Government to stand by these votes. He had visited the whole of the caves, and was satisfied the State had one of the most glorious inheritances any State could possibly possess; one of the finest assets he thought that God had ever given to any State in the world. He did not see that we could possibly spend too much on an asset that would be absolutely reproductive. In New Zealand Rotorua was opened up not by the expenditure of a miserable £3,000 or £5,000, but the Government went in for a railway and constructed a sanatorium, and works of that character. They had spent thousands upon thousands, and if there were any real reproductive works in New Zealand they were Rotorua and Hanmar Springs. There was not only a direct reproductive revenue but an indirect revenue. In New South Wales a very large amount of money was spent in opening up the Jenolan caves, something like £100,000; and it was estimated that the direct and indirect revenue arising from what the New South Wales Government had done amounted to something like £100,000 a year. Two or three years ago, in his visits to the Vasse every year, he used to find that something like from 50 to 100 people visited the place; but last year upwards of a thousand people went to the Caves. A great proportion of them were our own people, many of them being people who would have gone to Adelaide or Melbourne. The country was delightful, and there was a lovely climate. In New Zealand there was a department known as the department of tourists and health resorts, headed by a Minister who had a large staff. Last Sunday there were at Vasse six coach loads of people, and this was the beginning of the season. If we had roads made and the Caves lit up so that their beauty could be examined, and erected accommodation-houses, there would be thousands and thousands of visitors.

MR. QUINLAN indorsed the remarks of the member for Perth. Speaking as a visitor to New Zealand, he could say the beauty-spots in that colony were considered a great source of revenue to that State; but in New Zealand they had no

such places as the Caves we possessed. He was satisfied that these Caves would be a special source of revenue to Western Australia for all time, and any reasonable expenditure would be justified. He would support a much greater sum if proposed by the Government.

MR. HOPKINS: It seemed a large sum of money to provide in one year, and we might make a compromise. He understood that the particular £3,000 was required for developing not only this one Cave, but two others close by. Probably £2,000 would go to lighting, and the other thousand to development. We would be willing to build the accommodation-house and light up the Yalingup Cave as a trial; so that next year we could replace the two thousand by which we could easily reduce the vote to-day. He suggested that the item be reduced by £2,000.

MR. JOHNSON said he was not opposed to the opening up of the Caves. If the Minister would assure him that if we voted a thousand pounds the money would not be wasted owing to the fact that it was not sufficient to light up the Caves, he would agree to that; but he did not want the Committee to vote a thousand pounds and to find perhaps £400 or £500 wasted because the amount was not sufficient to carry out the work.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: There was considerable force in the argument that £1,000 would go a long way towards developing the Mammoth Cave during this year; therefore he would accept the suggested amendment to reduce the amount to £1,000. It would be necessary, however, to spend more money at a later period, and probably the House would be asked next year to vote money for the more complete lighting and developing of this cave.

MR. YELVERTON agreed with the suggestion to reduce the amount by £1,000 as a reasonable compromise in the circumstances, on the understanding that the two following items relating to Caves would be passed as they stood. He found that about 52 mail steamers visited Fremantle in the year; and he estimated that from each of those steamers six persons as an average would visit the Caves. The class of people who travelled by mail-boats were inclined to spend

money; and assuming that each visitor to the Caves spent £20, not necessarily there but during the visit to the country, this would amount to a revenue of £6,000 a year from that source alone, and some of those persons might be so impressed with the beauty and prospects of the country that they would remain here. What was called the Mammoth Cave was a group of three caves, and the sum of £3,000 was to develop and light the three caves with one plant, the caves being a mile apart.

MR. DIAMOND: The remarks made by the member for Perth in reference to the Caves and the benefit of making them accessible to visitors were highly interesting. The member for Sussex, in the remarks just made, had understated the number of steamers visiting Fremantle. In a year the number was really 169 mail steamers carrying passengers, and this probably would average $3\frac{1}{2}$ steamers per week. There was an increasing inclination shown by people coming to this State to visit these Caves and beauty-spots. If members on the Labour bench were doubtful as to the benefits resulting to the State from expending this money, one of them might move that a charge be made for admission to the Caves, so as not to leave it to the discretion of visitors whether they paid for entrance or not, but to require a specific sum from each visitor. This would bring in a revenue sufficient to pay interest on the amount proposed to be expended.

MR. JOHNSON withdrew his amendment in favour of the compromise suggested.

MR. HOPKINS then moved, in accordance with his suggestion, that the amount of the item be reduced by £2,000.

Amendment passed, and the item reduced.

Item—Perth, stabling and coachhouse, £120:

MR. THOMAS: Could not stables be hired in Perth, without having to build them?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: This item was to build stables for the use of surveyors connected with the Lands Department.

MR. TAYLOR: What sort of stabling could be provided for so small a sum as £120?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: This building was intended to be rough stabling of the cheapest construction, though sufficient for the purpose.

Item—Yalingup Cave, electric lighting and development, £1,800:

MR. F. REID: It was necessary to light up the Caves more effectually, as the lighting at present in use did not show up the beauty and colour of the stalactites and stalagmites in those Caves. He suggested also that examination should be made as to the danger of the roof giving way in one part of the Yalingup Cave, as he was afraid there might be some catastrophe unless brick supports were built in parts that appeared dangerous.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: An inspector of mines was sent to the Caves to report as to what was necessary to make them safe, and his recommendations would be carried into effect.

MR. TAYLOR: Did he report there was danger in the present condition of any of the Caves?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: He advised that restles should be erected in certain parts.

Item—Bulong Roads Board, grant for erection of office, £100:

MR. THOMAS: Seeing that grants of this kind were not made elsewhere, what was the special reason for making a grant in this case to build an office for a roads board? Plenty of buildings were being removed from Bulong, and there should be no necessity for the State to erect a building for this purpose.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: The roads board at Bulong had no office in which to meet. A grant of land was made by the Lands Department conditionally on the board erecting an office on it. If the office were not erected, the grant would lapse. In these circumstances he had promised to provide a sum on the Estimates for erecting an office, as he thought the claim was a reasonable one. Whether the money for this purpose were provided directly out of the roads board funds or provided through the Estimates, the result would be the same; but this method was straightforward.

MR. TAYLOR: Was the same system likely to be applied to other roads boards in outlying districts?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Each case would be dealt with on its merits, and if the same justification existed in other cases, the same result might be expected to follow.

MR. TAYLOR: Several districts had applied to have roads boards formed, and they would expect to get the same treatment as was given to Bulong by the erection of an office with funds supplied by the Government. Members representing other districts would expect the same treatment as had been given to the member for Kanowna (Mr. Hastie), in whose district Bulong was situated, and in order to secure this treatment he supposed that other members would have to climb the stairs and sleep on the Minister's door-mat; though he (Mr. Taylor) was not an adept at that. Perhaps the Minister would tell us plainly what were the special circumstances which caused the Minister to grant this money to Bulong when he was not treating other districts in the same way. He (Mr. Taylor) had found it most difficult to get a grant from the Government for hospital purposes, where there was insufficient accommodation in his district, and with great difficulty he had been able to secure small grants. He did not think there was much at Bulong to warrant this expenditure for building an office for a roads board. Municipalities could not get a grant to improve their council chambers. He had tried repeatedly, but failed. In the present case the roads board had failed to carry out its undertaking by not erecting a building; and now it appealed to the Government to provide not only the land, but for erecting a building in order to secure the land.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: In considering such questions, he was not guided by the individuality of the member representing the district, nor did he consider on which side of the House the member sat. The member for Mt. Margaret had said he failed to obtain grants for various buildings in his electorate; but the hon. member had not mentioned particulars. There was no reason why the hon. member should complain of the treatment he received at the hands of the Government.

MR. THOMAS moved that the item be struck out. This amount seemed to

have been secured through the influence of the member for Kanowna.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: The member for Kanowna had nothing to do with it. He was not the representative of the roads board.

MR. THOMAS: Bulong was in the hon. member's constituency, and there was nothing dishonourable in a member asking for a grant of money for his district. How much were the people of Bulong providing towards the cost of this building, and would the £100 complete it?

THE PREMIER: In this matter he hoped that the Committee would support the Minister. He moved that the question be now put.

Motion (to put the question) put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	25
Noes	...	...	...	8

Majority for ... 17

AYES.

Mr. Atkins
Mr. Butcher
Mr. Daglish
Mr. Diamond
Mr. Ewing
Mr. Foulkes
Mr. Gardiner
Mr. Gordon
Mr. Gregory
Mr. Hayward
Mr. Hopkins
Mr. James
Mr. McDonald
Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Monger
Mr. Nanson
Mr. Oats
Mr. Phillips
Mr. Purkiss
Mr. Quinlan
Mr. Rason
Mr. Reid
Mr. Wallace
Mr. Yelverton
Mr. Higham (Teller).

NOES.

Mr. Bath
Mr. Hastie
Mr. Holman
Mr. Johnson
Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Taylor
Mr. Thomas
Mr. Moran (Teller).

Motion thus passed.

Question (to strike out the item) put accordingly, and negatived.

Item—East Fremantle Municipality, grant to increase height of baths, £20:

MR. THOMAS: Why could not the East Fremantle municipality pay the £20 without asking the Government to put a special item on the Estimates for it?

MR. McDONALD: The member for East Fremantle (Mr. Holmes) and himself asked the officers of the Public Works Department to allow advertisement hoardings to be placed on the baths.

The officers of the Works Department refused that, and rather than see advertisements on the baths they were prepared to advance a sum of £20. The municipality never asked that the sum should be placed on the Estimates.

MR. HOLMAN: Country districts were, he thought, treated most unfairly. Throughout the whole of the Estimates Murchison was the only country place he knew where £ for £ had been advanced by the people for public works. He did not believe in making grants to people unless they helped themselves. He moved that the item be struck out.

MR. McDONALD: The East Fremantle Council made the baths and received no money from the Government. Amendment passed.

Item—Menzies Municipal Hall, £135 :

MR. THOMAS: Would this be done by way of pound for pound subsidy, or what rule was adopted?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: Some two and a-half years ago Sir John Forrest promised the Menzies municipality 20 per cent. of the cost of construction.

Item—North Fremantle Town Hall, £500 :

MR. THOMAS asked for information.

MR. HIGHAM: North Fremantle expended between £3,000 and £4,000 on this building. Owing to errors in the foundations they found that the money provided was not sufficient, and the Government helped them.

MR. THOMAS: Did they have any assistance before?

MR. HIGHAM: No.

Item—Perth, New Parliament Houses, Improvements to Harvest Terrace, £4,750.

MR. NANSON: Last year £5,000 was voted, and the Committee were told that if they agreed to a total expenditure of £20,000 it would result in a saving, because it would enable the present premises to be converted into offices, and a number of offices rented throughout the city would not be required, and the net saving he thought would be something like £700. He found that instead of there being economy we had large sums of money down for providing public offices. One lot in Irwin street involved

an expenditure of £60,000. He ventured to think that if the Committee had known how much expenditure was going to be required for Government offices, irrespective of the premises we were now in, the vote for the new Parliament Houses would not have been passed. Before the end of the financial year a liability of £16,000 had been incurred. Then on the present Estimates there was a sum of £25,000 down. In addition to that in the next item there was £4,750 arising out of the erection of new Parliament Houses, so that instead of an expenditure of £20,000, which the then Premier assured us was what the House would be asked to sanction, we had already an expenditure of £30,000, which was a larger sum than he thought the country was at the present time justified in spending on new parliamentary buildings. In order to test the opinion on the question he moved that the vote be reduced by £1. He would like to hear from the Government what was exactly the liability with regard to the vote; and if the liability was considerably less than £25,000 he would be very willing to move for a larger reduction. The Government should give a clear indication as to what farther expenditure was to be incurred with regard to parliamentary buildings.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: The amount of the liabilities incurred was not far short, if any, of the £25,000 shown on the Estimates. Members were aware it was determined to build new parliamentary buildings. There was a joint committee of both Houses which had the building operations in hand, and so far as the Public Works Department was concerned it was merely carrying out the wishes of that joint committee. If the item was reduced even by £1 or £100 or £1,000, the result would be just the same. The Houses of Parliament had to exist, they were well on their way, and it was hoped that Parliament would be able to meet in the new Houses during the next session.

MR. NANSON: Would the Minister give an assurance that there would be no farther expenditure?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: There would be no expenditure without the authorisation of Parliament.

MR. JOHNSON: The amount passed last year was to be spent in the erection

of Parliament Houses, but it was distinctly understood that it was the interior portion that was being built, and that the outside walls would not be built for some time. He understood now that it was intended to put up a frontage in Harvest Terrace. He desired to protest against the use of inferior stone in that wall. The Rottnest stone was infinitely inferior to Donnybrook stone, which was undoubtedly the best we had in the State. It could be landed as cheaply as Rottnest stone, it could be worked cheaper, and when put up it was up for all time. Rottnest stone was not a good stone. We found that the architect had determined to use inferior stone in the parliamentary building. There was another phase of the question. Why were not tenders for this wall called for? He had seen nothing in the Press calling for tenders, and he had not met contractors who had given a price.

THE PREMIER: The suggestion at first was that the portion of the building facing Harvest Terrace should be temporary work. It was found, however, on the contract price that enough was realised to enable the centre part of it to be put in permanently, but not to put in the side portions of it. It was thought by the joint committee that it would be better to spend £5,000 or £7,000 on permanent work than to put in temporary work costing between £1,200 and £1,500. A meeting of the committee was called and they had samples of the Meckering stone, Donnybrook stone, and Rottnest stone, and the committee were unanimously in favour of Donnybrook stone if it could be obtained. He himself was very strongly in favour of it. There had been an analysis of Donnybrook stone which was not satisfactory, but that did not deter the committee. Another meeting was subsequently called at which he believed the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Nanson) was present. Mr. Grainger was present and said that a sufficient quantity of the red stone they had before them could not be obtained. The committee were not satisfied with that. They particularly wanted Donnybrook stone, if they could get it, and they asked Mr. Connolly, the member of the Upper House, who was a practical man, if he could proceed to Donnybrook with Mr. Grainger. Mr. Connolly said he would be

glad to do so, and still more glad owing to the fact that he had staying with him as a guest an expert in stone. The three went, and they took also a practical stonemason. After they came back, Mr. Connolly said that so far as he could see the quarry opened, he could not see sufficient stone of the proper colour to do the work. So far as he saw of the quarries as opened he could not advise the committee to adopt that stone, but he spoke very highly of what there was of it. He urged the Government—and that recommendation had been attended to—to see if they could take steps to open up a quarry adjoining, to ascertain if a sufficient quantity of this good stone could not be obtained. He complained of the very negligent manner in which the face of the quarry was being worked by the existing owners. The committee were unanimous in agreeing that this stone ought to be pushed for, if possible, and that the Government ought to take upon themselves the responsibility of testing the stone. The committee and the Government were unanimous on that point. They wanted from the first to find a quarry from which to obtain the stone. The majority of the committee were, however, reluctantly compelled to forego Donnybrook stone so far as the Harvest Street terrace frontage was concerned. They were, however, informed by the Chief Architect that they were not bound to construct the whole of the four sides with Rottnest stone, because if Donnybrook stone and Rottnest stone were put side by side there would be no unpleasant contrast.

MR. NANSON said he had much pleasure in confirming the statement made by the Premier.

MR. JOHNSON: Let us see exactly the quantity of stone we had at Donnybrook, with the view of using it in our public buildings.

MR. NANSON: Could not the expenditure of this amount be deferred?

THE PREMIER: This would give work to the unemployed.

MR. NANSON: It would be better to send the unemployed into the country. If farmers could obtain men to work regularly there would, he took it, be a good deal of labour employed in clearing lands.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: This work consisted in cutting out Harvest Terrace considerably, and in improving the approach to Parliament Houses. Not only would it do that, but the sand carted away from Harvest Terrace was used in improving the ground in the neighbourhood of the Supreme Courts, so that we were doing two good works for this sum of money, and also affording employment for a considerable number of men, who otherwise would have been still out of work.

Item — Perth General Departmental offices, new block, Irwin Street, £5,000:

MR. HOLMAN: We did not know how the departments would be fixed up after the commission brought in their reports. He did not think it advisable to pass this item during the present session. Money was wanted in country districts. He had received information that the Cue hospital was filled with patients owing to the impure water. He wanted to move that this item be struck out unless the Minister gave a satisfactory explanation why the amount should be expended.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was necessary to provide new offices for the Land Titles Department. It was admitted that the offices now used were totally unfit for the purpose, and there was medical evidence to prove this. Provision was made in the Estimates for £8,500 for strong-room fittings in the new offices when erected; and it being recognised by the Government that it was absolutely necessary to provide new offices for this department, the amount of £5,000 was put down for "general departmental offices, new block," with an ultimate liability of £60,000, in order to obtain an expression of opinion from hon. members. The question was whether new offices for the Land Titles Department should be built, in which case the Committee would realise that if it was to be an isolated block they must be very different from what would be required if these offices were to be part of a greater whole. The question was whether it was advisable ultimately to build a new block of departmental offices, of which the Land Titles offices now absolutely necessary should form part, and the Government would like an expression

of opinion from members on the subject. The rent now paid for outside offices required for Government purposes amounted to £2,273 per annum, these offices being utilised by the different branches of the service. It was absolutely necessary to provide new offices for the Land Titles Department, and to provide for placing the strong-room fittings already ordered.

MR. NANSON: This need for new offices was a comparatively recent discovery. We heard nothing of it last session. We then understood that if this Assembly Chamber were made available for erecting new offices on the site, together with the Council Chamber buildings, these would suffice for the needs of the Government. Now we were told it was advisable to spend £60,000 in building new offices for Government purposes.

THE PREMIER: No. The Government did not advise that.

MR. NANSON: When the Government asked for an expression of opinion, it was understood that they desired an expression in favour of spending £60,000 on new offices.

THE PREMIER: The Land Titles offices were not satisfactory, he regretted to say. They were built in order that they might be waterproof, fireproof, and burglar-proof; and very expensive fittings were put there, as would have to be the case in building a strong-room in the proposed new offices. The present offices for the Land Titles Department had been unsatisfactory from the start, and it was very doubtful whether the building was fireproof to-day. The Government had been advised by several doctors that it was not right to keep clerks working in those strong-rooms below the ground level. The doctors expressed the opinion that it was bad for the health and the eyes of the clerks working on the sunk basement, and the architects stated that the defects could not be remedied in the present building. What was of vital importance was to have strong-rooms that would be strong in every way. In these strong-rooms there were 999 out of every thousand title-deeds of properties in this State; therefore, he regretted to say it was absolutely necessary that new offices

should be erected; and in connection with the work it became necessary to obtain the expensive fittings he had referred to. The fittings alone would cost about £5,000, and it was necessary that a strong-room should be built. Then the question arose: should we do that work as isolated offices standing by themselves, or was it not advisable to make the new offices part of a whole scheme, the balance of the scheme to be carried out from time to time as Parliament might direct? If it was to be a building standing by itself, the design would have to be different as compared with a building which was to form part of a larger block; and if these offices were to be part of a larger block, then there would be only an ornamental front to construct, with sides and ends more or less broken for future extension. It was proposed to spend £5,000 in making a start this year. Already we were pressed by the Federal Post Office people for more accommodation. We should be going out of the Post Office Savings Bank premises in a short time, and the Federal authorities would then get three additional rooms there, and in addition they wanted two more rooms which were urgently needed. It was difficult to know what in the next two years the Federal Government would require more than the existing offices for postal and telegraphic services.

MR. JACOBY: They would have to start a block of their own.

THE PREMIER: This scheme only provided for new Land Titles offices. We should still have to face this expenditure of paying rent for outside offices, excepting to the extent of the relief caused by vacating these Assembly buildings and the Council buildings. Members would see that in regard to the Legislative Council buildings we could not expect to occupy them for many years, because the newer structure was of a temporary nature and would cost a considerable sum in maintenance. It was well to look ahead, and make these new offices part of a scheme to be carried out in the future from time to time.

MR. HOPKINS said he disapproved of making temporary arrangements in regard to the requirements of public offices. The amount of money now being

paid in rent for the Medical Department, the Agricultural Department, the Aborigines Department, the Electoral Department, the Crown Law Offices, the Agricultural Bank Offices, with some others, amounted to over £2,000 a year; and this amount totalled 4 per cent. on £150,000. He thought £20,000 would build ample accommodation for all these departments now provided for outside, and the money could be borrowed at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; therefore why not do it? It was also a great drawback for people to have to go in search of various departments of the public service when they came to Perth, and it was extremely difficult to trace them out through all the streets and passages and stair-ways, especially when persons were strange to the place. We should have a proper scheme for our public offices. As to the Land Titles offices, it was a serious matter to anticipate what damage might be done if a fire occurred in them. All the deeds and documents in that department might be destroyed; therefore he questioned whether it was not advisable that the Land Titles offices should be distinct from other buildings, so as to remove the risk of fire.

MR. JOHNSON supported the item because it was necessary that new offices should be built. It was ridiculous to pay rent for offices in various parts of the city required for Government purposes and to go on doing this year after year. When the proposal was before the House to erect new Parliament Houses, he opposed it because he felt sure that the congested condition of the public offices could be reduced. He voted then against the temporary iron and wooden portions of the new Parliament Houses because in a short time those portions would have to be removed. He hoped this vote would be passed.

MR. BATH would vote against this item because at the present time if the office accommodation was properly availed of, it should be sufficient for the work of the country in view of the reductions being made in the public service. If the Ministers of the various departments carried out the great economy they had promised, many of the officers would be dispensed with, and there would not be so much need for additional accommodation.

THE PREMIER : What would you do with the Titles Offices ?

MR. BATH : This showed that the administration was not of a brilliant type, when plans were called for the Titles Offices years ago, and a strong-room was built that was intended to be fireproof and burglar-proof, but was now found to be unsuitable.

THE PREMIER : How could the Ministry of the day check that ?

MR. BATH : When a Minister in charge of a department proposed to build premises, he should see that the plans were suitable for the purpose.

MR. HOPKINS : The architect who drew those plans was no longer in the service.

MR. QUINLAN : The item should be supported, because the Government were paying at present something approaching 4 per cent. on the total amount now proposed to be expended on new buildings, and that was a good reason why the Government should make a beginning with at least £5,000 this year. He frequently visited the Land Titles Department, and every time he went there the officers were complaining of the unhealthy conditions. The smell of the rooms in the deep basement was intolerable, and it was hard for officers to be there a number of hours. Those rooms had been condemned by several doctors as unhealthy, and he understood the local health authority had not the same right in regard to these buildings as they had generally, so that they could not compel these buildings to be disused as offices. The Government had a block of land in Irwin Street, for which they paid too much at the time; but that land should now be utilised for public offices, and a start should be made by building offices for the Land Titles Department. Although the number of public offices was likely to be diminished, still the Postal Department under the Federal Government was increasing in its requirements, and more accommodation would be wanted there. When a Royal Commission investigated the working of the Postal Department some years ago, a recommendation was made for some extensions in the accommodation. That circumstance would be a guarantee in

itself for the Government to make provision ahead by beginning on another block. It was not an easy task for persons to find the different departments scattered over so many buildings in different places, and it must be more difficult still for country people to find any particular department when wanted. There was also much loss of time by the officers having to go outside one building to other buildings, carrying papers, messages, and so on.

MR. HOLMAN : The arguments in favour of starting a new block of buildings did not convince him that new buildings were necessary in the present session, and it would be better to wait seven or eight months longer, when the question could be gone into more thoroughly next session. He moved that the item be struck out.

MR. WALLACE : While not opposing an expenditure for new public offices, he thought the wording of the item should be amended by striking out the words "Irwin street," so as to leave open the question of the site for new buildings. He regretted that the block of land in Irwin street was not exchanged for the Town Hall building when negotiation was going on with the municipal council some years ago, as by that means the Town Hall could have been acquired for Government offices. It was desirable to make the public buildings of this State one large block worthy of the State, and any additions required from time to time should be made on the same block. Some agreement might still be made with the Municipal Council for acquiring the Town Hall. Was there any record showing what portions of the building belonged to the Federal Government in connection with the Post Office? Sectional plans might be placed at the entrance of public buildings, enabling people to find the different offices. As to paying rent for various offices outside, the Assembly Chamber was the only building available for additional public offices on the existing block; the Government might also consider how the Legislative Council buildings might be utilised, and they should spend the money in extending the present block of public offices along Hay street. It would be wise to negotiate for the Town Hall block.

MR. JACOBY supported the item. In designing the new public offices we should dispense as far as possible with a large number of small rooms, and he was glad to hear that was contemplated. It would be a good "deal" if the Government could dispose of as much as possible of the present public offices for extending the post office accommodation, and the Federal Government might be willing to take over a considerable portion. He was in favour of starting new offices and to add to them year by year.

MR. THOMAS: Was it the scheme of the Government that the whole of the public offices should eventually be in one place?

THE PREMIER intimated that this was not his view.

MR. THOMAS: Then the suggestion to get the Town Hall block, so as to concentrate the public offices, was a good one, and he hoped it would be acted on.

THE PREMIER: Some years ago the City Council were willing to exchange the Town Hall block for the block of land in Irwin street, *plus* £40,000.

MR. THOMAS said he would not vote for the item, but would vote for a matured scheme. Rather than start a separate building he preferred to wait for a comprehensive scheme for the whole of the public offices to be in one block.

MR. WALLACE moved, in accordance with his previous suggestion, that the words "Irwin street" be struck out of the item. This would leave open the question of the site for new public offices.

Amendment (Mr. Wallace's) passed.

Motion (to strike out the item) put, and a division taken.

MR. JACOBY claimed the vote of the member for Moore (Dr. O'Connor), who had spoken in favour of the item.

DR. O'CONNOR said he did nothing of the kind.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any member could speak on any side on any subject, and vote as he pleased.

Division resulted as follows:—

Ayes	...	...	...	7
Noes	...	...	...	21

Majority against ... 14

AYES.
Mr. Bath
Mr. Butcher
Mr. Holman
Mr. Nanson
Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Taylor
Mr. Thomas (Teller).

NOES.
Mr. Atkins
Mr. Daglish
Mr. Diamond
Mr. Ewing
Mr. Foulkes
Mr. Gardiner
Mr. Gregory
Mr. Hastie
Mr. Hayward
Mr. Hopkins
Mr. Jacoby
Mr. James
Mr. Johnson
Mr. McDonald
Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Monger
Mr. Quinlan
Mr. Eason
Mr. Reid
Mr. Wallace
Mr. Higham (Teller).

Motion thus negatived.

Item — Perth Park, Gatehouse at Subiaco entrance, £500:

MR. BATH: This building was, he understood, already erected. He would like to know whether the building was erected in anticipation of the amount being passed. He intended to appeal to the Minister to eliminate such items as this at the present juncture. Was the building erected out of the vote of £3,000 last year for the general purposes of the park?

DR. O'CONNOR: Was there another item of £3,000?

MEMBER: Yes.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was urged upon the Government by the Perth Park Board that it was absolutely necessary that there should be a gatekeeper at the Subiaco entrance of the Perth Park; and if it was necessary to provide a gatekeeper it was necessary to provide a house for the gatekeeper to live in. The board said that if they did not get a grant they would borrow the money to proceed with the work. The Government undertook to ask Parliament to provide this money, and he asked the Committee to agree to pass it. We had in the Perth Park a property belonging to the State. [MR. JACOBY: Expensive.] It had been somewhat expensive, but we had good value for the money. Everyone who saw the park saw it to admire it.

MR. BATH: It was his intention to move that the item be struck out, and if the amount had been spent it should be provided out of the general sum voted for the park. He moved that the item be struck out.

MR. DAGLISH: Last year he had something to say about Perth Park and

the administration of it. He was not in favour of a reduction of the park vote, but he rose to repeat his complaint of last year with regard to the administration of the affairs of the park. Last year he pointed out that the park board very rarely held any meetings, and when they did most of the members stayed away either by mutual arrangement or a consensus of opinion. Some three months ago he found himself appointed a member of this park board, and up to the present he had received no intimation of any meeting having been held or being in contemplation. In the meantime a large expenditure was going on. He spoke to the secretary by telephone to ask when a meeting would be held. The secretary was not aware and he knew of no reason why a meeting should be held. He spoke to Mr. Lovekin, who was a prominent member of the board, and Mr. Lovekin and Dr. Hackett, he believed, very largely ran the show. Mr. Lovekin told him that meetings were not often necessary, and that more could be done on the ground in a few minutes. He (Mr. Daglish) had not heard of any visit of the board to the ground.

MR. HOLMAN said he had looked through the Estimates very carefully, and he could not see that there was any expenditure for any place outside Perth or the surrounding districts. [MR. JACOBY: What about the Caves?] Instead of the whole of the expense of a certain class being put down in one lump sum, it was spread about. We found £2,700 put down for grants in aid in the country, and about £10,000 for Perth.

MR. JOHNSON: It was rather a difficult matter to vote for the striking out of this item, because the money had been expended. He desired to enter his protest against the administration of this park board. The cottage at the Subiaco end was not necessary at all. The board took it upon themselves to erect the cottage, and then the Minister came down here and asked us to pass the money. There would be an opportunity of cutting down a vote later on in connection with Perth Park, and he would do his best to reduce the item, because he thought we had spent altogether too much on that park.

MR. DAGLISH said he wanted to see every thoroughfare leading to the park

provided with an entrance thereto, and he knew that could never be done if the principle were adopted that where a gate was erected there must be a lodge and gatekeeper.

MR. JOHNSON: If the building was paid for, he hoped the Committee would strike out the item.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Whether the work was paid for or not he was not in a position to say, but he presumed that if the work was done it was paid for; also that to pay for it an overdraft was necessary.

MR. BATH: People should be given as free ingress to the park as possible.

MR. HOLMAN called attention to the state of the House.

[Bells rung and a quorum formed.]

MR. JACOBY: The money spent on Perth Park had the result of giving to the citizens of Perth an exceedingly picturesque and handsome ground, but this magnificent present had been made to the citizens of Perth by the whole of the people of the State, and the amount of money spent up to date was, he believed, something like £80,000. He believed the administration was not as it should have been, and he felt sure that the same amount of work done at the park could have been done at far less expense. Not only were we committed to the expenditure of building this gate and the lodge, but there was the expense of the gatekeeper, and he presumed that was the reason why £500 was granted this year, in addition to the £2,500 they obtained annually.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	13
Noes	...	...	...	13
A tie ...				0

AYES.		NOES.	
Mr. Atkins		Mr. Daglish	
Mr. Bath		Mr. Ewing	
Mr. Butcher		Mr. Gardiner	
Mr. Foulkes		Mr. Gregory	
Mr. Hastie		Mr. Harper	
Mr. Holman		Mr. Hayward	
Mr. Jacoby		Mr. James	
Mr. Johnson		Mr. Monger	
Mr. McWilliams		Mr. Phillips	
Mr. O'Connor		Mr. Quinlan	
Mr. Reid		Mr. Rason	
Mr. Taylor		Mr. Wallace	
Mr. Thomas (Teller).		Mr. Higham (Teller).	

The CHAIRMAN said that to protect the revenue he gave his vote with the Ayes.

Amendment thus passed, and the item struck out.

Item—Albany pilot's crew, quarters, £1,500:

MR. THOMAS said he would like to know whether these new quarters were absolutely necessary.

[MR. QUINLAN took the Chair.]

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY felt diffident in speaking on this subject, as the place was in his own constituency. He thought that never in this State was there a more disgraceful building than the present one.

MR. THOMAS was perfectly satisfied with the information.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Having seen this building 12 months ago, he was horrified at its unsuitableness for the purpose.

Item—Perth Museum, fittings, £1,000:

MR. THOMAS moved that the item be struck out. Tremendous sums of money for odds and ends of this sort were expended in Perth out of the revenue of the country, while grants for mechanics' institutes, libraries, and other such objects all over the State were given in very small sums, and then the local people had to contribute £ for £ as a condition of the Government subsidy. Not only this item but the next, "Perth Victoria Library, £4,000," ought to be struck out, these being luxuries towards which the people of Perth should contribute if they wanted such luxuries.

MR. HOLMAN supported the striking out of the item. In other districts people had to provide £ for £ as a condition of the Government subsidy, and the same rule should apply here. Perth and Fremantle, with a few other places around, were getting grants in various ways throughout the Estimates. The Perth Museum was a good thing in its way, but the cost of it was too heavy a tax on the people of the State, and if Perth wanted the Museum, Perth people should pay as other localities had to do.

MR. BATH: While giving generous support to institutions of this kind, the Government had acted generously to them in the past; therefore we might well strike this item out, or reduce it materially.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: If this item was struck out, the consequence would be that as the money was to provide show cases for protecting specimens that had accumulated in the Museum, unless those specimens were put in cases they would be completely destroyed. This was what the striking out of the item really meant; and if the Committee wished to strike it out, they should do it with their eyes open.

MR. HASTIE: On the ground floor of the Museum was a geological museum, and there was another geological museum at the back of the building. One such museum should be sufficient for the purpose.

MR. ATKINS: Specimens had to be put in cases so that moths could not get at them. [MEMBER: They were all dead moths.] Whatever other item ought to be reduced, this should not, because these specimens had been accumulating for years, and sufficient cases should be provided for them.

MR. JACONY: Did the hon. member know any person who gained any benefit from seeing these specimens?

MR. HOPKINS: It was desirable that the Museum should be maintained, but under different management. To look at the birds was sufficient to show that those persons who placed them in the cages did not know anything about the business. Populous centres in other parts of the State should have been considered, and any surplus specimens in this Museum might have been sent to other centres, where the people would gladly provide accommodation for them. The resolution to that effect had been passed by this House; but it was passed too late for the Estimates to be revised in order to give effect to it. At Geraldton a building erected for a hospital had never yet been used for that or any purpose; and some of these numerous specimens in the Perth Museum, stowed away in boxes, might be sent to Geraldton for forming a museum there, a building being available for the purpose. That would be better than providing more show cases in Perth.

MR. HOLMAN: Were the specimens packed away deteriorating? If so, the suggestion just made for sending some of them to Geraldton might be carried into effect.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	13
Noes	...	...	...	16

Majority against ... 3

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Bath	Mr. Atkins
Mr. Butcher	Mr. Ewing
Mr. Daughish	Mr. Foulkes
Mr. Hastie	Mr. Gardiner
Mr. Holman	Mr. Gordon
Mr. Hopkins	Mr. Gregory
Mr. Jacoby	Mr. Hayward
Mr. Johnson	Mr. James
Mr. O'Connor	Mr. Kingsmill
Mr. Reid	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Taylor	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Wallace	Mr. Monger
Mr. Thomas (Teller).	Mr. Phillips
	Mr. Rason
	Mr. Yelverton
	Mr. Higham (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

MR. HOLMAN moved that the item be reduced by £500. The amount then would be liberal enough. Instead of stacking away butterflies, toadstools, and dead lizards, some of these specimens might be sent to other parts of the State.

MR. THOMAS supported the reduction. Perth would be one of the richest communities in the world, and it was most unseemly on the part of public bodies and the public generally in Perth to get thousands of pounds every year for their particular benefit. A considerable percentage of the total revenue was being spent in Perth and Fremantle on luxuries and ornamentation, which expenditure ought to be undertaken if necessary by the rich community resident here.

THE PREMIER: What had that to do with the amount?

MR. THOMAS: Let the Perth people contribute £ for £ of the Government subsidy, as people in outside districts had to do when they required a subsidy for such purposes.

MR. FOULKES: At Esperance, the people did not even pay their town clerk, yet the hon. member who represented that district was preaching to members here!

MR. THOMAS: Having no interest himself in Esperance, the remark did not apply. When public bodies in districts outside of Perth applied for grants of money in aid of particular objects, they received a copy of regulations on which grants of money were made: the general rule in regard to these regulations being that the local community must contribute

£ for £ of any subsidy given by the Government. That being the rule applying to way-back places, the same should apply to people in Perth. Indeed, not so much as £ for £ in the case of Perth: five shillings in the £ would be sufficient for the State to contribute in aid of a rich community like that of Perth.

MR. JOHNSON supported the amendment. This seemed to be an annual vote; £300 last year being voted and not fully expended. Why jump up to £1,000 for this year? We must demonstrate to the Ministry and to the country that this House would not consent to such large expenditure in Perth.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Additional show cases for the Museum were absolutely required, unless the specimens now stowed away were to be destroyed. Above that, there were a quantity of show-cases returned from the Glasgow Exhibition, which were the property of the State. This was a very good opportunity to acquire these show-cases for the Perth Museum, an opportunity that seldom arose. They were the property of the State; therefore it would be merely a bookkeeping entry if they were supplied to the Perth Museum, this vote to be debited with their cost. It was to the advantage of the State to have these cases for the Museum.

MR. TAYLOR supported the reduction of the item by £500. Sufficient money was granted by the Government for ornamental purposes in Perth and Fremantle.

MR. MORAN: It would not matter a fig so far as the country was concerned if the whole item were struck out. It was one of those expenses that went to swell the total and made the country believe we were paying £1,000 more than we were. These cases being the property of the State, they should have been sent to the Museum and nothing said about them. What the Government wished to do was to show the total cost to the Museum by transferring that debit to the Museum.

MR. WALLACE: The proper way would be to debit the amount to the Glasgow Exhibition account.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: If the specimens were to be preserved, it was necessary to pass the item. If the item were not passed, the Perth Museum would not get these cases. The Glasgow

Exhibition Commission would sell them for what they would fetch. So far as the expenditure of money was concerned, this was a bookkeeping entry.

MR. HOLMAN: £500 was enough to grant to the Perth Museum for more fittings.

MR. THOMAS: This was not a book-keeping entry. He understood that the Minister for Mines was bargaining for this, and he thought the Minister was getting a pretty good price for the cases. If the Museum authorities were anxious to obtain these cases, let them get public subscriptions from the wealthy men of Perth. Let them get £500, this Committee might vote £500, and the Perth people could then get the cases and do as they liked with them.

MR. HOPKINS suggested that the member for North Murchison (Mr. Holman) should withdraw his opposition. He understood that the Glasgow Commissioners held the cases for the Government, and that the Museum authorities required the cases and were prepared to take them over at the price. It was not a matter of money, but of passing book-entries to close up the books of the Exhibition Commissioners.

Amendment negatived.

Item—Perth Victoria Library, £4,000:

MR. HOPKINS suggested that the Perth Victoria Library and the Swan River Mechanics' Institute might be amalgamated. In outside districts where libraries were struggling along with 200, 300, 400, or 500 volumes, people had to raise these institutions themselves. Was it not a reasonable thing to say that one library should be quite sufficient for Perth, and that it should be a circulating library, and should exchange its volumes with all other such institutions in the State? He moved that the item be struck out. At the same time he would like the Minister to tell us if this item of £27,500 was being spent because a member of the Royal Family laid the foundation stone.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was not proposed to expend £4,000 or £27,500 in any way because a member of the Royal Family had laid the foundation stone. What had prompted the Government in placing that amount on the Estimates was what was represented as

being the actual requirements in this library. In the first place he would like to point out that to his own certain knowledge this public library was availed of by the working classes more than any other class. There was a difference between the Swan River Mechanics' Institute and this library, this being absolutely free; and it was availed of to a very great extent by the working classes. It was not made a circulating library, because it had been felt that men who went there to consult a work of reference or expecting to find a particular book should be able to find it there any day. The information he possessed he intended to give to the Committee just as he received it. The present premises, the first floor of which was occupied by the library, formed part of the permanent Museum premises, and the books were placed there temporarily in 1897, on the understanding that a permanent library building should be proceeded with as quickly as possible. Last year plans were prepared and tenders were called; but it was felt that the finances of the State were not in a position to justify the expenditure. This building which the Government were urgently asked to proceed with would provide room for 100,000 books, and give ample accommodation for all library wants for at least 10 and probably 15 years to come; while, by enabling the library to be removed from the present temporary premises, this would also provide some additional Museum accommodation. When the library was first placed in the present building it was estimated there was sufficient accommodation for 35,000 books and 150 readers. Now there were close on 50,000 volumes in the place, and space for visitors was curtailed, there being room only for 128 persons. This space was too small, as would be seen from the statistics, which showed a daily attendance of over 400 persons. The attendance of such a number of persons in the room rendered the atmosphere unhealthy, about which complaints were made daily, and if the windows were opened complaints were also made. The basement was not free from damp, and the books stored there were being damaged by damp and silverfish. During the month of November the visitors numbered 17,972, including 708 ladies; and the average daily attendance for the month

was 599. The visitors were mostly of the working class, and it would be seen how crowded the place was when there was only sufficient room to accommodate 128 persons. He agreed with those members who said that other places than Perth were entitled to the benefit of public libraries, but he could not agree with the member for North Murchison, who stated that because North Murchison did not get a grant no other place should have one. He agreed with that hon. member when he said the country was entitled to equal benefits with Perth; but that hon. member said that because one particular place did not get a certain thing, no other place should. It was absolutely necessary to have some additions made to the library, and he trusted whatever members would do they would not strike out the whole item, but leave some reasonable amount, so that a start could be made towards providing extra accommodation for the library.

MR. HOLMAN: In reply to the Minister for Works he pleaded guilty to saying that one place should not receive all the benefits that were doled out. On the Estimates £11,800 was set down for Perth Museum, Art Gallery, and Library, also £5,400 for the Zoo, making £17,200 for those few institutions. It was a disgrace to allow such a thing to occur when there were places in the back country such as North Murchison which could not get a grant. The people of North Murchison asked for £100 to assist them in building a library, and this was after the people had spent hundreds of pounds collected amongst themselves. The only reply received was an application form for a grant-in-aid. This was centralisation of the worst type. He would support the amendment.

MR. BATH: The item should not be struck out. Amongst the greatest necessities of any community, especially in Western Australia, which was largely composed of young men, we should not be stingy in the amount set apart for this kind of recreation. If he understood that the country districts had been unfairly treated in the past in this matter he would vote differently; but in the past the Government had practically lavished grants on local institutes, but the money had not been expended in a

judicious manner. The grants had been made to cater for the literary tastes of the community, but a large amount of the money had been expended in building halls and dancing rooms. If the money had been expended judiciously many districts would have had good libraries to-day. Anyone who went to Kalgoorlie, which had received substantial grants in the past, would say that the library there was not a credit to the place. Kalgoorlie received a grant to establish a library and build a hall with the money.

MR. JACOBY: The Colonial Secretary might take into consideration the system, which was in vogue in South Australia, of assisting country institutes by the distribution of books from the central library.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That was to be done. He could speak from a personal knowledge of the congested state of the public library. Only a few days ago he inspected both the library and the museum and the want of space was very apparent. Visitors from the country districts used the library and museum, and they visited the Zoo.

MR. JOHNSON: Once a year during the Christmas holidays.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Between the months of January and October of this year the attendance at the library was between 11,000 and 18,000 a month, and the total number of visitors to the library during that time was 150,899. It was not likely that any number of persons whose home was in Perth would go to the Victoria library to read the newspapers; still whatever time of the day one went to the library it was invariably found to be full of visitors. The place was unhealthy, close, and stuffy. The newspaper room in the basement was always crowded, and the same might be said with regard to the room set apart for books. It was intended this year to initiate a system whereby books could be sent to outside libraries on not too stringent conditions. Considering the urgent want for increased accommodation in the library and the great use made of that institution by a section of the public, the visitors to Perth, which disposed to a certain extent of the centralisation theory, members should let the item stand.

MR. HOPKINS: How many people went to the library and to the museum?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The two places were separate.

MR. HOPKINS: Who checked the number of persons attending the library?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The attendant.

MR. HOPKINS: If the attendance was checked by a boy, then it was not reliable. The check should be made by having a proper turnstile. There was a large number of persons who had to fill in a certain amount of time who went to this institution daily to read. If an investigation were made it would be found that this institution was used by a certain class. No doubt the visitors to Perth went to see the Museum, but very few visitors would go to see the Library. People did not go to look up books of reference on coming to Perth. Could not these libraries be amalgamated?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No.

MR. HOPKINS: Yet the Mechanics' Institute had a free grant of land from the Government! He contradicted the statement that country places had received grants of money for establishing libraries and had spent the grants on dancing halls. Boulder, on receiving a grant, had built a hall and provided a free reading room, not like the hide-bound institution in Hay Street, but a place where the leading English journals and periodicals could be read by all visitors. At least the daily papers should be open to inspection free of charge at the Mechanics' Institute.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Government did not subsidise the institute.

MR. HOPKINS: Then the deed of trust might be examined by virtue of which the institute collected its heavy rents without paying for its land. Since the municipality of Kalgoorlie had built a hall, they had provided a library unequalled in any town of similar age here or elsewhere in Australia. After the Colonial Secretary's assurance that the libraries could not be combined, and as there must be a library for works of reference, let the amendment be withdrawn.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

MR. HOLMAN moved that the item be reduced by £2,000. In North Murchison was a library mainly supported

by the people, which was open free to all. If the people of Perth were willing to subscribe £ for £, let the Government subsidise their institutions, but not otherwise. Town and country, agricultural districts and goldfields, should receive the same treatment. On the Estimates was a total of £17,200 for the Perth Zoo and the Library and Museum. That was too much to spend in 12 months on amusements in Perth, when the health of people in the back country was being ruined for lack of pure water.

MR. DAGLISH: Apparently the last speaker proposed that our State library should be kept up by private subscription, or that there should be a State library in each town throughout the country, thus making each town a capital city, so that all might be treated alike. The hon. member objected to the poorer classes being provided with opportunities for mental improvement.

MR. HOLMAN: Give the opportunities throughout the country, and not in one spot only.

MR. DAGLISH: Every civilised capital city had its free public library mainly for the benefit of those who could not afford expensive private libraries. It was surprising to find an hon. member objecting to extending facilities already altogether insufficient.

MR. HOLMAN: The objection was to spending so large a sum on the people of one centre while those in the country were neglected. Last year a certain grant to this library was reduced on the Estimates, but the amount had nevertheless been paid.

Amendment put and negatived, and the item passed.

Item—Furniture for present and new Parliament Houses, £1,000:

MR. WALLACE: The House Committee should provide more comfort for members in the new House than were here obtainable. Do away with the jarrah chairs.

MR. DAGLISH: There should be a guarantee from the Minister that tenders would be called for the large items. Over £2,000 had been spent under the supervision of certain officers on furniture for the Training College. There was a strong impression throughout the trade and in

the service that some officers received commissions on such purchases.

MR. MORAN: The local manufacturer should be encouraged.

MR. JOHNSON: Bar the man who employed Chinamen.

MR. MORAN: That should not be done by the Government without legislative authority. In competing for Government work the local manufacturer should have not only a fair chance but an advantage. A short time ago local tenders for safes and fittings for the Land Titles Office were rejected, though the work could have been well done here. The ironwork for the new Houses should if possible be made locally.

MR. JACOBY: Though every inducement should be given the local manufacturer, shoddy articles should not be accepted from him, as in the past.

MR. JOHNSON: Tenders should be called for supply of this furniture. There was some danger in the public tender system owing to the fact that the employer of Chinese labour could underbid the employer of white labour. It was difficult to find in Perth any furniture manufacturer employing white labour exclusively.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: In regard to furniture requirements as in regard to all other requirements, the Government believed in the system of open tender. The utmost publicity would be given to the requirements of the State, and local enterprise would be encouraged as much as possible.

Item—Grants in aid (in accordance with regulations) for construction of and additions to mechanics' institutes, miners' institutes, and agricultural halls, £2,500:

MR. WALLACE: The Minister would do well to distribute the amount of this item with a greater degree of caution than had been exercised in the past. The regulations provided that the amount should be distributed on a subsidy basis.

MR. EWING: If people by their own exertions found money for free library purposes, would they receive a £ for £ subsidy? In his district, £80 had been raised and devoted to the purchase of books.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This item referred to construction of halls.

Vote (reduced to £273,986) put and passed.

This completed the votes for the Works Department.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 19 minutes past 11 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Assembly.

Friday, 12th December, 1902.

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THE DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair at 2:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by the PREMIER, leave of absence for one fortnight granted to the Hon. the Speaker, on the ground of illness.

COOLGARDIE GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY BILL.

Message from the Administrator received and read, recommending appropriation for the purpose of the Bill.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. ILLINGWORTH in the Chair; the MINISTER FOR WORKS in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1, 2—agreed to.