

lots on the strength of a telegram sent by the Under Secretary for Lands. Those people were under the impression that they acquired rights in 1896, and no doubt they did so; but those rights were taken away by a section in the Land Act of 1900, which was retrospective. Those persons had taken up certain residential lots which were 10 chains from the town-site and were of 33ft. frontage, and there were about 200 of these lots. What they now asked was that they should have the right of getting the fee simple of those lands. This measure was introduced into the Assembly really for the one special purpose, he thought the Minister said, of giving those people that right. In a thin House the clause was struck out, and he (Mr. Jenkins) desired to have the measure sent back to the Assembly with the wish of the Council that the clause should be reinserted. In reinserting that clause the Council would be undoing what practically had been a great injustice. He believed the reinsertion of the clause was not opposed by the Ministers.

HON. A. JAMESON: No; they did not oppose it.

Question passed, and the clause added to the Bill.

Schedule:

HON. A. G. JENKINS moved that the following be added to the Bill:—

THE SCHEDULE.

Residential leases of } Boulder Town Lots }	405 to 416 inclusive
Do. do. ...	418 to 429 "
Do. do. ...	431 to 438 "
Do. do. ...	441 to 444 "
Do. do. ...	446 to 459 "
Do. do. ...	462 to 471 "
Do. do. ...	473 to 490 "
Do. do. ...	492 to 499 "
Do. do. ...	501 to 510 "
Do. do. ...	513 to 516 "
Do. do. ...	518 to 526 "
Do. do. ...	527 to 546 "
Do. do. ...	549 to 552 "
Do. do. ...	554 to 561 "
Do. do. ...	563 to 582 "
Do. do. ...	587 to 606 "
Do. do. ...	608 to 615 "
Do. do. ...	617 to 628 "
Do. do. ...	628 to 633 "
Do. do. ...	635 to 654 "

Question passed, and the schedule added to the Bill.

Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments, and the report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 9-38 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 2nd December, 1902.

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

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: 1. By-laws of the municipality of Norseman.
2. Report (copy) and evidence of "Drayton Grange" inquiry.

Ordered: To lie on the table.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS.

(IN LIEU OF MOTIONS.)

MR. HOPKINS by leave, asked the Premier: Whether, seeing that the Standing Orders were suspended, he would assist members as far as possible by answering questions for information which, under other circumstances, members might move for in the shape of returns.

THE PREMIER said he would be glad to do that; but he did not want to

encourage notices which involved a great deal of expense in answering questions, unless we knew by means of discussion on motion with what object the information was sought.

MR. THOMAS (referring to notice of questions asking for information) said he could not obtain the information he required on railway matters unless in the form of a question, because if he were to give notice of motion it would be impossible for such motion to come on now that the Standing Orders were suspended.

QUESTION—RAILWAY-YARD LABOURERS' WAGES.

MR. HASTIE (for Mr. Johnson) asked the Minister for Railways: 1, If it is true that casual labourers are engaged in the Kalgoorlie loco. yards at 8s. per day. 2, If so, why have the wages agreed to by these employees and the department some two years back been reduced.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Yes. 2, No agreement to be inferred from the question is within the knowledge of the department.

QUESTION—NEW LAW COURTS, PARTI- TICULARS.

MR. HASTIE (for Mr. Johnson) asked the Minister for Works: 1, When is it expected the new Law Courts will be completed. 2, What was the time fixed in the contract for the completion. 3, Was six months rebate on the time agreed to by the contractor. 4, If so, why. 5, Has the contractor exceeded the time. 6, If so, is a fine being inflicted. 7, What is the amount per day. 8, What amount as rebate was agreed to for cutting Donnybrook stone out of the building and substituting the inferior building material "stucco." 9, Did the contract specify the roof to be covered with slate. 10, Why has this not been done. 11, What amount, as rebate, was agreed to for substituting the inferior roofing. 12, Will there be any extras. 13, If so, what amount is estimated to cover them.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, February, 1903. 2, 30th March, 1903. 3, Contractors offered to complete in "six months less time." 4, On account of alteration from freestone to cement dressings. 5, Yes. 6, Penalties to be incurred will be dealt with on

completion. 7, £10 per week. 8, £5,425. 9, Yes. 10, As the roof is not visible, galvanised iron was substituted with boarding and felt under. 11, £677 0s. 10d. 12, Yes. 13, £984 19s. 7d., cost of which is met by reductions in other matters.

QUESTIONS (2)—RAILWAY DEVIATION, FREMANTLE.

MR. HIGHAM asked the Minister for Works: 1, If it is the intention of the Government to take any farther steps in the construction of the proposed Fremantle-Cottesloe deviation during recess. 2, If not, is the Government prepared to allow this matter to stand over pending discussion early in the next session of Parliament.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: The Government does not and never did propose to commit the State to any scheme for the extension of the Fremantle Harbour Works until Parliament had considered and decided the question.

MR. FOULKES asked the Minister for Works: Whether he will undertake not to take any farther steps with regard to the construction of the deviation of the railway in the Buckland Hill, Cottesloe, and Peppermint Grove Roads Board District until the question of the routes is first submitted to this House.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: The answer was the same as that to the preceding question.

QUESTION—WATER SUPPLY (ARTESIAN), COTTESLOE.

MR. FOULKES asked the Minister for Works: If he will take the necessary steps to bore for an artesian supply of water at some convenient place at Cottesloe.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: It is not considered necessary at present to undertake any boring work at Cottesloe, which place could be supplied from the Claremont bore. It is possible, however, that a separate service reservoir at Cottesloe may become necessary when increased consumption demands it; and if this is so, and if it is also found that the Claremont bore does not yield sufficient, the question of putting down a separate bore for Cottesloe can then be considered.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. JACOBY, leave of absence for one fortnight granted to the member for West Kimberley (Mr. Pigott), on the ground of urgent private business; and on motion by the PREMIER, leave for one fortnight granted to the hon. the Speaker, on account of illness.

REPORT—COLLIE TO COLLIE-BOULDER RAILWAY BILL.

On motion by Mr. HASTIE, the House resolved into Committee to consider the report of the select committee on the Collie to Collie-Boulder Railway Bill.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. ILLINGWORTH in the Chair; the MINISTER FOR WORKS AND RAILWAYS in charge.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Authority to construct:

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: The select committee appointed to inquire into this Bill had made certain recommendations, the most important of which, perhaps, was that contained in paragraph 5 of the report:—

Your committee, after viewing the site and carefully considering all the evidence, are of opinion that the Collie-Boulder line should terminate on Lease 126 at a point to be fixed by the Engineer for Railway Surveys as being suitable for a station. Should this course be adopted, care must be taken to provide that the operations of the Collie-Boulder Company by undermining or the erection of buildings or otherwise will not interfere with any future extension of the railway.

Having regard to that recommendation and also to other recommendations of the report, the Government had sent the Engineer for Railway Surveys to the locality with instructions to alter the terminal point in accordance with the recommendation of the select committee. Sundry amendments in the Bill itself and also in the schedule were therefore necessitated, as was also the preparation of a fresh plan. In order that these amendments might, for the convenience of members, appear on the Notice Paper, he moved that progress be reported.

MR. MORAN: Should not this report have been adopted by the House before being dealt with in this way?

THE PREMIER: The same discussion would arise on the Bill in Committee as on a motion for the adoption of the select committee's report.

MR. MORAN: Were we in order in discussing the report before the House had adopted it?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Notice to consider the report in Committee had been given in accordance with Standing Order 358; therefore the report was now before the Committee. Moreover, the motion had been carried.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: As previously explained, the only object of the Government in moving that progress be reported was to save the time of the Committee. The amendments recommended by the select committee having been placed on the Notice Paper, discussion of the report and of the Bill might proceed concurrently.

Motion (progress) passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

PERMANENT RESERVES REDEDICATION BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Resumed from the 25th November.

Clause 2:

MR. DAGLISH: Would it not be possible to recommit the Bill and make the area in Clause 1 (2 roods 36 perches) the same as that in Clause 2 (1 acre)? The area of the Education Department reserve would then remain as it had been from the first. One acre would be taken from it and another acre given to it, a fence now close to the street being shifted about 40ft. farther back, and a triangle formed by erecting a new fence which would enclose from one-fifth to one-fourth of an acre additional, probably less than the 1 rood and 4 perches which would be the distance between the 2 roods and 36 perches and the 1 acre which were specified in Clauses 1 and 2 respectively. A number of members had inspected the spot, all of whom could corroborate the statement that this request might be granted without infringing the rights of the Education Department.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Surely the Government had fairly and even liberally treated the Subiaco municipality, and could not give them more land without seriously impairing the school playground, interfering with ingress to and egress from the boys' school, restricting access to the playground to a narrow lane between the fence it was

proposed to erect and the present fence, and rendering difficult the supervision by teachers. After giving a short *résumé* of the negotiations, he would leave the question to the good sense of the House. In April, 1901, the agitation for acquiring this land for Subiaco was started, and the then Minister of Education (Hon. G. Randell) received a deputation. On the 12th March, 1902, the Inspector General of Schools saw the member for Subiaco and the town clerk, and arrived at an agreement of such a nature that the fence put up would meet the wishes of both sides. The deputation next waited upon the then Minister for Education (Mr. Illingworth), who promised to give them a strip of 1 to 1½ chains, the deputation having asked for two chains. There was a subsequent conference with the Inspector General; the deputation explained that they wanted an additional half chain for a nursery ground; and the Inspector recommended to the Minister that this area be given in the form of a triangle instead of a rectangle, to permit of supervision of the playground by the teachers. To this the Minister agreed, thereby giving them the two chains asked for, though not in the shape desired. With this grant the deputation declared themselves satisfied, and thanked the Minister. In the circumstances, the last request of the municipality seemed like a breach of agreement, though the hon. member representing Subiaco, of which he was the mayor (Mr. Daglish), was not to blame for doing his best. The Government could not lose sight of the requirements of the Education Department; therefore Subiaco should not obtain this extra land, notwithstanding the admirable use made of the ground previously granted.

MR. DAGLISH: The Minister was in error in regard to the original application for land, which was not for two but for three chains, the full length of the gardens. The municipality understood this had been informally promised over 12 months ago by the Treasurer; but later the council were told they would have to be satisfied with one and a half or two chains. That would have been satisfactory; but subsequently they found they were to get much less—a triangular strip running from zero up to about two chains—vastly different from a grant of

two chains or even one and a half. The result had been considerably to injure the symmetry of the gardens. There had been no liberality to the municipality, which did not want the land for municipal purposes, nor to improve it for local needs only, but to provide a resort for visitors also, the gardens being used as much by visitors from Perth as by local people. There was no more liberality in allowing the municipality to make the gardens than in the Government making gardens for the municipality of Perth within the Perth boundaries. The Government had allowed Subiaco to spend its funds in providing a resort for the public, instead of the Government spending the money as in other places. The gardens were kept up at the expense of the ratepayers for the good of the general public. His children attended the school, and he would not ask the department to give up anything which would interfere with the school's efficiency. Yesterday he had visited the ground with the Inspector General, and the alleged difficulty of supervision was purely imaginary. At present the teachers had to go to the playground to supervise; and this they could do after the proposed alteration, though the supervision must be exercised from another spot. He moved that the words "one rood and four perches" be inserted after "acre," in line 2.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: From a shorthand report of the first deputation it appeared that the then Mayor of Subiaco (Mr. Bastow) pointed out that the ground was too small for the gardens, but could be enlarged by adding about two chains from the school playground, and that the Education Department could take in the block at the other side of the ground to recoup the loss. The then Colonial Secretary said the arguments of the Inspector General had convinced him that the taking of the ground from the school would not be justifiable, and that there was a strong feeling to that effect among the Subiaco residents, but that if by doing so he could still retain a sufficient area for the playground, or obtain land on the other side as suggested, he would be willing to assist the council. Substantially that was done; and in April, 1902, a letter was written to the Subiaco council definitely setting forth the position, and

stating, *inter alia*, that "this is the final decision of the Minister, and no more land can be given to your council." In answer to that letter, on the 21st April, 1902, the town clerk of Subiaco wrote to the Inspector General of Schools conveying the thanks of the council for the grant of land to the municipal council. If this final decision was to be upset, no end would be reached. The municipality of Subiaco had expressed themselves as satisfied with the grant that had been made.

MR. TAYLOR: Would the amendment mean that the municipal council of Subiaco would take portion of the piece of land now used as a playground by the children attending the Subiaco school? If so he would vote against the amendment, because the ground could not be taken away without interfering with the playground, which was of more utility than a garden set apart for playing bowls in. If the Committee granted this portion of land to the Subiaco municipal council, we would be taking away the best portion of the children's playground. The children would have to play on the side of a sandhill, because the land proposed to be taken away was the only flat portion of the playground. The children would also be forced to go through a narrow passage, like a drafting yard, to reach the playground.

MR. NANSON: Judging from the remarks of the member for Mt. Margaret, there was some misconception of what was intended to be done. So far as he had been able to gather only a comparatively small portion of the playground was to be taken away. It was now nothing but a sandy waste, not suitable for a playground until gravel was laid down. If the ground was given to the Subiaco municipality and converted, as the adjoining ground had been, into a garden, it would be equally open to the children. Subiaco had a very small garden, but it was an object-lesson to every municipality in the State. They had made good use of the ground which had been given them, and there was an abundance of Government ground quite close to the school. It would be no hardship to the children to have this piece of ground taken away, and if there was not enough left a portion of the reserve which was close to the school

could be added to the playground. The Subiaco municipality had turned the ground which had been granted to them into a garden not for any section of the people, and it was more used by the children than the playing ground attached to the school. If the Minister did not pay so much attention to the head of his department he could find a way out of the difficulty. No objection could be raised on the score that a small entrance would be made to the playground.

MR. WALLACE: The playground was a barren sandy patch on which children could not play with any degree of pleasure. If the ground was taken from the Education Department it would still be available to the children, and would be more useful from a health point of view. As there was plenty of other ground which could be given to the school for a playground, there would be no hardship in taking the small portion required away. The children of Subiaco would benefit more if the ground was placed in the hands of the Subiaco municipality than if left in the hands of the Education Department. The Subiaco municipality were desirous of improving the centre, and they should be encouraged in their work. Because Subiaco did not years ago ask for acres of land like Perth did, they should not be deprived of a small piece of land now. The Subiaco municipal garden was centrally situated and beautifully kept, and he hoped the extension would be granted, for if it remained under the Education Department it would be a sandpatch for many years to come.

MR. TAYLOR: It was not the desire of the Education Department to leave the school playground as a sandy patch. Up to the present time not a penny had been spent on that ground.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Not on the portion asked for, but around the school building money had been spent and the improvement was gradually being extended year by year.

MR. TAYLOR: On the piece of ground asked for the children could not play cricket or football. The land should not be taken away but should be left as a playground. He hoped the Government would spend more money to make the school playground more attractive for the children and more suitable to

play in. The school ground at Subiaco was a disgrace to the Government and to Parliament. What the municipality had done could be carried out by the Government in the playground. He would feel inclined to vote for a motion to annex the municipal gardens at Subiaco and set them aside as a children's playground, and not have gardens set apart for people to play bowls in.

MR. JACOBY: If the extra ground was granted to the municipality of Subiaco, would the municipality at any time be able to devote the land to any other use than garden purposes? If it were a case of the ground becoming exceedingly valuable, could the municipality sell that ground and perhaps erect a building on this particular ground, or was the reserve granted in such a manner that it must be kept as a garden?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: By the wording of the Bill, if the land were added to Reserve 5694 it would be dedicated, as Reserve 5694 already was, to the purpose of public gardens, and he thought this dedication would debar the municipality from putting it to any other use. At the same time, as he had already pointed out, he thought that the inconvenience that would be caused to the Education Department would be too great for him, and he should say for the House, to grant the request made by the member for Subiaco (Mr. Daglish). With regard to the gravelling of the playground, which had been alluded to by the member for Mount Margaret (Mr. Taylor), as quickly as money could be found for that purpose it was being done. Throughout the State a considerable sum was spent every year in the improvement of playgrounds. Were we to start to improve every playground in the State, it would take such a tremendous sum of money that members would stand aghast when the Estimates were brought before them. One of the greatest wishes he could possibly have would be to see children indulging in all sorts of healthy exercises upon playgrounds. He scarcely thought the contention put forward by the member for the Murchison (Mr. Nanson) had much to recommend it to the Committee. He hoped the Committee would support him in the view he was taking, and which he must say he was sorry he had to take. He regretted he

could not see his way to recommend that this ground should be given to the municipality of Subiaco, because he was one of the first to admit that they had made the best possible use of the ground they already had. Still, the inconvenience which would be caused to the Education Department would be too great for him to recommend that this should be done.

MR. DAGLISH: The member for Mount Margaret (Mr. Taylor) was wrong when he said that this would interfere in any way with the children's playground. There was no interference with the football ground or the cricket ground. It was all a question of departmental convenience, and nothing else. The hon. member implied that the ground was wanted for bowling-green purposes. That was incorrect. The bowling green would be closed in about four months, and it was not to be used again for that purpose. This additional piece of ground, if obtained, would be used solely for garden purposes in the true meaning of the word. There was no desire to use it for any other purpose. He should be the first to resist any alienation of Crown lands in the interests of the municipality for anything but public purposes. The ground would be useful to children and women. The place was resorted to by children during lunch time, and they had far more quiet enjoyment there than in the playground. He thought that the girls mostly resorted to the garden in the lunch hour, and the boys had in another place ample room to disport themselves in cricket and football.

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

Ayes	...	...	10
Noes	...	...	15

Majority against ... 5

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Daglish	Mr. Bath
Mr. Diamond	Mr. Butcher
Mr. Foulkes	Mr. Gardiner
Mr. Hastie	Mr. Gregory
Mr. Hopkins	Mr. Holman
Mr. Jacoby	Mr. Kingsmill
Mr. Nanson	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. O'Connor	Mr. Monger
Mr. Reid	Mr. Oats
Mr. Wallace (Teller).	Mr. Quilman
	Mr. Rason
	Mr. Stone
	Mr. Taylor
	Mr. Thomas
	Mr. Higham (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived, and the clause passed.

Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Bill read a third time, and *passed*.

RABBIT PEST BILL.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

ELECTORAL BILL.

The **PREMIER** (Hon. Walter James) moved that the Bill be recommitted for amendments appearing on the Notice Paper. Some of these were consequential, dealing with the question of electors' rights, and they all really arose on that.

Question passed, and the Bill recommitted.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. ILLINGWORTH in the Chair.

Clause 20—One adult one vote:

The **PREMIER** moved that the clause be struck out and that the following be inserted as Clause 19:—

No person may at the same time be registered on more than one Council roll or on more than one Assembly roll.

This new clause was consequent on the decision to abolish plural voting in respect of both Houses.

Amendment passed, and the new clause inserted.

Part IV.—Electors' rights:

The **PREMIER** moved that Part IV. (Clauses 21 to 28, inclusive) be struck out. The necessary machinery was provided by the new clauses on the Notice Paper.

Amendment passed, and Clauses 21 to 28, inclusive, struck out.

Clause 32—Arrangement:

The **PREMIER** moved that after "rolls," line 1, there be inserted "the municipal and road board rolls." This amendment did not continue or perpetuate the present system of making up rolls from municipal or road board rolls, but merely enabled the registrar to make the new electoral roll as complete as possible by means of the information contained in these other rolls.

MR. HASTIE: Was the registrar to be empowered to use municipal and roads board rolls in making up the first electoral roll only?

The **PREMIER**: Whenever a new electoral roll was to be prepared.

MR. HASTIE: Experience had shown that the municipal and roads board rolls were absolutely unreliable, and if they were used in the preparation of the electoral roll, the result would be highly unsatisfactory.

The **PREMIER**: The registrar would not copy the municipal and roads board rolls any more than he now copied the census returns, but would merely avail himself of those rolls in order to supplement information otherwise at his disposal.

MR. HASTIE: Could not the same end be attained without this clause?

The **PREMIER**: No. In view of the widened franchise for the Legislative Council, those possessing the qualification under this Bill would in many cases not be on the present Council roll, which therefore was quite inadequate as a basis for the preparation of the new Council roll under this Bill. In the past, trouble had arisen from the circumstance that the registrar was bound to accept the municipal and roads board rolls as sent in.

MR. HASTIE: That would not be so under this clause?

The **PREMIER**: No.

Amendment passed, and the words inserted.

New clause—Names of Council electors to be registered on one roll only:

The **PREMIER** moved that the following be added, to stand as Clause 34:—

(1.) Notice, in the Form C in the Second Schedule, shall be given by the Inspector of Parliamentary Rolls to every elector whose name appears on the rolls of two or more provinces, requiring the elector to choose the province for which he is to be registered.

(2.) In default of a choice being made by the elector, and communicated to the Inspector of Parliamentary Rolls within the time stated in the notice, the Inspector of Parliamentary Rolls shall strike out the name of the elector from every roll, except one to be stated in the notice.

On the preparation of new rolls various persons would be found to have a vote for more provinces than one, whilst the House had decided that no person should vote for more than one province. The question then arose in what province a person entitled to registration in more than one province should register. As the result of discussion it was agreed that such a person should be allowed a choice, but if no choice were made some

means of settling the question must be provided. Accordingly, under this clause the registrar on finding an elector qualified for two or more provinces would send him a notice inquiring for which province the elector desired to vote, and stating that in default of the elector specifying, he would be placed on the roll for a particular province named.

MR. HASTIE: In some cases the registrar might not detect the fact that an elector was on the roll of more than one province. Did the measure provide any penalty for the casting of two or more votes? The Federal Electoral Act provided a penalty.

MR. ATKINS: Was not the better course to impose a penalty on the registrar for neglect in allowing a person to have a vote for more than one province?

THE PREMIER: The matter would be considered.

Question passed, and the clause added to the Bill.

New Clauses:

THE PREMIER moved that the following be added to the Bill:—

PART VI.

Additions of New Names.

37. New names may be added to rolls pursuant to (a) Claims; or (b) Applications to transfer.

Forms of Claims.

38. Claims may be in the Form D or E in the Second Schedule, and shall be signed by the claimant, and shall be sent to the registrar of the province or district in which the claimant desires to vote.

Registration of Claims.

39. If the claim is in order, the registrar shall, pursuant to claim, immediately enter the claimant's name, and the particulars relating to him, on the roll, and shall file the claim.

The machinery clauses relative to electors' rights having been struck out, these new clauses were designed to take their place.

MR. HASTIE: The clauses were similar to those struck out of the Bill?

THE PREMIER: Yes; except that no mention was made of electors' rights.

MR. HOLMAN: Did the new clause numbered 39 entitle a person to vote so soon as his name had been placed on the roll?

THE PREMIER: Yes.

Question passed, and the new clauses added to the Bill.

Clause 44—Right to transfer:

THE PREMIER moved that the following be inserted as Subclause 1:—

Any elector whose name is on the roll for any province, and who possesses another sufficient qualification in another province or in another division of the same province, may transfer his name to the division of the roll to which such other qualification relates.

MR. HASTIE: Until how long before an election might names be transferred?

THE PREMIER: Up to the time of the issue of writs, in the same way as in connection with the Lower House.

MR. TAYLOR: An elector might transfer his vote, but would be entitled to vote only once?

THE PREMIER: Yes.

Question passed, and the subclause inserted.

Bill reported with farther amendments, and the report adopted.

THIRD READING.

Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

LEONORA TRAMWAY BILL.

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

At 4 o'clock, business suspended 15 minutes.

COOLGARDIE GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY BILL.

SECOND READING (MOVED).

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. C. H. Rason): In rising to move the second reading of this Bill, perhaps the House will approve, seeing so great a time apparently has passed since the scheme was initiated, and there have been so many changes inside the House and outside of it, if I attempt, before endeavouring to describe the details of the Bill itself, to give a history of the Coolgardie Water Scheme from its inception to the present time. The subject is too vast to be condensed into a few words, but I shall endeavour to be as brief as possible, and I hope the House will be patient with me if my discourse prove unfortunately too wearisome, because the subject is not one which lends itself easily to the display of oratorical powers, even if I were capable of it. In the summer of 1893 and 1894, the rainfall upon the Eastern Goldfields had been so very scanty, and there had been such a rush

of people to these fields in consequence of their marvellous progress and their great wealth, that there was developed a dire need for a water supply. The necessity had been accentuated by the extension of the railway system to the fields, and it may safely be said it was only with the most energetic measures on the part of the then Government, coupled by the expenditure of a very large sum of public money upon what were more or less temporary alleviating measures, that a very great calamity was avoided. It is somewhat hard to realise now that this great scarcity of water could have ever existed on the fields; but those amongst us who knew the fields in the early days remember that even in Coolgardie itself, a long time after that place had begun to wear the appearance of a prosperous goldfields town, it was by no means an uncommon occurrence to pay up to 2s. 6d. a gallon for water for drinking purposes, water hastily condensed and still warm; and I am told—it is hearsay of course—that hotelkeepers were wont to more jealously guard the manner in which the customer helped himself to the water than to the whisky bottle; and in regard to water for bathing purposes, out of respect to the feelings of many prominent citizens I will draw the veil. This necessity for procuring an adequate and permanent water supply had forced itself so strongly upon the attention of the Government that during the latter part of the year 1894 and the early part of 1895 the Government were considering very earnestly how that supply could best be brought about. The first idea of pumping water to the fields seems, so far as I have been able to ascertain, to have originated with a contractor, Mr. John Maher. In September, 1894, Mr. John Maher applied to the Minister for Mines for a water-right to take water from the tributaries of the Avon at Northam; to erect reservoirs there, and pump the water thence to Coolgardie, a distance of 290 miles. The matter was referred to the Government, who were advised that a private Bill would be necessary, and Mr. Maher was informed that if such a measure was introduced into Parliament, and the Government approved of its terms, they would endeavour to assist its passage through the Legislature. Nothing more however was heard of the matter.

MR. MORAN: The Bill was drafted and submitted, but the Government were not favourable.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Various other proposals were brought up from time to time and considered: they were mostly for condensing on a large scale on the salt lakes situated in different parts of the fields. These schemes for condensing on a large scale, as a permanent solution of the difficulty, were abandoned for many reasons, namely the comparatively high cost of providing fresh water from water so very saline in character as that existing on the goldfields even with the most modern appliances, the considerable difficulty and expense that would be experienced in obtaining an adequate and certain supply of even salt water, and also to some extent the possibility of the fuel necessary for condensing operations becoming scarce in the immediate future. In December, 1894, Mr. Jobson, then an employee of the Government in charge of the water supply on the Eastern Goldfields, reported on the necessity of providing an adequate supply for the future, unless condensing operations on the goldfields were conducted on a large scale so as to render the fields independent of the provision already made by means of tanks, and independent, consequently, on the rainfall which up to this period had proved to be very uncertain. And here I may be allowed to remark that the 24 tanks erected on the Eastern Goldfields cost in construction £255,555. These tanks contained on the 31st October last 24,270,666 gallons of water. Mr. Jobson stated that he had heard it might be possible to find suitable sites for the construction of reservoirs in the Esperance Bay district, or Fanny's Cove country, where he understood the rainfall was from 24 inches to 25 inches per annum. His suggestion was to construct reservoirs there and pump the water thence to Coolgardie; and the one reason for his advocating this locality was that even should a supply of fresh water fail, it would be possible to pump sea-water to Coolgardie in order to keep the mines going, or possibly to undertake condensing operations on the coast on a large scale, and pump the condensed water to the fields. This proposal was not taken up by the Government, and the subject seems to have dropped for a time, although through

the medium of the Press the question of the water supply on the fields continued to agitate the minds of the public. It was in the middle of the year 1895 that Sir John Forrest, and in a smaller measure the then Director of Works, Mr. Venn, seriously turned their attention to a water supply for the goldfields. The Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. C. Y. O'Connor, was asked to submit proposals for the supply of a large quantity of fresh water to Coolgardie; and, after consideration, it was decided to prepare a scheme for pumping water from reservoirs to be placed at sites selected in the Darling Ranges, and the immediate collection of the necessary data was put in hand. In October of the same year the Mines Department was approached with a view to ascertaining the probable quantity of water that would be used by the mines, but no satisfactory information was forthcoming then. Accordingly the late Engineer-in-Chief set to work to prepare alternative proposals with estimates for a daily supply of varying quantities from 10,000,000 to 1,000,000 gallons. After some preliminary calculations had been made, and the Agent General communicated with by cable concerning the probable cost per horse-power of pumps and other details, a preliminary section of the railway line from Guildford to Coolgardie was ordered to be prepared, as a basis on which to determine what would be required for pipes and pumping power. In December, 1895, instructions were given for the examination of the various available catchment areas in proximity to the railway line between Guildford and York. Simultaneously, information was being collected and calculations were made regarding the cost of different kinds of pipes, machinery, and other engineering details necessary for the production of a complete scheme, together with the heights of prominent hills contiguous to the railway line. Alternative preliminary estimates were then prepared by the late Engineer-in-Chief, as before mentioned, on the basis of the supply of various quantities of water, and also on the basis of cast-iron pipes and steel pipes of varying diameters; with the result that out of 31 proposals and estimates prepared, three were selected as being, all things considered, the best; and finally of these three, the one

to supply 5,000,000 gallons per day through a steel pipe 30 inches in diameter was selected to form the basis of the scheme. There has been so much comment upon the question of the site of the Helena Reservoir, its cost and capabilities, that I may here give a few facts as to the site selected. The wisdom of the choice of site of Helena Reservoir is evidenced from the fact that notwithstanding the difficulties as regards foundations, the cost of the reservoir (including all accessories such as railway, outlet works, etc.) per thousand gallons of available storage capacity, is only one half the cost of the Yan Yean Reservoir from which the Melbourne Water Supply is drawn, taken on the same basis. Putting the matter in another way, it may be stated that after allowing for evaporation, the available storage capacity of the Yan Yean Reservoir is approximately the same as that of the Mundaring Reservoir; and that while the cost of the latter (exclusive of railway, river training works, and so forth) can be taken as £200,000 in round numbers, the cost of the Yan Yean on a similar basis is £300,000; and moreover £250,000 have been spent on leading-in and catchwater drains and for accessory works, in order to increase the inflow into and the usefulness of the Yan Yean Reservoir, thus making its total cost £550,000, while the whole cost of the Helena Reservoir and all works accessory thereto (including the railway) can be put approximately at £235,000. During the early part of the year 1896 exhaustive examinations were being made of the various watersheds and streams on the Darling Ranges that were within a moderate distance of the goldfields railway line, and certain of the sites were surveyed. A site near Greenmount offered by Mr. Hedges was first examined, but was not considered suitable. In all, some 17 valleys were examined, with the result that it was considered the Helena Valley offered the best site and catchment on which to base the estimate. From this preliminary examination, after subsequent examination and verification of the figures had been made, the site of the present Helena Reservoir was selected for the supply for the scheme. In April, 1896, Mr. W. Wilson submitted a scheme to the Government for the supply of the

goldfields with water from a catchment about 60 miles north of Menzies. Mr. Wilson proposed to bring in a private Bill to enable this to be done; but the matter was not pursued. In the Queen's Speech at the opening of the session of Parliament on July 7th, 1896, the Government scheme was first officially mentioned, when it was stated that a proposal would be placed before Parliament to supply water by pumping to the summit of Mt. Burges, near Coolgardie, from reservoirs in the Darling Ranges, at an estimated cost of £2,500,000 for 5,000,000 gallons per diem. On the 17th July, 1896, the general report by the Engineer-in-Chief was completed, and was presented to Parliament on the introduction of a Bill for authorising the raising of a loan of £2,500,000 for the scheme, that being the sum which Mr. O'Connor estimated would be required to complete the work. The Bill was introduced by Sir John Forrest, and on the second reading (21st July) a long debate ensued; the second reading being carried on the 5th August. A joint select committee of both Houses was proposed by Mr. Charles Harper on the 6th August, but after being debated the proposal was negatived. The Bill then went into Committee of the House on the same day, and passed; passing also the third reading on the 12th August, 1896. The Bill then went to the Legislative Council, the first reading being taken on the 12th August; and on the 13th the second reading was moved by Mr. (now Sir Edward) Wittenoom, and after a long debate the Bill was read a second time on the 2nd September. On the 3rd September a select committee was proposed by the Hon. R. G. Burges; but the proposal was again negatived, and the Bill passed through Committee of the House, being also read a third time on the same day. On the Loan Estimates for 1896-7 a sum of £290,000, exclusive of departmental charges, was provided; but as the work in connection with the proposed scheme was chiefly in departmental work, the only money that was actually spent for construction purposes from the vote was some few pounds from the allocation for reservoirs. Early in August, 1896, in connection with some statements that had been made in Parliament throwing doubt on the quantity of water that would be required by the goldfields, Messrs. Bain-

bridge, Seymour, & Co. wrote offering to take 5,000,000 gallons per day at 3s. 6d. per 1,000 for 20 years, provided the Government would not compete with them in price. During the whole of this year preliminary investigations were being pushed forward as quickly as possible, surveys of the reservoir site at Mundaring were put in hand, and a survey for a railway to connect the weir with the Eastern Railway was also started. In addition to this, more detailed surveys of the proposed pipe-line were commenced in order that plans might be prepared for submission to and consideration of a Commission of Engineers in England that it was proposed should be appointed, in accordance with paragraph 56 of the Engineer-in-Chief's report that had been placed before Parliament. For the same purpose, full details as to the various kinds of pipes that had been suggested were obtained, and also all possible information that could be of any use to the Commission to generally determine the details of the scheme. It was also decided that the Engineer-in-Chief should, if possible, proceed to England at an early date to confer with the Commission in regard to the general details of the work, and to be able to give them advice on any local questions that might arise. In December 1896, a cablegram was received from the Agent General stating that he proposed with the sanction of the Government, to appoint Mr. Carruthers, the Consulting Engineer for the Colony, together with Professor Unwin (a great authority on transmission of power), and Mr. G. F. Deakin, the engineer of the Liverpool Water Supply, as a committee to consider the Coolgardie Water Supply, with authority to appoint another commissioner if necessary. On the 31st December 1896, the Government signified by cable its approval of these appointments. On January 22nd, 1897, after all preliminary investigations had been completed, the Engineer-in-Chief left Western Australia for London, arriving there on the 25th February. Mr. O'Connor was constantly present at the deliberations of the Commission, and with them visited many manufacturing centres and industries in connection with appliances, materials, and machinery that might be required for the carrying-out of the great project. Amongst other places visited were Messrs.

James Simpson and Co.'s pumping-engine factory in London, Messrs. McFarlane and Strang's pipe works, the Steel Company of Scotland's Iron and Steel Works at Glasgow, Messrs. Stewart and Clydesdale's pipe works at Coatbridge, Sir William Armstrong's works at Elswick, the Consett Iron Works, Bolchaw, Vaughan, and Co.'s steel works at Newcastle; besides these, the works of Ibbotson Bros., the works of Vickers and Sons, the works of Steel, Peach, and Tozer, the works of Howell and Co., the works of Owen and Dyson at Sheffield, the works of Kidson and Co., and Hathorn, Davey, and Co. at Leeds were also inspected. So that although it has been the practice, I am afraid, during the last few years of this scheme to say that the subject was never thoroughly gone into on its inception, I think it will be seen from the *personnel* of the Commission of Experts in London, and the trouble they took in the preliminary stage even, that the investigation was thorough from the start. With other members of the Commission Mr. O'Connor also proceeded to Paris to inspect some patent steel and cement ("sidero-cement") pipes built by M. Jean Bordenave, that are largely used in Paris for sewerage work, and had been suggested for the Coolgardie pipe line. On August 3rd the Commission presented its interim report, and a few days later (namely August 14th) Mr. O'Connor left England on his return journey to Western Australia, visiting Messrs. Krupp's steel works at Essen and Magdeburg (Germany), together with other works on his journey across the Continent. He arrived in Perth on September 17th, 1897. In April, 1897, while the Engineer-in-Chief was in England, a firm of French contractors, Messrs. C. H. Vezin and Sons, of Paris, submitted an offer to do the work by contract for considerably under the colonial estimate. It has been urged that the State would have done well to have accepted that offer. I propose to show to the House that had the offer been accepted, it is quite possible the contractors might easily have made a profit of something like £100,000 out of it. The price of £2,230,000 was for pipes ranging from 26 and 28 to 30 inches in diameter. What I wish the House to keep in

mind is that the price of £2,230,000 was for pipes ranging in size from 26 to 30 inches. Those pipes it was thought would nest on the road and save a great deal of freight. But we have put into this scheme pipes of 30-inch diameter all through; and if we add £230,000 for the difference in size of pipes and £170,000 for the distributing mains, which is the sum shown in the original scheme, adding also £150,000 for difference in the pumps we have provided, and difference in depth of the weir, remembering also that we put in pumps of a higher power than they proposed to put into the scheme, we shall get a total of £2,780,000. For £285,000, only £70,000 more, we shall, I hope, and indeed I am confident, be able to complete the scheme, including the reticulation of Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, and Boulder. After the return of the Engineer-in-Chief from England the work was slowed down, as it was understood that, owing to the large expenditure of loan moneys generally on works then in hand, and as some difficulty had been experienced in placing loans on the English market, it was not considered advisable to press on too quickly with the Coolgardie Water Scheme. Had it been desired to press on with the work, it would have been possible to let a contract for pipes in England in August of 1897. Reference was made to this in the session of Parliament of October, 1897, in the Queen's Speech, paragraph 8, in which the following occurred:—

My Ministers regret that owing to the large works already in progress from loan funds which it is impossible to interfere with, some little delay must occur before this great work (the Coolgardie Water Scheme) can be undertaken; but while regretting the necessity for so great an expenditure on this work, they are more than ever convinced that no other means are available for providing a certain, cheap, and good supply of fresh water to the Coolgardie Goldfields.

Owing to the work not being then pushed forward with energy, and perhaps owing to the fact that it had become known that there was some tightness in the money market, the scheme generally became the subject of considerable criticism in the Press, and an offer to carry out the work by contract for the sum of £2,231,500 was submitted by M. Bargigli on behalf of a Paris syndicate (M. Vezin and others

before mentioned), payment to be made in Treasury bonds. The Government did not see their way at the time to let the work by contract, as it had been decided that the works generally should be done departmentally. I may be excused if I am consulting notes more than is my usual custom; but the House will understand that the history of this work is principally made up of details and figures, and one could hardly commit to memory all those estimates. The history I am endeavouring to give you would be valueless unless reliable in every particular. The offer of M. Bargigli was again renewed in March, 1898, and in May, 1898, M. Bargigli was informed by the Premier that the Government were not prepared to accept his offer, as they intended to proceed with the work forthwith themselves; and that besides this, it would not be possible for the Government to enter into treaty with any private individual for the carrying out of so large a work of this kind except with the special approval of Parliament. Thereupon from this time onward up to the time Parliament met in June, 1898, I regret to say that M. Bargigli carried on in the newspapers his criticisms of the scheme, both as to the design, estimates, and personal qualifications and capabilities of the Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. O'Connor). Finally, on the 16th July, in the Assembly a motion was carried by Mr. Quinlan, that copies of all the proposals and offers made to the Government relating to the construction of the Coolgardie Goldfields Water Supply since 1st October, 1897, and all the Government estimates and reports relating to such water supply, should be laid on the table of the House; which was complied with. On the 13th July the Premier, in answer to sundry questions by Mr. Moran, stated that the work would be vigorously carried on, and that the Government were not in favour of the construction of the work by private enterprise. Again on the 26th July the late Mr. Leake brought forward a motion to the effect that proposals should be invited from responsible persons to convey water to the Eastern Goldfields and dispose of same, subject to the designs that had been prepared being adopted and the work being done under the supervision and approval of the Government engineers, the Government to themselves construct

the Helena Reservoir. A long debate ensued, but the motion was negatived on the following day. Early in 1898 the final report of the English Commission was received, and in January of that year the Government gave instructions for tenders to be called for the supply of pipes. In accordance therewith, a cablegram to the Agent General was prepared and despatched on the 22nd January, authorising him to call for tenders for 330 miles of pipe main, the size and specification of pipes to be as recommended by the English Commission; the pipes to be delivered to the Government stacked at Midland Junction, the contractors to have the option of either making the pipes in the State or importing them ready-made. Instructions were given that the tenders were to be advertised widely, and three months to be given for tendering; also liberty was to be given to contractors to tender for other types of pipes. Following on this cable a confirming indent was also sent home. Following this cable and the confirming indent, a considerable amount of correspondence both by cablegram and letter ensued with the Agent General and the Consulting Engineer in London regarding the details of the pipes. On the 26th February the Government cabled to the Agent General, stating that it had been decided to call tenders for the pipes by advertising simultaneously in Western Australia and England, and asked for the specifications to be sent out to Western Australia for the purpose of being exhibited here. In due course, drafts of the specifications for pipes were received in the colony, and after alterations had been made and various suggestions sent to England in connection with the specifications and conditions, revised copies were received, and on the 19th May the Agent General was advised by cable to issue advertisements, the tenders to be returnable on the 23rd August. During the time that the specifications for pipes were being considered, Mr. Ferguson's patent locking-bar pipe (which had in a rather imperfect state been already considered by the commission of English engineers, who were always favourably disposed towards it) was perfected in design and again brought specially under the notice of the Engineer-in-Chief; and at the end of May the Engineer-in-Chief visited Ade-

laide, and made a thorough investigation at Mr. Ferguson's works there of the pipe in question, the result of his investigation being communicated to the Consulting Engineer in England. Simultaneously with the cable for tenders to be called for pipes on the 21st January, 1898, a similar cable was sent authorising the Agent General to call for tenders for pumps, the power of the pumps to be as recommended by the Commissioners; and the suggestion was made that as to the character of the pumps, the specification should be for one type, but with liberty to the contractors to tender for other types if they thought them suitable; generally, the conditions to be the same as for the tenders for pipes. Considerable correspondence likewise ensued on this cablegram regarding the character of the pumps; but as the details to be settled in the specifications were much more complicated than in the case of the pipes, the actual culling for tenders was more delayed than in the case of the latter. During the early part of 1898, not much actual work was done in the colony in connection with the scheme; but the railway line between Mundaring station and the Helena Weir site was commenced in January and completed in August, and the excavations for the foundations of the Helena Weir were started in April. Investigations, however, were being made with regard to the works generally, the fixing of the various pumping stations, expansion joints for pipes, design for weir and collateral works, and the many contingent details in connection with the scheme. The final selection of the route of the pipe track was also commenced. On the 23rd August tenders for pipes were duly received in Perth, and on the same day a cablegram was received from the Agent General quoting the tenders that had been received by him in London. The various tenders were then gone carefully into by the Engineer-in-Chief, and on the 3rd September Mr. O'Connor reported to the Government generally in reference to the tenders received, that the lowest tenders received in England were from Messrs. Buchner, Blagen, & Co., of Portland, U.S.A., for 246½ miles of riveted pipes; and from Messrs. Piggott & Co. (with Stuart & Menzies), for 81½ miles of welded pipe (for which

tenders had been called), making in all 328 miles of pipe at a total cost of £1,255,308. The lowest tenders received in Perth were for the riveted pipes as above mentioned from Messrs. G. & C. Hoskins of Sydney, and (in lieu of the welded pipes) for pipes of the locking-bar type from Mr. Mephan Ferguson, making a total of £922,694. In view of Messrs. Hoskins and Ferguson both being Australian firms, and their tenders together being lower than others received, and also as the Engineer-in-Chief considered it would be advisable to adopt, for the whole main, pipes of the locking-bar type, he having in the meantime been supported in that desire by Mr. Carruthers, that type of pipe being considered distinctly better than riveted pipes for the reasons, amongst others, that there would be less liability to leaks, that it was stronger for equal weights, and that the locking-bar created less friction than rivet heads, he suggested that Messrs. Hoskins and Ferguson be asked if possible to coalesce and to submit a joint tender for the whole. After a considerable amount of negotiation, and a fresh contract being drawn in the colony on the basis of the one prepared in England, this coalition was agreed upon; that is to say, the Government acquired the patent rights of Mr. Ferguson, with the right to manufacture the pipes, and arranged a contract for the supply of half of the total quantity required with each of the two firms. Before, however, the tenders were actually accepted, a notice of motion was tabled by Mr. Holmes in the Legislative Assembly, and came on for discussion on the 14th September, that no tenders for the supply of pipes for the Coolgardie Water Scheme should be accepted without the approval of the House. During the lengthy debate that ensued thereon, Mr. Morgans moved an amendment practically to strike out the whole of the motion and to insert—

That it is advisable in the interests of the colony that the Coolgardie Goldfields Water Supply Scheme should be proceeded with at once, and this House urges the Government to do all things necessary to expedite the work.

This amendment was carried, after debate. Mr. Walter James then proposed

a farther amendment to be added to Mr. Morgans's amendment as follows:—

And to provide that such works as far as possible be carried out by day labour employed on the eight-hours system.

I hope Labour members will realise that there was a labour champion in this House even before their advent to it. This amendment was, however, lost, and consequently Mr. Morgans's amendment became the adopted resolution of the House. Simultaneously with the debate on Mr. Holmes's motion, which was continued from time to time until the 22nd September, Mr. Doherty on the 21st September moved in the Assembly—

That, in the opinion of this House, it is not to the best interests of this colony that the material and water pipes for the Coolgardie Water Scheme should be imported from foreign countries, but preference should be given to British manufacturers.

This was passed after a short debate. On the 19th October, however, the Premier made a statement to the House with reference to this resolution to the effect that the Government had made representations to the contractors, but had not been able to insert the necessary clause in the contracts providing for preference being given to British manufacturers, without guaranteeing the contractors against loss in consequence, and this had not been found practicable. The two contracts, each for half of the supply of pipes, were finally signed by the contractors, Messrs. G. & C. Hoskins and Mr. Mephan Ferguson, on the 18th October, 1898, the contract price for the pipes totalling £1,025,124. The supply of joint rings was also included in the contracts at a schedule rate of £1 2s. 6d. each in addition to the price for pipes aforesaid. The contractors immediately set about the ordering of the material, the construction of the necessary machinery, and the erection of buildings (by Messrs. Hoskins at Midland Junction, and by Mr. Ferguson at Falkirk, near Bayswater) for the construction of the pipes. I take this opportunity of saying that both those contractors have carried out their contract on the whole and generally to the satisfaction of the Government, and large as that contract was I am glad to say there has been no dispute, and there has been little if any extra. Comparing the locking-

bar with the riveted pipes, I may point out that the tenders for the locking-bar pipes were some £230,000 less than riveted pipes of the same thickness, and it was possible, therefore, with the locking-bar pipes to give an extra $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch, and thus insure more economical maintenance.

MR. MORAN: The contract fixed up was a little over the amount of the tender.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: The contract let for the locking-bar pipes was for the sum of £230,000 less than the price in England for riveted pipes of the same thickness. I should like also to compare the cost of this pipe line, with similar lines elsewhere, as we have been accused of all sorts of extravagance; and I find from the "Proceedings of the Institute of Civil Engineers" in London that the cost of the portion of pipe line from Thirlmere to Manchester, which is for pipes 36 inches in diameter, was £3 15s. per lineal yard, including cost of pipe-laying and jointing, trenching and covering, also fixing valves and discharge pipes, but not including the cost of valves, bridges, wells, and similar special work. At the rate of £3 15s. per lineal yard, the cost would be £6,600 per mile; and deducting $\frac{1}{8}$ th, the cost per mile of 30-inch pipes on this basis is £5,500. It may be mentioned, for contrast, that it is not anticipated even on the farthest section, namely from Coolgardie to Kalgoorlie, that the cost per mile of the 30-inch pipe line, including the necessarily heavy expenditure on railway carriage, will amount to this sum.

MR. MORAN: You do not think this comparison proves anything, without the nature of the country being known.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: If it proves nothing more than this, it proves a pipe line cost £6,600 per mile in England, and it will cost less than that here after having to bring the pipes from England, and after having to send them by rail from Fremantle to Coolgardie. Almost every consideration of that kind is in favour of Western Australia; but I submit the figures merely as being capable of the construction, at all events, that we have not been so extravagant as some people wish to make out. On the 20th September, 1898, the Goldfields Water Supply Construction Bill was introduced

by the Premier in the Legislative Assembly and read a first time. The Bill passed the Assembly on the 29th September, and was read a third time on the 4th October. The only amendment that was made in Committee of any importance was that any claim for compensation for damage done in connection with the work, unless settled by agreement, should be referred to a court of arbitration consisting of a joint select committee of both Houses of Parliament. [MR. MORAN: We remember that.] Another place, in its wisdom, altered that provision and amended the Bill so that the clause relating to compensation read that three Judges of the Supreme Court, sitting without a jury, were to assess the damages, in lieu of the joint select committee of Parliament previously passed by the Assembly. In the light of recent threatened actions, it is interesting to note that another place was in the habit of making more or less judicious or injudicious amendments in Bills even in those days. I do not propose to weary the House with any great detail as to the pumping machinery, although it gave more trouble to the Engineer-in-Chief and the engineers associated with him, probably, than did the question of the pipes. Suffice it to say, after a great amount of consideration the tender of Messrs. James Simpson for Worthington pumps was accepted, and the delivery of those pumps was taken in hand straight away. The contract has been carried out, I am glad to say, in a most satisfactory manner, and in a manner that does the greatest credit to the firm that secured the contract and their representatives here. During the year 1899 active operations had been pursued at Helena Weir. The excavation for the dam was being pushed forward rapidly, but a very considerable additional amount of excavation for the foundations was found to be necessary owing to the existence of a fault or rift in the strata below the bed of the Helena river, which was discovered soon after the commencement of the excavations. This rift was followed down for some 90 feet below the bed of the Helena until it narrowed down to a few inches, and after several trials had been made by hydraulic pressure, it was not considered necessary to continue the excavations deeper.

I now pass on until we come to the question of jointing the pipes. It was in the middle of 1899 that a firm of contractors, Messrs. Couston and Finlayson, made an offer to supply patent caulking appliances, which they had invented, to do the work of caulking by machine instead of by hand. After considerable negotiations had been carried on, and improvements to the machines made by the patentees, in April, 1900, Messrs. Couston and Finlayson made a definite offer to sell their patent rights of the machine to the Government, and finally in August the purchase of the patent rights was arranged for the sum of £7,500, and also for the supply of a number of caulking machines, together with the necessary oil engines, etc. It was not, however, until the middle of March, 1901, that caulking by means of the machines was actually started. Early in 1902 a proposal was made by Messrs. Couston and Finlayson to complete the work of laying and jointing by contract. This the Engineer-in-Chief was prepared to recommend, and as a matter of fact did recommend; but it was considered that the proposals should be approached and fully discussed on all sides, and therefore I, having just about that time accepted the office of Minister for Works, submitted the proposals to the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd January. The proposals caused a lengthy discussion, and the member for Beverley (Mr. Harper) moved that the matter be referred to a select committee. The motion was carried, and a committee, consisting of Mr. Daglish, Mr. George, Mr. Nanson, Mr. Harper and myself, was appointed on the 3rd February. Owing to the close approach of the termination of the session, that committee was unable to complete its labours; but on the 17th February an interim report was presented. In order that the investigation should be continued, a Royal Commission was appointed on the 26th February, consisting of Mr. Harper, Mr. Nanson, Mr. Daglish, Mr. George Lefroy, and Mr. W. Atkins. Simultaneously with the discussion of the caulking contract in this Chamber, a motion was moved by the late Mr. Crowder in the Upper House, that the Government should call on the Works Department to concentrate their energies on the com-

pletion of the first section of the pipeline of the Coolgardie Water Scheme with a view to providing a test of the working conditions before the prerogation of Parliament. In support of his contention the late Mr. Crowder made some severe criticisms both on the scheme and on the late Engineer-in-Chief then in charge of it. The scope of the Royal Commission was somewhat extended in order that a thorough inquiry should be made into the whole undertaking.

MR. HOPKINS: When did he move that?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: On the 29th January, 1902.

MR. HOPKINS: After a similar motion had been moved here.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: A very similar motion was moved by the member for Boulder (Mr. Hopkins) in this House prior to that time; but what I wished to draw particular attention to was the criticism in the other Chamber, criticism which was felt very keenly by the late Engineer-in-Chief, and criticism which, perhaps, had something to do with the extension of the powers of the Royal Commission.

MR. MORAN: And the criticism of this House, too.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: There were severe criticisms in this House also. Here I may be allowed to say undoubtedly the thanks of the State, and my own individual thanks as Minister, are due to that Commission. They went about their work in a most thorough and energetic manner, and the result of their investigations was of great value, and I look myself to the very great improvements that have been effected in the working of the scheme as the result of the labours of that Commission, whom I again thank for the good work they did. It has been said that the recommendations of that Commission have been disregarded by the Government, or, if not disregarded, have been overlooked. I assure the House that is by no means the case. The Commission certainly did recommend that the work or some portion of the work should be let by contract. That recommendation was carefully gone into, but it was found—and I believe subsequent events have proved—that so much of the work had already been done that it was not very practicable to

let the rest of the work by contract; and I am sure the House will be glad to hear that the cost of the work recently has been so much reduced that I doubt very much if contractors could have done it for less money. A spirit of emulation has been abroad, and the officers of the scheme and even the men employed on the scheme have been setting about their work with the determination to do their best. And the result has been not only that we have had great progress made and good work done, but the danger has been that in the desire to get over the work quickly, the work may be done too quickly and scamped. I may also at this point refer to what is supposed to have been important advice given almost as a last message by the late Engineer-in-Chief in regard to this scheme. He said, "Get a new man," and that remark has been construed to mean that it became the duty of the Government to get a highly qualified hydraulic engineer from abroad. I know that to some people far fields are always green; but I submit that the proof whether they are actually verdant or not depends on close examination; and perhaps, as I am not an Australian, I may be pardoned if I say that it strikes me as a peculiar trait in the character of Australians that a people who as a rule are not lacking in confidence, and who as a rule do not under-estimate their capabilities, whenever they want someone to undertake some really important work —

MR. MORAN: Such as a Judge

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: I make no exception—they go abroad.

MR. HOPKINS: Following the advice of their fathers.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: What would have happened, assuming that the late Engineer-in-Chief's remark is accurately interpreted—and I by no means entirely agree with the interpretation—even if it meant we should get an absolutely new man to take charge of the work, if his advice had been adopted what would have followed? To have obtained the services of a highly qualified hydraulic engineer would have taken a considerable amount of time, and would have cost a considerable amount of money. What was to be done in the meantime? Were the works to be brought to a standstill, or was someone

in the service to be allowed to continue the construction for some months at their most critical time and then hand over to some other engineer? Surely if someone in the service could be found to carry on the work at that critical period, the same person could be trusted with the completion of the scheme. Besides, more important even than this, to my mind is the fact that as there is a great deal of human nature about all professional men, so there is a very great amount of human nature about engineers; and if we had obtained the services of a strange, highly-qualified hydraulic engineer to take charge of this work, what would have been his object? On the face of it, would it not have been some alteration of the scheme of importance, to have enhanced his reputation rather than have regard only to the reputation of the Engineer-in-Chief who designed it? That design, let me remind the House, had also been approved by the most eminent authorities in England, so that we had a design carefully conceived and approved of after a great amount of consideration; and it seemed to the Government—and I hope it will be held, seemed to them rightly—the best thing to do, if we had the available talent here, was to appoint a man whose aim it would be to loyally carry out the intentions of the designer of the scheme; and I am glad indeed to be able to say that the present Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. Palmer) has loyally and faithfully carried out the design of his previous chief, Mr. O'Connor. His aim, and the aim of the engineers associated with him, has not been to get kudos for themselves, but rather to faithfully carry out the scheme which was submitted to them. And when we find men in the service of the country content to sink their individuality as these men have done, men who will be content to be faithful and loyal to their dead chief, then I think the House will agree that we have men in the service of whom the State may well be proud.

MR. MORAN: And escape all responsibility.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: By no means. Unless my remarks may be construed into the idea that the present Engineer-in-Chief and the officers associated with him are not capable of originality and are not the very best men

procurable, let me say this—and I say it without hesitation—however much trouble we had taken in obtaining an engineer to take charge of the scheme from abroad, and however much we might have paid him, I doubt very much if we would have obtained an engineer more capable, certainly we should not have obtained one more faithful, than the engineer who is in charge of the work, Mr. Palmer.

MR. MORAN: I am glad you said that. It was the main qualification, after all.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: There is also another feature I should like to allude to in this respect, and it is this. Surely it is the duty of the Government, when promotion can be made or when appointments can be filled within the service, to make them. It offers very little encouragement to men in the service to do their best and work hard, as I am sure the young engineers have to do, at all events for very inadequate remuneration, it is very little inducement to work and struggle on if they find that when any of the few prizes there are in the service occur they are given to people from outside. I think the House will agree with me that as far as possible promotions should be made from within the service.

MR. MORAN: Such as the Commissioner of Railways, for example.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: I was dealing with the report of the Royal Commission. The report generally reflected adversely to a great extent on the administration of the scheme by the engineer in charge then, Mr. Hodgson; and in consequence of the statements made by the Commission in the interim report of 23rd May, Mr. Hodgson was suspended. He resigned on the 4th August. Mr. Hodgson has left the service, and his reputation as an engineer, I am afraid, has gone for ever in consequence of his actions and the action of the Government on the report of the Royal Commission in connection with this work. Whatever may have been the faults of Mr. Hodgson, I think it is only right I should say that many of the good things that have been done in connection with this scheme are distinctly due to the experience and ability of Mr. Hodgson; and this scheme undoubtedly owes to Mr. Hodgson a very great deal. During the whole of the time of the parliamentary discussion and the sittings of

the Commission, the work in connection with this scheme was being pushed ahead steadily, and I may say special rapid progress has been made in the eleven months of this year. Up to the end of October 345 miles of pipes have been distributed, practically the whole of the pipe trench has been excavated, and 334 miles of pipes laid and jointed, and valves and specials fixed for 218 miles. On the 31st December, 1901, only 92 miles of pipes had been laid and jointed; so that in the 10 months, that is the 10 months of this year, 242 miles of pipes have been laid and jointed. During the sittings of the Commission several tests of the pipes and joints were made, including a test of a few chains of pipes near Chidlow's Well on the 15th of March. Pumping was started at No. 1 station on the 31st March, the water reaching Northam on the 18th April, and Cunderdin on the 22nd April. After the completion of a farther portion of the pipe line, water was delivered to Merredin on the 22nd August. From thence to the 30th September, water was pumped to station No. 5, Yerbillon. The water reached Southern Cross on the 30th October, Ghooli shortly afterwards, and the water is now at Gilgai, station No. 7. Standpipes for the supply of water to the public were erected at Northam and Cunderdin in April, Chidlow's Well, Grass Valley, and Meckering in May, and at Tammin and Kellerberrin in June. A standpipe for the temporary supply of water to the town of Southern Cross was erected on 1st November, and water was commenced to be supplied to the municipality at 10 a.m. on Monday, the 3rd November, also to Fraser's mine. From time to time during the year since pumping was started, water has been regularly taken by the Railway Department for engine use at various places along the pipe line, and up to the end of November the Railway Department have taken 14,000,000 gallons of water.

MR. MORAN: What do you charge them for it?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: We charge them 5s. this side of Northam, 6s. up to the Cross, and 7s. beyond. During the year work on the service reservoirs has been rushed forward with all speed. Three half-million gallon reservoirs have been completed, two one-million gallon reservoirs have been also completed, the

concreting of two nearly so, and one well in hand. The excavation of the main service reservoir at Bulla Bulling is finished, and the concreting in full swing. The Kalgoorlie reservoir of two-million gallon capacity to serve Kalgoorlie and Boulder is practically completed. The Toorak reservoir should be completed by the 20th of this month. It may be said generally that the work in every respect is well forward, and there is every prospect of delivering water at Coolgardie in January next.

MR. MORAN: You do not mention Kalgoorlie.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: I bracket them. As to the time taken in the construction of this scheme, members will, I trust, bear in mind that at first the instructions were to go slowly, and one can readily understand that it might well be so, considering the great number of other works that were in hand just about that time, and the enormous expenditure that was going on in other directions. But it is well to compare the time taken in the construction of this scheme, if we can do so, with the time occupied by schemes elsewhere; and, again referring to the "Proceedings of the Society of Civil Engineers" I find that the time taken in constructing the two latest water supply undertakings completed in late years in England was as follows: The Manchester supply from Thirlmere cost £2,800,000, the total length of aqueducts and pipe line being 92 miles. [MR. MORAN: All gravitation there.] The first contract was let in December, 1885, and the supply of water commenced in October, 1894, that is to say nine years after the beginning of the works. The works supplying Liverpool from Bala Lake include only 68 miles of aqueduct and pipe line, and it is stated the memorial stone registering the commencement of the work was laid in July, 1881, and the undertaking being practically completed in July, 1892, eleven years afterwards. The works were opened in that month by the Duke of Connaught. In contrasting the Coolgardie water-supply works, the cost we will say is £2,700,000, and it will have taken to the end of 1902, dating from the commencement of the railway line from Mundaring which was the first work in hand, only five years to construct. The works, instead

of being concentrated as in the undertakings I have mentioned, are spread over a distance of 350 miles, with the additional disadvantage of distance from the source of supply of most of the material; and as I previously pointed out, the work in connection with this scheme at the first was by instruction proceeded with somewhat slowly. It has been said, not once but often, that we should never succeed in pumping the water from Mundaring to the goldfields; and that if we did succeed in pumping it, the water would not be fit to drink.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Who said that?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was said in the Press and in various ways. As I have told the House, the water has now reached Gilgai reservoir, which is $218\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Mundaring reservoir, and this [exhibiting a glass of water] is a sample of the water taken from the reservoir after being pumped $218\frac{1}{2}$ miles. I think no complaint will be found with it on the score of appearance, and I assure the House it is perfect as to taste. I have given as briefly as possible the history of the past in regard to this scheme. Before I attempt to deal with the future or attempt to describe the Bill itself, which may be regarded as the finishing touch of this work, I cannot help saying that the past of this scheme is in many respects a sad one. As I have pointed out, it has ruined the reputation of one engineer and has been the death of another. Now that the work is so nearly finished as to be practically completed, it must strike everyone as being a matter for sincere regret that the engineer who designed the scheme and who for so long a period was responsible for carrying it out should not have lived to see its completion, and should not have lived to receive that great credit which is undoubtedly his due. Fortunately that is not the case in regard to others who have been prominently connected with this scheme. First we have our old friend Sir John Forrest, who is fortunately alive and well to-day, and we hope soon to have the pleasure of welcoming him here in our midst; and it will, I am sure, be a source of gratification to him that this work has proceeded vigorously and is at last approaching completion. It will be a source of gratification to

others who were members of this House and have consistently supported this scheme. It will be a source of gratification to a section of the coastal Press, which has also consistently supported this scheme from its initiation. Shortly after I took in hand the office of Minister for Works, I thought it my duty to make some statement in regard to this scheme, as to the probable price that will be charged for the water delivered on the goldfields; and I regret to say that the remarks I then made seem to have been very much misconstrued, inasmuch as I was accused of seeking to belittle Sir John Forrest and to advance myself. I hardly think my remarks could be capable of that construction; but I know I was deeply pained at the time that they should have been so construed, for no one who knows me would accuse me of any desire to belittle my old friend and former chieftain, Sir John Forrest. On the contrary, I take this opportunity of saying that any credit there is connected with this scheme is due principally to Sir John Forrest, and next is due to those officers connected with the scheme who so loyally and faithfully have carried it out. As to the future, the water is now at Gilgai, which is No. 7 pumping station, there being eight altogether. Gilgai is $275\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Perth, or $250\frac{1}{2}$ from Mundaring, and is only $77\frac{3}{4}$ from the Coolgardie service reservoir, or $57\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Bulla Bulling. The total cost of the scheme, including the reticulation for Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, and Boulder, will I believe be £2,850,000. If we take the capital cost (exclusive of the reticulation) as being £2,750,000, and if we take the interest on that sum at 3·35 per cent., which I take to be a fair rate of interest to provide, we shall have an annual charge in the shape of interest of £92,125; and a sinking fund invested at 3 per cent. to redeem the capital in 20 years would mean an annual charge of £102,340. Then if we add for maintenance and management say £35,000 per annum, these figures altogether give a total of fixed charges (exclusive of reticulation) amounting to £229,465 per annum. If we add the working expenses on a basis of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons per day, including interest on the cost of reticulation, say £65,000, we have a total annual charge of £294,465, or in

round numbers about £300,000 per annum. In order to meet that charge it means that we must sell a little over two and a half million gallons of water daily, at an average price of 6s. 6d. a thousand gallons.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: You are back at the same old thing now.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: No; that is not so. On a basis of 5,000,000 gallons a day, the working cost in the first place would be more. The working expenses on a basis of two and a half million gallons per day are less than they would be if we were pumping 5,000,000 gallons a day. As to wages, there would be one shift instead of two, perhaps instead of three. If members will consult the Engineer-in-Chief's own estimate on the 5,000,000 gallons basis, they will see that the working expenses are considerably more than I have stated here as my estimate of what we expect. It seemed at first that although this scheme was going to be an engineering success, it was by no means so certain that it would even approach the possibility of being a financial success. Indeed it was considered that for some considerable time at all events it would be financially a failure, and a heavy burden on the people of the State. We must bear in mind that when this scheme was initiated there was a great scarcity of water on the goldfields. The circumstances have altered since then; Providence has been more kind, and there has been during the last two winters an abnormal rainfall on the Eastern Goldfields. People resident there have taken the precaution of endeavouring to conserve the water which falls from the heavens, and as a consequence of that precaution and of the increased rainfall there is by no means the same demand for water at present on those goldfields that there was when the scheme was first introduced. To a great extent people are, for the time being, independent of this scheme for their water supply, and they can afford to take the position which they have to a great extent taken in saying they are independent of it. I would remind the House that the original scheme never contemplated reticulation. [Interjections.] It was to deliver water into reservoirs on the fields, and it was anticipated that the people themselves would willingly take the water

from those reservoirs for use on the mines, and that the population around the mines would also take the water. Only quite recently it will be remembered that the prime author of this scheme, Sir John Forrest, has impressed on the present Government the desirability of even now not attempting reticulation.

MR. NANSON: There is provision for reticulation now.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: There is provision for distributing mains, but it was never the intention to undertake the reticulation in any form. Sir John Forrest has stated publicly in London that it would be a mistake for the Government to undertake reticulation, and that although he had heard it rumoured that it was their intention to do so, he hoped wiser counsels would prevail. In the original scheme a sum of £170,000 was provided for what are called distributing mains, and that sum will go towards taking the water to Kalgoolie, and I hope will leave something over towards the cost of reticulation. The position is that the mining community and the municipalities are to a certain extent independent, or profess to be independent, of this scheme as a source of water supply at the present time, and it became evident that they would not undertake the cost of reticulation. [MR. DIAMOND: So much the better.] It is therefore manifestly the duty of the Government, having regard to the best interests of the State, to undertake that work, and this is what we propose to do. It has been a somewhat hard task for the Government to endeavour to convince people on the goldfields that if less water was going to be consumed, a higher price would have to be paid for it.

MR. MORAN: Perhaps the higher the price, the less the amount consumed.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: By no means. The member for Dundas (Mr. Thomas) knows better than that for the mining community. I will put a proposition that it will be absolutely impossible to deny. If we get the total quantity the mines will consume, even if they could get it for nothing, surely we have then the figures on which we can base what the price ought to be for the mines. It was not a popular thing to endeavour to get up the price of the water for the goldfields, but it was absolutely necessary

to do this in the interests of the State as a whole. Let me remind the House that up to the 31st December next we shall have paid in interest on this scheme £175,912, and shall have paid in sinking fund £61,170, or a total of £237,082 in the way of interest and sinking fund. There you have nearly another quarter of a million of money directly spent in connection with this scheme. Seeing that it was originated for the goldfields, it is not an unfair thing to ask the goldfields people to pay a reasonable price for the water they will take. At first that appeared somewhat a hopeless task; but I am glad to say now that things are looking a great deal more bright in this direction. I am glad to say that arrangements have been made by which the principal mines of Coolgardie and Boulder agree to take the whole of their purchased water supply from this scheme and to pay 6s. per thousand gallons for it, which I think is a very good start, and those people are well satisfied on the whole that they have made this arrangement. As I said, it would be necessary in order to cover the charge which this work will entail on the State to raise yearly £300,000, and that would mean selling two and a half million gallons of water daily at an average of 6s. 6d. per thousand gallons. After careful consideration, although I do not think the two and a half million gallons per day will be reached for perhaps some little time, yet after the scheme is in full operation I do believe it will soon be reached, and that it will be reached before the end of this financial year. If that can be done, as I confidently hope it can, then this House will have the satisfaction of knowing that this great scheme will be no financial burden on the people of this country. I should not make this statement unless I had figures on which to base it, and I anticipate that from the first the mining companies will consume something like three quarters of a million gallons per day; and they also intend to supply other companies if the Government will give them power to do so, and we have made arrangements by which this power is to be given to those companies. The mines will I anticipate take from the first about three quarters of a million gallons a day, and will supply other mines which will bring the quantity up to my

estimate of about one million gallons a day. Then there are the people on the residence areas and the people who are squatting on the mining leases. There are also the mines at Coolgardie, as well as the population of Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, and Boulder outside the mines. There are also Southern Cross, Northam, and various places on the route which I hope we shall be able to supply by arrangement with the Lands Department. I am here referring to the settlers on the land through which the pipe main passes. There are also the railway requirements to be provided for. If hon. members will run over these certain consumers, they will agree I think that I am not over-estimating the quantity which will be required when I say we can reasonably expect that within a very short time two and a half million gallons of water will be taken daily from this scheme.

MR. JACOBY: Have you any estimate of the domestic consumption per head?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes; I will give those figures when we are in Committee on the Bill. The average consumption per head of population varies according to locality. On the coast it is about 40 gallons per head daily.

MR. MORAN: It ought to be 80 on the fields.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: I am afraid it will be less. [Several interjections.] This is somewhat of a complicated matter to deal with, and I am anxious that my remarks shall bear a semblance of connection, so that I hope members will refrain from interjecting at this stage, and the points they raise can be dealt with in Committee.

MR. NANSON: What is the total average of the various classes of consumers?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: I shall be prepared to give details as to the other one and a half million gallons per day when we get into Committee, or I may mention them in my reply. I take it that the principal consumers at first will be the mines and the railways and the population settled around the mines. As to the increased price for water, I think that when the water gets into general use we may look forward to a requirement of even more than two and

a half million gallons per day; and if there is a very considerable increase we can then reduce the price. If the demand for water increases to five million gallons a day, we should not be able to supply the water at 3s. 9d. per thousand gallons, but I believe we could do so at about 4s.

MR. NANSON: Have you gone into the maximum quantity you can supply.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes; the quantity we can supply in the present state of the reservoir at Mundaring—and a great amount of doubt has always been cast on the capacity of this reservoir and in regard to the whole catchment area—at present there are 700,000,000 gallons of water in the Mundaring reservoir and 47,000,000 gallons in the pipes and tanks between Mundaring and Gilgai. If we bear in mind that the rainfall this year has been very deficient and that we can hardly expect a short rainfall will be repeated, I think that we can be satisfied that even in its present state the Mundaring reservoir will prove all-sufficient; but if it should be found that the reservoir is not sufficient for the amount of water required, it is easily possible to increase its usefulness in the same manner as the usefulness of the Yan Yean reservoir was increased by improving the catchment area, and we can put drains into the Mundaring reservoir in the same way. What was done with the Yan Yean reservoir can also be done on the Mundaring reservoir if proved necessary. There is nothing at present, so I am advised by the responsible engineers, whose advice I am bound to take, to lead one to believe that the capacity of the Mundaring reservoir is not all-sufficient, and the holding capability of it is proved by the quantity of water still remaining in the weir. Allowing for evaporation and the water taken, there can be little, or very little, leakage from the reservoir.

MR. NANSON: What was the rainfall last winter?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: I will make a note of that; but, as I have said, it was much less. I will give the actual figures. I never thought these details would be required. I thought it was generally understood the rainfall was much less than during previous winters. It has been said that there has been, or will be, some delay in the reticulation of the water, although we are so

near to reaching the fields. I would point out that it was first of all said we should never get the water there; then it has been said that if we did get it there, we would not attempt to reticulate it, and that it was no part of the scheme. Now in order to do our duty to the State, and in order to prevent undue loss to the State, it appears to be necessary for this Government to take in hand the reticulation.

MR. HOPKINS: Has not that always been the rule in water schemes?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was not part of this scheme. I would point out in regard to our principal customers, the mines and the railways, their supply will be provided for concurrently with the arrival of the water on the fields, and the dwellers on the leases and the residence areas also will be provided for, and I hope the reticulation will be well in hand. But if the necessity for the water arises, if the people on the fields actually want the water, then by means of stand-pipes we can give it to them at very much less inconvenience, and at a very much less cost, than they can get it now. So that there will be no inconvenience to the population arising, and if there is necessity for the water, if there is a chance of selling the water, we can easily sell it by means of stand-pipes as a temporary expedient. I have, I think, given the history of the past, and the hopes of the scheme for the future. Before I pass on to the Bill and attempt to explain briefly its leading features, I wish again to say that in regard to this work I do not, as I have been accused of doing, claim any credit at all, and the only thing I claim to have done is to endeavour to do my duty. I have a duty to the State; I had a duty to my old friend, Sir John Forrest; a duty to my late chief (the late Mr. Leake), and a duty to my present leader, the Premier (Mr. James). He and my colleagues have given me a liberty of action in this matter which is only given to one who is trusted. [THE PREMIER: Hear, hear.] If the State and the persons I have named will be satisfied to think I have not abused their trust, that I have endeavoured to do my duty, then indeed am I well content, and perfectly satisfied. Passing to the Goldfields Water Supply Board—

MR. NANSON: What are you doing in regard to ordering materials?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: I cannot give the information as to when the material will be on the ground; but I will say that: the surveys for the reticulation at Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, and Boulder have been completed, for some of the pipes tenders are advertised, for the rest specifications are being prepared, and tenders will be called for immediately.

MR. NANSON: When do you expect to let the work?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: I have dealt as fully as I can with the question by saying I hope the work of reticulation will be well in hand at the time the water reaches the goldfields, and I have said I hope the water will be on the fields in January next.

MR. JACOBY: Will you be able to sell it?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes. This Bill, which is called the Goldfields Water Supply Act, is divided into ten short parts. Part I., as hon. members will see, is merely preliminary and contains the interpretation clauses. Part II. deals with administration, and hon. members will see from Clause 3 that it is the intention of the Government to ask the House to agree to the appointment of a board to manage this scheme, to be called the Goldfields Water Supply Board. Here I may explain that a large scheme like this involving a very great amount of work indeed is sufficient to keep a board of this nature fully employed, and indeed it is advisable in the best interests of the State and in order to make the work a success, that there should be a board having complete control of the water scheme. It will be seen it is proposed to constitute a board of two persons, who with the Minister for Works for the time being shall have the carrying of the Bill into execution. The board will be a body corporate, with perpetual succession and a seal. Each member of the board will hold office for a term of three years, and at the expiration of that term of office will be eligible for appointment for a like term of three years. The Minister for Works for the time being will be the chairman of the board. Although the connection with this board will entail a considerable

amount of work on the Minister for Works, whoever he may be, still on the whole I think the House will agree it is advisable, at all events for some time to come if not for all time, that the Minister responsible to Parliament and occupying a seat in this House should have a voice, and a strong voice, in the management of this work. The fact of the Minister for Works being the chairman of the board will insure that Parliament has always full control over every detail in connection with the scheme. Clause 8 provides that of the two appointed members of the board one shall be an engineer who may receive a maximum salary of £1,250 a year. That is the maximum salary which can be paid to the engineer. The other appointed member may receive a salary not exceeding £750 a year. The idea is that of these two paid members of the board one shall be a thoroughly competent hydraulic engineer; and there is plenty of work now for an engineer to have entire control of, and not as is at present the case for the Engineer-in-Chief with a number of subordinate officers to have to give their attention to the Coolgardie Water Scheme and other engineering works also.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: You are going to pay him more than the Engineer-in-Chief.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: It is not necessary that because we provide a sum of £1,250 a year, this amount will be paid; but I would earnestly recommend members not be too cheeseparing in this respect. If we are going to have an engineer, let him be a good man and be paid a decent salary. The other member of the board, it is proposed, shall be a business man who will look after the business details, and who will, amongst other things, endeavour to push the sale of the water in every possible way. For the conduct of business two members of the board will be a quorum, and in the event of any vacancy occurring in the office of an appointed member of the board the Governor may appoint a successor to the vacant office, whose term of office shall be for his predecessor's unexpired term of office. Clause 14 provides that the Governor may suspend an appointed member for various offences—misbehaviour or incompetence, or if he becomes bankrupt, or

becomes concerned or interested in a contract, or participates or claims to be entitled to participate in the profits thereof, or if he engages in any employment outside the duties of his office. Clause 15 says:—

The Minister shall cause to be laid before Parliament a full statement of the grounds of suspension within seven days after such suspension, if Parliament is sitting, and, when Parliament is not sitting, within seven days after the next sitting. A member of the board suspended shall be restored to office if both Houses of Parliament, within thirty days from the time when such statement has been laid before Parliament, declare by resolution that the said member ought to be restored to office.

Now with the permission of the House I will proceed to Part III., relating to the construction and management of the works. It will be seen by Clause 20 that—

The Governor may, by Order in Council, constitute and define the boundaries of a water area for the purposes of this Act. From time to time alter the boundaries of the water area. Divide the water area into districts and define the boundaries of districts.

Where an area has been declared, the control of the waterworks within that area, and the supply of water within that area, will vest in the board, and will be under the management and control of the board. Outside the area, in Clause 122 of the Bill it will be seen—

The Minister for Works may at all times exercise all the powers of a board duly appointed under this Act, except the making and levying of rates, with respect to all works constructed under the Coolgardie Goldfields Water Supply Construction Act, 1899, which for the time being are outside the water area.

So that within a proclaimed area the control will be entirely within the hands of the board, and outside the proclaimed area the Minister for Works will have the same power as the board. Until the board is appointed the Minister for Works shall have all the powers within the water area conferred by the Bill upon the board. In Part IV., Clause 27 says:

The board may make and levy water rates, in the manner hereinafter provided; and such rates may be made and levied in the water area generally, or in any district thereof.

MR. HOPKINS: A district is another name for a ward?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: They may either rate within an area proclaimed as a water area generally, or

in any part of that area, and members will see the cause of that later on. Clause 28 provides:—

The Board may, instead of making and levying a water rate, and may in any case sell and supply water by measure, the quantity consumed being ascertained by a meter fixed on the land of the consumer, or by any other prescribed means.

If members for a moment will turn to Clauses 38 and 39, they will see it is stated:—

The Board may, with the approval of the Governor, contract with any company, association of companies, or other consumer (hereinafter called the purchaser) for the sale of water, by measure, on such terms and conditions as to the Board may seem fit. By such contract the Board may—(a) Authorise the purchaser to supply water to any occupiers of land or other persons within any area (not being a municipality or townsite) to be defined in the contract, at prices to be approved by the Board. (b) Exempt the purchaser and the occupiers of any land within the area defined in the contract, from the payment of rates under this Act.

That, it will be seen, specially makes provision for contracts with mining companies who can supply persons squatting on their mining leases. The next clause gives the board the same power to contract with any local authority. Every such contract shall be subject to the approval of the Governor.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Is there any limitation as to what they can charge?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes; subject to the price agreed on by the board. The Bill provides for power to the board to make contracts with mining companies to supply these people with water by measure, and the companies will supply other people at a price to be determined by the board. The clause also makes the same provision in regard to local authorities such as a municipal council. I should explain perhaps also with regard to municipalities, where a contract is entered into by the board with a municipality or roads board for the supply of water, the municipality or roads board will have full power to make rates, recover rates, and make their own by-laws for the supply of water. Part V. contains machinery provisions in regard to the protection of works and fittings, and the prevention of waste. Part VI. provides for rates. It will be seen by Clause 52 that the valuation for

the purposes of rate is the same as the existing law:—

In estimating the annual or capital value of mines, no regard shall be had to the minerals therein or the mining machinery, whether fixed to the soil or not, or to buildings used exclusively for the housing of such machinery; and

The valuation shall be made on the assumption (if necessary to be made) that the subletting of the land is authorised by law.

Clause 54 provides for making up the rate books, and the rate book shall be for a reasonable time open for inspection by any ratepayer. Provision is made for appeal, also for appeal from the board to the Local Court. The limit of the rating power is contained in Clause 69, which states:—

A water rate shall not in any one year exceed two shillings in the pound on the annual rateable value of the land rated.

But the Board may make and levy a minimum rate of the prescribed amount upon any land the annual rate of which would not exceed one pound.

I would point out that the Bill provides that where a person pays rates he shall get the quantity of water in return for his rates that is represented by the amount he pays, so that he does not pay a rate unless he gets value in return. Part VII. provides for the payment of rates and the water supply. Really they are all machinery clauses. Part VIII. is an important part. On reference to Clause 85 members will see—

The Board may, with the approval of the Governor, borrow money—

- (a.) For the construction of works for the distribution and supply of water within the water area;
- (b.) To liquidate the principal moneys due on any previous loan to the Board;
- (c.) For any other purpose approved by the Governor.

That provision is made in order that the board may thus take in hand or at all events pay the cost of the expense of reticulation.

MR. MORAN: You will not wait for the board?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: No. The work will go on, but it is intended, inasmuch as the cost of the original scheme has been somewhat exceeded, and although it is no part of that scheme, to undertake the reticulation, the board will, if possible, bear the cost of reticulation by issuing debentures. The interest on debentures

is not to exceed four per cent. per annum, and a sinking fund is provided for, and security. Clause 96 it will be seen provides:—

The Colonial Treasurer, with the authority of the Governor, may invest Post Office Savings Bank funds in debentures issued by the board under the authority of this Act.

Part IX. contains machinery clauses which provide for the way in which the accounts are to be kept, and audited by the Auditor General. Part X. contains the usual powers for by-laws and general provisions. Then there are the necessary schedules. I am afraid I have taken up far too long the time of the House; but I ask members to approach the consideration of the Bill not from any local standpoint, not with a desire to secure advantage for any one district, not with the desire to secure advantage for the goldfields, or to work any disadvantage for those fields, but rather with a determination of seeing how important it is to do the very best that can be done in the interest of the State as a whole. It perhaps cannot be claimed that this is a perfect Bill; but at least it can be claimed that it is an honest attempt to provide something that is absolutely necessary. Doubtless it may improve in its passage through Committee. Any suggestion which will lead to the improvement of the Bill will be accepted with thankfulness by the Government, I am sure; and I feel sure I can with confidence appeal to every member of the House to do his best to make a perfect measure of the Bill. I thank members for the kind and patient hearing they have given me, and for their courtesy to me on this as on other occasions. I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

On motion by MR. MORAN, debate adjourned for a week.

At 6:30, the DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair.

At 7:30, Chair resumed.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Resumed from the 18th November; MR. ILLINGWORTH in the Chair.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

Medical (partly discussed), £90,539 16s. 6d.;

Item—Principal Medical Officer, £500:

DR. O'CONNOR asked the Colonial Secretary how he proposed to carry out the Vaccination Act, after the reduction in the incomes of this and other medical officers.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In this House and in the country there had been a demand for stringent economy. By the Vaccination Act of 1878, still in force, the Governor-in-Council had power to fix vaccination fees to be paid to public vaccinators. It was found that in some other States doctors in receipt of Government salaries were not entitled to these fees in addition. The Government had a right to the full services of an officer in receipt of a good salary, and therefore had decided that salaried medical officers should act as public vaccinators without fees, carrying out the provisions of the Vaccination Act as in the past; and any such officer refusing so to do would be guilty of a censurable dereliction of duty. To vaccinate was one of the duties of the principal medical officer, as well as of district and resident medical officers.

DR. O'CONNOR: The Act stated that fees must be paid.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Section 3 provided that a superintendent of vaccination and public vaccinators should be appointed, under such rules and orders as the Governor might see fit to make for the proper performance of their duties and for their payment. That did not make payment of fees compulsory. To estimate the saving from this economy would be difficult, because there were public vaccinators not in receipt of Government salaries, and the work done by them and by Government officers was a variable quantity. Victoria and New South Wales did not pay any fees, Queensland did not pay except to certain officers in Brisbane, New Zealand did not pay except to a few port officers throughout the State, South Australia and Tasmania paid practically the same fees as here.

DR. O'CONNOR said Dr. Lovegrove joined the service on condition that he was paid vaccination fees, and had abandoned a large practice in Bunbury to take this appointment. Other medical officers were similarly situated. With all the talk of retrenchment, in this department only had there been a reduction,

while in several there had been large increases. So far Dr. Lovegrove had not been allowed private practice, and even though this were allowed for the future, the permission was useless as his time was fully occupied, and all knew the difficulty of re-establishing a practice which had been abandoned. Notwithstanding the Colonial Secretary's opinion, some lawyers held that medical officers could compel the Government to pay these fees. Certainly if the fees were not paid, vaccination could not be carried out, and the Government could not pay private vaccinators not specially appointed. There was a serious epidemic of smallpox in this State a few years ago, and it was a great mistake to stop the payment of vaccination fees to medical officers. In some of the large cities in England, particularly in Hull, Gloucester, and Leicester, serious epidemics had occurred, and large sums were spent in carrying out the vaccination system.

MR. FOULKES: When the registrar of the Supreme Court had certain fees taken from him some years ago, he was compensated for loss of fees by increase of salary. The same precedent should apply in this case. Dr. Lovegrove had accepted the appointment of Chief Medical Officer on the understanding that he was to receive a certain salary with vaccination fees in addition, yet these fees had been taken from him at short notice, and no compensation given.

THE TREASURER: He received altogether £800 a year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This officer received £500 a year as Chief Medical Officer; he received £200 a year in connection with quarantine duties; and he had a residence and allowances which made up his salary to £800 a year. This sum should be reasonably sufficient for the duties he had to perform, and his whole time should be given to the duties. Last year this officer drew £243 19s. in vaccination fees, thus increasing his income to £1,043 19s., at which amount he was somewhat overpaid for the duties he performed. As to the question of honesty in depriving him of his fees, which two members had referred to particularly, there was no contract by which he was to receive those fees in addition to his salary. The Governor-in-Council had power under the Act to make such rules

and orders as he thought fit in regard to payment for vaccination; and there was no contract in regard to this officer. If some member would move an amendment, he (the Minister) would be guided by the decision of the House.

MR. HOPKINS supported the Government in making one salary payable to every civil servant, and in requiring each servant to perform the duties allotted to him for the amount received. If the Chief Medical Officer was underpaid, it was the duty of the Government to propose an increase, as no private member could move to increase an item in the Estimates.

MR. HASSELL: To whom were the fees paid, if the medical officers were not to receive them? Were vaccination fees abolished?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The person who was vaccinated did not pay a fee, but the State paid a fee to the officer who performed vaccination.

MR. THOMAS: Had vaccination fees been taken away from all medical officers, or was this an exceptional case?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Vaccination fees had been struck off in all cases where the public vaccinator was in receipt of a salary from the Government.

Item—Assistant, Quarantine Station, Albany:

MR. HASSELL asked why this officer had been reduced in salary?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: On account of the reduction of quarantine work at Albany. Since the removal of mail steamers from Albany, and with the cessation of traffic to and from South Africa, there had been a great falling off in quarantine work at Albany. The officer there recognised the reasonableness of this reduction.

Item—District Medical Officer, Beverley (six months), £75:

MR. HARPER: It was understood to be the rule in regard to an officer of this House, that when anything was done affecting his district he should be protected as far as possible. Under this item, the position of medical officer at Beverley was to be abolished. He understood the intention of the Government

was that the duties should devolve on the district medical officer at York, who would be required to visit the Beverley district, extending some 70 miles in one direction and 80 in another, having families settled all over it. Hon. members would understand what a severe trial it would be to people settling in that district when in case of illness they would have to wait a day or more before medical aid could be obtained, however great the emergency might be. The object of economising under the medical vote should be to reduce the appointments in districts where medical officers could obtain sufficient private practice to realise a fairly good income; but in scattered districts the State should provide medical assistance for people who would not be able otherwise to obtain it, because private practice in such districts would not be sufficient to remunerate a resident medical officer. Only last year, during the absence of the medical officer on an expedition in Kimberley, a serious case of illness occurred requiring the constant attendance of the medical officer at York, while at the same time a serious epidemic of measles was prevalent there, causing great suffering to patients and their friends through insufficient medical attendance when there was so much sickness. Beverley was one of the few districts where the position of district medical officer had been abolished, and it was a very unfortunate selection for the Government to make, to take a district which was being settled gradually from one end to the other, and to deprive the people in that district of medical aid. It would also affect the centre of York by occasionally taking away from that town the medical officer who was stationed there. He hoped the Government would see their way to reinstate the officer.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The question raised by the member for Beverley (Mr. Harper) was a somewhat wide one, and it was just as well for the feeling of the Committee to be tested on the question. He did not know, nor had he been able to find out, any country where the medical wants of the people were attended to in anything like the same degree as in Western Australia. Beverley surely should be in a position to support a medical practitioner of its own. It was a

prosperous district, although scattered, and such a place in any other State of Australia would not be without a medical practitioner provided by the people. All over Victoria, South Australia, and the other Eastern States medical men found it worth while to reside in such districts. Wherever the Government had a hospital, and the Government had hospitals now in far too many places, there must be a medical officer to attend to these institutions. At Beverley there was no hospital, and in future there were many places which were connected by railway which would cease to have hospitals. He was willing to submit without question and demur to the decision of the Committee; but this appeared to be a branch of the service in which economy could be carried out. For that reason alone it was proposed to do away with the medical officer at Beverley. The best way to test the question would be to move to strike out the words "six months" after "medical officer."

HON. F. H. PIESSE: While anxious to see the Government practise economy, he thought a start had been made in a direction which the Committee would not agree to. The instances quoted of Victoria and other States were not applicable here. In Victoria where medical men were supported by the people the population was far in excess of that of Beverley. People found it very difficult to establish themselves on the land for some time, and it was the duty of the State to provide medical aid in these scattered districts, so that the people could have medical attention. One life lost to the country, which could have been prevented by the presence of a medical man, was of far more value to the country than the sum proposed to be saved. There were many instances in which had there been medical aid lives would not have been lost. For a medical man to travel from York to the centre of the Beverley district was too far. He did not think medical aid should be given to districts for all time, but it should be given when a district was in process of settlement. It was all very well to talk about the prosperity of the district, but the majority of people in the Beverley district were poor: it was as much as they could do to find the money to pay their rent. The Government were fully justified for some

time to come in providing medical assistance in all agricultural districts.

MR. HASSELL: The item for the medical officer for Beverley ought to remain on the Estimates. During the last winter people had suffered greatly through the want of a medical man in the country. The doctor at Katanning had to travel nearly to Beverley, and the doctor at Beverley had to travel nearly to Katanning. The Government should provide a medical man for all agricultural settlements.

DR. O'CONNOR: The Government were commencing economy in the wrong direction by abolishing medical officers in agricultural districts. He noticed by the Estimates that the medical officer at Bunbury received £200, and probably had a good practice, while the doctor at Beverley in the past had only received £150 and had probably no practice. The medical officer at Coolgardie received £500, and probably had a big practice. The Government ought to provide medical officers where there was not a large population, and where there was a large population the medical officer should not be paid so much. As to closing the hospitals in country districts, he would point out that the most common disease was typhoid, and it was almost certain death to remove a typhoid patient by train or carriage 30 miles. The Government might reduce the amount to medical officers who had large practices, and leave those alone who had little or no practice.

MR. NANSON: When the Government went into the question of the reorganisation of hospitals, they would find they could make a sufficient saving to supply all country places with subsidised medical men. Take the case of Coolgardie. There was a splendidly equipped hospital there, and it was the proper place to have such an institution, being the centre of the Eastern Goldfields; but the cost was over £2,000 a year, and no doubt a considerable saving could be effected in that institution. The Government would also find other directions in which a saving could be made. It was not right to have some places where there was a hospital, and other places where there was no medical aid at all. Until the reorganisation of the hospitals took place, the Government did not know what amount they could set apart for

subsidising medical officers. One of the greatest inducements to land settlement in agricultural centres was the residence of a doctor in the place. Most people who took up land were married and had families, and a person going into a country district to settle asked if there was a medical man in the district. There was nothing more likely to lead to settlement than providing country districts with medical aid.

MR. WALLACE: How could the Government reconcile their action in regard to the items for Beverley and Northampton? The amount for Beverley was struck off, while £200 was provided for a medical officer at Northampton. The places were similar. Both had railway communication, and both were 30 miles from an established hospital. It had been stated that people lived a long way from hospitals in the country; but someone was bound to live far away from a hospital, and that someone would occasionally be sick. If the Government supplied a doctor for every district throughout the State, he could understand that. He would not deprive Northampton of medical aid if Beverley were given a doctor. A great saving might be effected in regard to public halls and places of entertainment. In days gone by public halls were built in every agricultural and mining district, and now there was great difficulty in finding use for them. In erecting these halls the Government had deprived people of education and medical aid. When the item in reference to the medical officer at Northampton was reached he would move to strike it out. He did not know what was the system of pruning which had been carried out by the Government, but it seemed unfortunate that Beverley should be so high in the alphabet and Yalgoo so near the bottom. There should be systematic retrenchment if any were carried out.

MR. HARPER: If it was justifiable to strike out the item for Beverley on the ground that people should supply themselves with medical aid, it was not logical to keep a doctor in a town where there was a hospital, because the Government said in effect that the people must pay their medical man in a district but they need not pay him in the towns. If economy in this vote were needed, it

should be thorough and systematic. It was no use making one or two country places suffer while in thickly-populated parts salaries were paid to doctors who could live without them. A doctor could, without a horse, conduct a large practice in a town, where indeed his horse and carriage were used mainly as an advertisement, while in a country district a horse was essential. In scattered districts opportunities for private practice were small. To test the feeling of the Committee, he moved that the words "six months" be struck out.

Amendment passed, and the words struck out.

THE PREMIER: The item had been reduced because of a vacancy. The matter would be adjusted during the recess.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The £75 provided on the Estimates was nearly sufficient to see the year out, because there had been for some months a difficulty in getting a doctor to go to Beverley.

Item—Superintending Medical Officer, Fremantle Lunatic Asylum, £700:

DR. O'CONNOR asked what the Government had done regarding an asylum site.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: A site had been chosen on Perth Commonage. A select committee had recommended one or two sites. It had proposed that the Government pay £24,000 for a site at Lockeridge, near Guildford. The Government, however, chose, on the recommendation of expert officers, a site three-quarters of a mile north of Karra-katta, preferring to spend the money on buildings rather than on land. The locality was healthy and picturesque, and there was arable ground available. Clearing operations would be started almost immediately. **Dr. Jameson, Dr. Montgomery,** and himself had recommended the site; and from an architectural point of view it had been approved by **Mr. Grainger.**

Item—Nurse, Kalgoorlie, £60:

MR. BATH: While medical officers were subsidised to a startling extent, nurses were unfairly treated. They were entirely dependent on their salaries, while Government doctors were allowed

private practice. The expenditure on the Kalgoorlie hospital was large, and there was much laxity in administration. If advisory boards were appointed in such districts, though only to report and make recommendations, much economy would be effected. Only a small portion of the expenditure was returned in fees, and this source of revenue would be increased by boards. Nurses' salaries should be raised and their working hours reduced.

MR. JOHNSON supported the previous speaker. The Kalgoorlie hospital administration should be improved. Something should be done during recess to establish local control, as this would lead to an increase in revenue.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In recess he would see what could be done. Since he had been connected with the department he had thought there must be some reason why the Kalgoorlie hospital was not to some extent self-supporting. The present state of affairs was a reflection on the metropolis of the gold-fields.

MR. JOHNSON: No; a reflection on the Minister's administration.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That view he could hardly adopt. It was peculiar that the hospital should be without assistance from the Kalgoorlie people.

MR. BATH: Getting no satisfaction, they had no chance to assist.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: As out of a possible revenue in fees of £5,303 odd the Government had received only £1,124, there must be something wrong, and he intended to ascertain what it was. He would be the last to decrease the emoluments of the nurses, who earned every penny they received and more; but in addition to their salaries they had two uniforms a year, together with food, washing, and quarters, so that the £60 represented almost a clear saving, out of which they had very little to pay.

MR. HOPKINS: From the Minister's remarks one would think that the blame for the poor revenue of the Kalgoorlie hospital and its bad administration rested on the people of the district. Firstly, the hospital did not pay because of the 1s. per week collected by medical clubs. Doctors, in return for the levy, undertook to treat a man during sickness. To keep a patient in the hospital cost

£3 3s. a week. The doctor insured a man's health for a shilling a week, sent him into the hospital, paid the hospital two guineas a week, and the Government paid a guinea. No doubt the same system obtained elsewhere. As to nurses, if they were organised like railway employees, they would have a 48-hours week instead of working 36 hours overtime in a vitiated atmosphere, attending typhoid and other infectious cases for 12 hours a day, carrying out serious and important duties. The Governor's Speech stated a certain portion of the surplus was to be used for establishing asylums. The treatment of insane patients in the interior was exemplified by the case of a respectable man who, the other day, was found on examination to be insane. He was arrested and handed over to the police, and instead of being put where he could be taken care of, was thrown into gaol. As an experienced doctor said, the wonder was that the patient did not knock out his brains. A central hospital was absolutely essential in the Kalgoorlie district, which had been, and doubtless would be in the future, the scene of serious mining disasters. The royal commission appointed by the Government recommended the erection of a casualty ward; but beyond the preparation of plans and specifications for a structure to cost £1,300, nothing had been done. Such a ward, with a properly padded cell for mentally disordered patients, was a crying necessity, and provision for it should be made on the Supplementary Estimates.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: What to do with lunatics till they could be removed to a proper asylum was in all countries a difficult problem. It was hard to say whether the police or the hospital authorities should take care of them. Some place of detention should be provided, and evidently the best method was that suggested by the last speaker. The Government hoped to provide the necessary funds for such buildings in large centres. Some effort had been made to comply with the recommendation as to a casualty ward, for there was a sum on the Estimates to supply the Kalgoorlie hospital with an up-to-date ambulance, which would be available in case of mining accidents.

MR. BATH: Inquiry as promised should result in better administration of the Kalgoorlie hospital. Repeated representations to the chief medical officer, and suggestions for the local control and better working of the institutions had so far been fruitless; hence the public were greatly dissatisfied. If the hospital were placed on a proper basis, sufficient money could be raised in Kalgoorlie, Boulder, and Hannans to make it self-supporting, instead of costing over £3,000 a year to keep going.

Items—District Medical Officer, house allowance :

MR. THOMAS, referring to several items of this kind, asked why they were not all treated alike?

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: The question of house allowance was decided by him in making appointments. He expressed his own opinion of the system by refusing to grant house allowance in making new appointments, and he thought that was as far as he should go. One case referred to by the hon. member was settled some years ago. Another case referred to by him was settled differently, because the appointment was a recent one made by him, and house allowance was not granted in that case.

MR. THOMAS: It was the height of absurdity to treat men differently when their conditions were similar. The system of granting house allowance should be general, or it should not exist at all.

MR. TAYLOR: A medical officer at Lawlers could not obtain much private practice, whereas at Kookynie a medical officer could obtain considerable practice. This difference in the conditions should be taken into account in fixing the amount of payment. It had been found extremely difficult to get a medical officer at Lake Way, there being so little private practice.

MR. BUTCHER, referring to medical officers who had quarters provided, asked whether an allowance was to be made in places where no quarters had been erected for the medical officer. Where there was not a residence provided, there should be a house allowance.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It appeared to be only equitable that in places where the medical officer had not

a house provided by the Government, he should receive some allowance.

MR. MORAN: What were the duties of medical officers in those cases?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: A medical officer attended to indigent patients, to the police, and to civil servants. He was allowed private practice also.

Item—Northampton District Medical Officer, £200 :

MR. WALLACE: Some remarks made by the Colonial Secretary had removed the necessity for what he intended chiefly to have said. The appointment of a medical officer at Northampton, who was also stipendiary magistrate, was not necessary in either case. There was so little to do in the Northampton District that the first medical officer who went there left the place because he could not find anything to do either as medical officer or as magistrate. The medical requirements of the Northampton District had always been sufficiently supplied by doctors from Geraldton. One medical man at Geraldton had performed the duties of medical officer during many years by visiting the Northampton District, and he did the work for a small sum per annum. Surely it was not necessary to pay the amount of this item when there was not sufficient medical work to justify it. The two appointments of medical officer and stipendiary magistrate enabled the same person to draw from the State £312 a year, and there was really no necessity for this expenditure. He moved as an amendment that the item of £200 be reduced by £100.

MR. STONE: Settlement during the last 20 years had progressed in the Northampton district, and a doctor should be located there. A magistrate was also necessary. There was a train from Geraldton three times a week, and unless a person went to the expense of running a special train, which cost £17, it would take three days to go to Geraldton to see a doctor or fetch one and return again. Death had resulted from snake-bite and bites from wild pigs, in consequence of no doctor being available to attend to patients in country places.

MR. NANSON: To be consistent, the member for Mount Magnet (Mr. Wallace)

should vote for the retention of the item, as the Committee had voted in favour of a medical officer being stationed at Beverley. It had been stated that there was no work for a doctor to do at Northampton. Some months ago when he (Mr. Nanson) was fighting an election in that district, the medical officer, who was also returning officer, was called away, and had to travel 60 miles to a patient. The doctor was away three days, and could only just return in time for the election. That showed how important it was to have a doctor in such a remote place. A doctor from Geraldton could not have reached Northampton in time. As far as the township of Northampton was concerned, it might be urged, probably, that the people could do without a doctor; but it was a great advantage to have a doctor at Northampton when there was such a large area of settled country surrounding. The doctor at Northampton also filled the position of resident magistrate, and at the present time there were important arbitration cases proceeding in connection with the resumption of Crown lands, and the resident magistrate was acting as umpire. If there had not been a Government officer, a man of education and experience, in the district, some professional man would have had to be sent from Perth, and the cost of the arbitration would have been equivalent to the salary of this official. The medical officer had to carry out the work of the resident magistrate, as there being the need for a doctor it was just as well to get as much work out of the officer as possible for the salary. It was convenient to have a doctor as resident magistrate, for such a man was not connected by local ties with the people of the district. The medical vote for poor places should not be struck out and the vote allowed to remain in connection with prosperous districts. What need was there to subsidise a medical officer for Guildford? By paying a small sum to a medical practitioner at Guildford all the assistance necessary for the hospital could be obtained. If it was necessary to have a doctor in places where there were hospitals, then it was equally necessary to have a doctor in places too poor to support a hospital. The Government had done some splendid work in inducing settlement in the Northampton district,

and if the Government required settlement in that part of the country—men with wives and families—they must provide two essentials, schools and medical aid.

MR. TAYLOR: The member for the Murchison claimed that a medical officer was necessary for Northampton because that official filled the position of resident magistrate. If the item could be postponed he would move for a return showing the number of court cases which had been heard at Northampton during the last twelve months. It had been stated that the appointment was made to placate the member for the Murchison, the appointment being made when the hon. member was sitting on the Government side of the House. He (Mr. Taylor) was at Geraldton when the last election was taking place, and the energy displayed by the resident magistrate on behalf of the member for the Murchison was marked. He could understand why the member for the Murchison should desire this officer to be retained. There was no population in Northampton which would warrant a doctor being settled in the place, but he did not know the outlying district. If there was truth in what the member for Mount Magnet said, that a large proportion of the settlement was between Northampton and Geraldton, then there was no reason why the medical officer at Geraldton could not attend to the patients.

THE PREMIER: It was to be hoped that members would deal with the item apart from the position of magistrate. There were several instances in which men were paid as magistrates rather as a contribution towards the medical subsidy than for the amount of legal work which had to be done. There was not much magisterial work at Northampton, and if it were a magisterial position it would not be made. Wherever he had come into connection with Dr. Moffatt he had found him a most painstaking and efficient officer.

MR. TAYLOR: Did this official receive any farther sum than £250 a year?

THE PREMIER: Yes; £100 a year as magistrate.

MR. WALLACE: On the Premier's admission, that it was an oversight on his part in not attacking the vote under the stipendiary magistracy. Could the item be recommitted?

THE CHAIRMAN: The Committee could recommit any item if there were enough votes to carry the motion.

MR. WALLACE: As it would be impossible to obtain a sufficient number of votes to recommit the item, he would ask the Committee to strike out the item under consideration. Katanning and Beverley were each more populous than Northampton, yet the first was deprived of its medical officer, the medical officer in the second received a paltry £150 a year, while one at Northampton got £300. He moved that the item be reduced by £100.

[**MR. QUINLAN** took the Chair.]

MR. THOMAS: Had the last speaker moved to reduce the general vote so as to dispense with some of the medical officers in the large centres, where there was abundant private practice and a plentiful supply of honorary hospital doctors, his amendment might have been reasonable; but he (**Mr. Thomas**) would not vote for reducing the salary of a medical officer in an isolated district. Probably through a clerical error the name of Norseman did not appear in this vote. During the recess the Minister should see that all districts were uniformly dealt with, instead of some medical officers receiving £200 and £300, while in a remote place like Ravensthorpe the medical man had to leave because there was not sufficient private practice to keep him, and the inhabitants had no doctor nearer than Albany or Esperance. Norseman, with its population of about 1,500, had a hospital and a doctor, both supported largely by the people. To save a few hundred pounds by reducing such items as this would involve considerable hardship to isolated communities.

MR. MORAN: Though none could deny the need for drastic economy, this amendment was farcical. As the Government had made no attempt to keep their promises of retrenchment, and as the resident magistracy vote had been passed, it was useless to strike out medical officers, seeing that the magistrates were three times too many. Very shortly, if the revenue continued to shrink, the people would sweep out all hon. members, and ask for a Government with a retrenchment policy like that of the Victorian Ministry, instead of tolerating one which

this year brought in Estimates showing an increase of half-a-million in expenditure, when from the cessation of public works a large decrease of revenue must result. A thorough overhaul of the machinery of Government, with a view to dispensing with all superfluous services, he would support; but the retrenchment must not start with medical men in outside districts. Members who supported an extravagant Government should not ask the Committee to reduce an isolated item because of some personal feeling against the member for the district.

THE TREASURER: Unlike the previous speaker, he would not discuss the Estimates generally. The amendment should not be pressed. The diversity of opinion exhibited by hon. members on this and similar votes proved that it was absolutely necessary for Ministers to visit every district with which their respective departments were concerned. Only by their so doing could retrenchment be effected, not by sitting in their offices or by listening to members' speeches. Especially of medical and hospital questions was it necessary for Ministers to have personal knowledge, for anyone could see that in this vote sweeping retrenchment was possible. Pass the item, which would afterwards be investigated by the Minister.

MR. WALLACE: Every time a member attacked an item on the Estimates he was alleged to be influenced by personal feeling. That he was so influenced on this item he did not admit. On every such occasion the member for West Perth (**Mr. Moran**) made a "yes-no" speech; he would if he could, and he could if he would. But what did the hon. member do in the long run? How, except by criticising such items, could members protest against the action of the Government in failing to retrench?

MR. MORAN: Vote against the Ministerial salaries. Put out the Government.

MR. WALLACE: That he might do were there better men to put in their places; but he should be sorry to vote the Opposition into office. It was strange that Government supporters should have to attack such items. With the kind of retrenchment being brought about by the Government he was dissatisfied, for the inconsiderable saving effected had been in small salaries, and here was a wasteful

expenditure of £300 on a medical officer and magistrate, while other men were working for a starvation wage. He (Mr. Wallace), as well as the Colonial Secretary, knew this district, and though his task in moving the reduction was hopeless, he would persist. Even the Treasurer seemed to desert him, though admitting the necessity for true economy—not the kind contemplated by other Ministers. The member for Dundas objected to reducing the salaries of isolated medical officers. Did that hon. member know anything of such districts as Beverley and Katanning?

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—Perth District Medical Officer, £250:

MR. BATH: A competent man should have a big practice in Perth. These duties appeared to be light, amounting to a sinecure. The officer only attended the Old Men's Depôt.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member was totally mistaken. This officer attended to the Old Men's Depôt, the Old Women's Home, cases coming under the notice of the police, and the Subiaco Industrial Hospital. This officer (Dr. Saw) did an immense amount of work, and was very competent; in fact his pay was poor for the work he did.

MR. MORAN: Here was an instance of consistency on the Labour bench. He would have expected the members for Hannans and Kalgoorlie to move that the item for a medical officer at those places be struck out, if they objected to a medical officer for Perth.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Those were not similar duties.

MR. MORAN: The member for Hannans had attacked a medical officer in Perth who performed certain duties, but did not receive levies, while the officer at Kalgoorlie did receive levies from persons connected with the mines. Sick persons come to Perth from all parts of the State, and it was inconsistent to say that this officer's salary should be struck out when he had to attend to so many persons coming from different parts of the State. A complete overhaul had been promised by the Government, and we should wait for that before striking out this or that salary.

MR. TAYLOR: The duties of medical officer in Perth were different from those at Kalgoorlie; the medical officer at Kalgoorlie being connected with the public hospital, while the officer in Perth was not connected with the public hospital. How many poor people did he attend for the salary received? This officer had one of the largest private practices in Perth; and if so, one failed to see how he could give value to the Government for this salary of £250.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This officer had to attend to about 520 people, in round numbers, and these were not active and healthy people, generally. In the Women's Home and the Old Men's Depôt the percentage of sick would be greater than amongst other classes of people. This work took up no inconsiderable time.

MR. BATH: In reference to the Kalgoorlie medical officer, the whole system there needed reorganisation. We were told that the hospital was to be removed.

MR. MORAN: The reason the hon. member had not moved that the salary for the medical officer at Kalgoorlie be struck out was because the hon. member wished that to remain until the Government overhauled the whole system; but he did not apply that method to Perth, as he wanted the salary of the Perth medical officer to be struck out straight away.

DR. MCWILLIAMS: This officer was underpaid for the amount of work he did. Not only had he to attend the Old Men's Depôt, but the Orphanage and the Old Women's Home took up much of his time. He also was at the beck and call of the police for all kinds of cases that came under their notice, especially accident or lunatic cases.

Amendment negatived.

Item—Port Hedland District Medical Officer and Quarantine Officer, £150:

MR. HASTIE: What was the reason for this new appointment?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This was not a new appointment, because no one had yet been appointed. Port Hedland was a fairly busy place.

MR. TAYLOR: There were two bullock drivers there, he was told.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was more necessary to have an officer at

Port Hedland than at Derby or Wyndham.

MR. HASTIE: As the officer was not yet appointed, if this item were passed an appointment would be made, apparently; therefore he moved that the item be struck out.

MR. MORAN: There was a large travelling population through Port Hedland, teamsters coming and going through the town every day.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This vote was fully justified by the importance of Port Hedland. It was the second port north of Geraldton; its exports and imports were larger than those of Broome. There was a constant stream of traffic through the town, and the Singapore boats called at the port on their way to Fremantle. There should be medical officers at as many places as possible where the Singapore boats called.

MR. THOMAS: This was to be a new appointment, and the sum of £150 was set down to be expended. The amount could not by any chance be expended during the year. The least that might have been done was to put the amount on the Estimates which could be expended from the time when the Estimates were placed on the table of the House. In all cases where new appointments were to be made the full amounts were against the positions, and the Government at the end of the year could claim that they had saved money when there was no saving at all, as the whole amount had been voted when only a portion was required. If the whole amount was not struck out, then the Colonial Secretary himself should move to reduce the item by £75.

Amendment negatived, and the item passed.

Item—Roebourne Hospital, orderly, £100:

MR. HOPKINS: Was there a hospital at Roebourne, and if so was it controlled by the district medical officer, an orderly, and a cook?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There was a hospital at Roebourne.

Item—Whitby Asylum, dairywoman, £52:

MR. HIGHAM: What was proposed to be done with the Whitby Asylum?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was proposed, although not yet decided, that the Whitby Falls Asylum should be handed to the Lands Department for an experimental farm.

Item—Quarantine experts, four members at £6 per annum each, £24:

MR. THOMAS asked for information.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Some three or four years ago a case was diagnosed at Fremantle on one of the mail steamers as chicken-pox. At Adelaide it turned out to be a case of small-pox. In order that such mistakes should not occur again, at ports where the outside traffic touched at Albany and at Fremantle an amount of £6 was paid as a retaining fee to medical men, so that if the quarantine officer was in doubt as to the diagnosis of a case he could call in the retained officers. At Albany Dr. Robinson was the officer, and at Fremantle there were Dr. Lotz, Dr. White, and Dr. Day. In cases where the services were actually required these medical gentlemen received a fee in addition to the retainer.

MR. JACOBY: Was a retainer necessary?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Sometimes the medical officer might be in doubt. There was great responsibility thrown upon a medical officer in quarantining a ship. There was great expense to the State and inconvenience to the passengers. It was better to be sure than sorry.

MR. THOMAS: Was it necessary to pay the retaining fee? He moved that the item be struck out.

MR. JACOBY: What fee was paid in case a medical man was called in?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The fee, he thought, was five guineas.

MR. JACOBY: The item was a small one and was hardly worth calling for a division on. He did not think medical men should be retained, as doctors would only be too glad to attend if they received a fee of five guineas for each case. The retainer was not warranted.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The retainer was paid in case the quarantine officer required the services of these gentlemen.

Amendment negatived, and the item passed.

Item—Inspector of Uniforms, proportion of salary, £10:

MR. BATH asked for information.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Mr. Kennedy was appointed last year and received from the department £10, in return for which he inspected the uniforms which were made for the various attendants in the Fremantle Lunatic Asylum. The salary of this officer was divided amongst the various departments for which he acted and inspected.

Item—Principal Medical Officer, forage, £50:

MR. HOLMAN: There was a total amount of £2,951 15s. for allowances, which included forage allowance, house allowance, drug allowance, and so on. If it was necessary to make allowances, then these officers' salaries should be increased, and next year the salary should cover all these amounts, and officers should pay for the house allowance or forage allowance out of their pockets.

MR. THOMAS: Did this amount of £50 represent forage supplied by the Government to the officer, or did it represent the amount of money handed over to the officer in the same way as travelling expenses?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The allowance was of the latter nature.

MR. THOMAS: In that case the item ought to be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This officer, whose duties were multifarious, had suffered a considerable reduction in income already, as pointed out by the member for the Moore (Dr. O'Connor), in the loss of fees which he had formerly been in the habit of receiving for vaccination. He (the Minister) hoped that the Committee would not strike out the item, and he promised to take into consideration the question of adding forage allowance to salaries in future.

MR. THOMAS: For what purpose did the principal medical officer require forage allowance?

MR. TAYLOR: Did the officer's duties render the keeping of a horse necessary?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes.

MR. TAYLOR: Many people would keep a horse if allowed £50 a year by the Government for doing so. The bringing down of Estimates in this form ought to be stopped. An officer shown as receiving

a salary of £280 a year might with allowances of one kind and another actually be drawing £700 or £800 annually.

MR. THOMAS: Much needless extravagance was indulged in under the heading of "forage." In various country towns several officers were to be found, all drawing forage and groom allowances. A good deal of money could be saved in such cases by the establishment of a central stable where several horses might be cared for by one groom. Why were the chief medical officer, the Cue district medical officer, and the compulsory vaccination officer singled out for the receipt of these allowances, which were not granted to others in similar positions?

DR. O'CONNOR: The principal medical officer was not allowed private practice, and consequently used his horse only in travelling between his various departments. Other medical men used their horses for the purposes of private practice.

MR. TAYLOR: How many horses did the principal medical officer keep? Fifty pounds a year would feed more than one horse in Perth.

MR. THOMAS moved that the item be struck out.

Amendment negatived.

Item—Compulsory Vaccination Officer, forage £30:

MR. THOMAS moved that the item be struck out. Unless conclusive proof were adduced that this was not a new item, he would divide the Committee on it. Was this allowance paid to the officer referred to by the item just passed?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Certainly not. The officer was paid a salary of £150 for discharging, in connection with the Vaccination Act, much the same duties as the compulsory attendance officer of Education discharged in relation to the Education Act. The duties involved a good deal of travelling about Perth, Fremantle, and the suburbs, and that travelling was necessarily done by vehicle.

MR. THOMAS: Had this officer been granted forage allowance last year?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No; but it was thought only fair that he should have it this year, the duties of the office having increased.

MR. TAYLOR: The practice of augmenting salaries by means of forage allowances was most objectionable. Far better pay a decent salary. His experience of forage allowances on the goldfields was that the money was frequently spent on champagne. Now horses did not drink champagne. The granting of allowances practically amounted to hoodwinking the Committee.

MR. THOMAS: In view of the Colonial Secretary's explanation he persisted in his amendment. Last session this Chamber had clearly expressed itself against the granting of allowances in lieu of salary, but now we found the Colonial Secretary still following the same lines. If the Committee were shown that an officer was underpaid, any reasonable increase proposed would pass without objection. A big principle, however, was involved here. The Colonial Secretary had apparently set down this item of forage allowance in the hope that it would escape notice.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY rose to a point of order. Was the hon. member in order in imputing motives?

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

MR. THOMAS said he had not imputed motives.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY said he distinctly objected to the statement that the item had been set down in the hope that it would escape notice.

MR. THOMAS: If the hon. gentleman objected to the statement, it was withdrawn. This item had been inserted contrary to the express wish of the Committee; and though the officer receiving the allowance was miserably remunerated, the item should be struck out and an increase of salary, if justified, granted on the Supplementary Estimates.

MR. MORAN: Why did forage for a medical man's horse cost £50, while the steed of a vaccination officer could be fed for £30?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Perhaps the latter animal was the smaller. He would look into the item.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	8
Noes	...	...	...	19
				—
Majority against	...	...	...	11

AYES.

Mr. Bath
Mr. Foulkes
Mr. Hassell
Mr. Holman
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Stone
Mr. Taylor
Mr. Thomas (Teller).

NOES.

Mr. Butcher
Mr. Ewing
Mr. Gardiner
Mr. Gregory
Mr. Hastie
Mr. Hayward
Mr. Hicks
Mr. Higham
Mr. Jacoby
Mr. James
Mr. Kingsmill
Mr. McDonald
Mr. McWilliam
Mr. Monger
Mr. Nanson
Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Reid
Mr. Yelverton
Mr. Moran (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

Item—District Medical Officer, Albany, drugs £40:

MR. THOMAS: Why these drug allowances? Were they another form of salary? They were always expended to the last penny!

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Long experience enabled the department to fix the sums required. Each officer bought his own drugs.

MR. THOMAS: A large saving would result were the Government to buy drugs in bulk. We knew what profits were made on drugs and medicines, and how much cheaper we were able to get them if we bought a dozen of anything instead of one. He would also like to know whether the doctors got those drugs, and also whether vouchers were kept for the payments, because if not it might be another form of salary.

Item — Coolgardie District Medical Officer, house £100:

MR. HOLMAN: Why should the district medical officer at Coolgardie have an allowance of £100 for a house, whilst in other places the allowance was £50? He did not see why the Government could not erect dwelling places for these officers. He moved that the item be reduced by £50.

Amendment negatived.

Item—Coolgardie, Secretary, ration £39:

MR. HOLMAN asked for information respecting this item.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This was another form of salary.

MR. HOLMAN: We should know exactly what these items were. Next year, unless the items were introduced in

a different manner, he would move to strike out every item for allowances.

MR. THOMAS suggested that the Minister should give an assurance that next year the Estimates would not contain these allowances, but that the amounts would be put on salaries.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY said he would attend to this item.

Item — Whitby Asylum, Chaplain, Church of England, £50 :

MR. THOMAS moved that the item be struck out. He announced his intention to move also that the next item, "Whitby Asylum, Chaplain, Roman Catholic Church, £25," be struck out. He objected to the State paying a chaplain at all. There were more denominations in the religious world than the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church. There were persons belonging to Dissenting bodies who objected to be attended by a chaplain of the Church of England. He objected to the singling out of two churches and paying their chaplains salaries, and not paying other chaplains salaries also.

Amendment passed, and the item struck out.

Item — Whitby Asylum, Chaplain, Roman Catholic Church, £25 :

MR. THOMAS moved that the item be struck out.

Amendment passed, and the item struck out.

Item—Whitby Asylum, Farm foreman, ration £26 :

MR. JOHNSON: It would be advisable to strike this item out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Not at all. It would be very unjust to the man.

Item—Vaccination fees, etc., £800 :

DR. O'CONNOR asked for information.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The whole of this money would probably not be expended owing to arrangements which had been made. He had not gone into the vaccination fees which had been paid up to the time when they were stopped, nor had he gone into the question as to how the money would be expended where it was necessary to appoint public vac-

inators. He hoped the item would not be interfered with, but undoubtedly there would be a large saving compared with last year.

DR. O'CONNOR: Was it intended to appoint other vaccinators?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: If the Government medical officer did not do the duty, it would be necessary to appoint vaccinators; but the medical officers would be instructed to carry out the vaccinations.

DR. O'CONNOR: Was not the Government bound to pay for vaccinations?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Under Section 3 of the Vaccination Act the Government were not bound to pay. That section gave the Governor power to make rules and orders as he thought fit for the payment of officers.

DR. O'CONNOR: It said "shall appoint."

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: It rested with the Government to make a scale of fees, and if the Government thought resident medical officers should perform the vaccinations without fee, then a request would be made to that effect.

MR. THOMAS: If they refused?

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: What happened in a private business if an employee refused?

MR. THOMAS: The Government could not "sack" every medical officer in the country.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Neither could an employer get rid of all his employees.

DR. O'CONNOR: It would be a very good thing for the medical men who had not been paid by the Government.

MR. THOMAS: For some time past members had been inclined to treat the medical men in a very offhand sort of way. Medical men had to go through a very stiff course of training. We knew what the educational test was, and what time had to be given up to the medical training; quite as much as the legal fraternity had to give; yet on the Estimates it was proposed to increase the legal allowances and decrease medical allowances. It was unwise to deprive medical officers of vaccination fees which they received in the past. He did not think the medical officers would conduct the vaccinations free of cost. The

medical men were strong enough to form themselves into a union. These agitations against medical men and the attempts to reduce their remuneration tended to this end. As a representative of a country district he was anxious to see medical men provided for people in the country. It was not right to deprive the medical men of the paltry few pounds they were receiving as vaccination fees.

DR. O'CONNOR moved that after "vaccination fees" the words "be paid as in previous years" be inserted.

THE CHAIRMAN: That could not be moved.

MR. HOPKINS: Was the amount on the Estimates in addition to the amounts paid to medical officers?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There would be a considerable underdraft on this item, but an amount was required to satisfy the calls. Last year £1,291 was expended in this direction. It was not likely that amount would be spent this year.

DR. O'CONNOR moved that the item be reduced by £1.

Amendment negatived.

Minor urgent repairs at Government Hospitals, £200:

MR. BATH: Why had nothing been done towards the erection of a casualty ward to treat cases of accident on the Hannans Belt mines?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That matter fell within the province of the Public Works Department.

MR. HOPKINS: But the Public Works estimates did not contain an item for the purpose, and that was the trouble.

MR. THOMAS: Why had this item been so largely increased? Last year only £65 was spent, while this year £200 was asked for.

MR. JOHNSON said he would not be put off the question of the casualty ward. The Colonial Secretary ought to state the intentions of the Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The item was not on the Estimates because the exigencies of the situation had demanded its excision. The Government regretted that all the urgent needs of the country could not be provided for immediately. However, an ambulance of the best description had been provided for the benefit of the Hannans mines.

MR. THOMAS: Why had this item been increased by over 200 per cent.?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In connection with various large underdrafts appearing on the Estimates, members must bear in mind that the Estimates were brought down very late last year. In view of the capital value of State hospitals, £200 could not be described as an excessive amount to be expended in repairs.

Items—Grants to Assisted Hospitals:

MR. THOMAS: From the two items, "Grants to assisted hospitals towards salary of medical officer and 25 per cent. of fees to district medical officers on goldfields, £1,750," and "£ for £ subsidy and grants towards maintenance of indigent patients treated in assisted hospitals, £10,000," it appeared that those who helped themselves in the matter of hospitals were to be subsidised to the extent of only £11,750, whilst the Perth and Fremantle hospitals were actually subsidised to the extent of £15,000. He hoped that the two items quoted would be largely increased in next year's Estimates, and that certain other items would be practically wiped out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Government would be glad indeed to carry out the hon. member's suggestion, always providing that assisted hospitals in the future displayed a good deal more economy in their methods of working than had been exhibited in the past. The regrettable fact was that subsidies paid to assisted hospitals, owing to lavish and extravagant methods, equalled the cost per head of patients treated in Government hospitals. The cost per head in the latter was only £9, whilst in the assisted hospitals it was £12 7s. 6d. Some hospitals, like that at Menzies, had started as assisted institutions, but had ended by becoming Government institutions. Altogether, it was very questionable whether any saving was effected by subsidising private hospitals instead of maintaining Government hospitals. Of course, the number of patients treated in Government hospitals enormously exceeded the number treated in assisted hospitals.

MR. THOMAS: More shame to the Government hospitals, seeing the number of their patients, that they could not

reduce the cost per head to below 75 per cent. of the cost in assisted hospitals.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Government had no desire to take any special credit in respect of the conduct of Government hospitals. He merely wished to point out that in connection with assisted hospitals all was not gold that glittered.

MR. THOMAS: The smaller hospitals made a marvellously good showing if their cost per patient was only 33 per cent. higher than that of the Government hospitals. The Norseman hospital paid a resident medical officer.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Government paid part of his salary.

MR. THOMAS: Certainly. There was little work to do, the district being one of the healthiest in the State; but two nurses had to be retained for typhoid cases; therefore the cost of management could not be reduced, as he had proved on investigation. A large subsidy was raised locally. As the patients were few, the cost per head must be high; but this did not show bad management.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There were Government hospitals similarly situated, having few patients.

Item—Perth Public Hospital, £9,000:

MR. FOULKES moved that the item be reduced by £5. The Act of 1894 provided that the hospitals of the colony should come under boards of management. The Governor appointed a number of laymen and certain medical men. This was the largest hospital in the State. Last year it had 4,780 patients, and cost £9,000 or £10,000 for upkeep; consequently the position of a surgeon to the hospital was highly valued, being looked on as the blue-ribbon of the profession. Some doctors when receiving such appointments advertised the fact as widely as possible. The *Australasian Medical Gazette* for February last contained a letter from Dr. Tratman, who signed it as "M.D. London, senior surgeon Perth Public Hospital." In view of the large number of patients it was important that the board should see that the staff consisted of the best men available. What had been the practice adopted? In 1897, five medical men, Doctors Kenny, Tratman, Kelsall, Harvey, and O'Connor, were appointed on

the board, with certain laymen, Sir George Shenton being chairman. It was the duty of the board to appoint a medical staff. Nine doctors were so appointed, all of whom were either medical men on the board or their partners, about 30 other doctors practising in Perth and suburbs being ignored. The same doctors were appointed to the board of management in 1898 and 1899. The staff surgeons and physicians appointed in 1897 were Dr. Kenny and his partner Dr. McWilliams, Dr. Trethowen and his partner or assistant Dr. Coventry, Dr. Harvey and his partner Dr. Saw. Dr. Tratman and Dr. O'Connor were also appointed. They unfortunately had no partners. Matters went on very happily till 1900. In that year all those gentlemen were re-appointed, but Dr. Coventry had the misfortune to retire from the firm of Kenny and McWilliams, and presumably he was no longer fit for the staff, because practically from the date of his retirement from that well-known firm he ceased to hold his other position. In the same year another important step was taken. Dr. Kelsall, who was on the board of management, took Dr. Horrocks into partnership, and in the same month Dr. Horrocks was appointed to the staff. The board must then have felt that other practitioners deserved consideration—men like Dr. Astles, at one time on the medical and the tuition staff in Melbourne; Dr. Thurstan, who had for years been on the staff of the Queen Charlotte Women's Hospital in London; Dr. Jameson, who had practised here for years; and Dr. Macauley, who had qualified many years previously. The choice, however, fell on Dr. Crutchley, who had come to Perth the year before, and after one year's residence here was chosen as the best man the board could find outside their own ranks. Up to that year there was only one outside man appointed. In the following year three fresh men were appointed—Dr. Burkitt, Dr. Taaffe, and Dr. Randell. The number of medical men in Perth by this time had increased. Dr. Randell had only been qualified two years before: evidently they thought the more recent man was qualified. He did not wish to discuss the qualifications of those different medical men—perhaps he would not be

able to do it properly. Anyway, to sum up his arguments, 56 appointments had been made to this staff during the last seven years, and of that 56 no less than 49 had gone to members of the board of management and their partners. The result of this position was that outside medical men were not satisfied with it, and they evidently thought it almost hopeless unless they had the good fortune to secure a partnership with some of those gentlemen on the board of management. He said just now that appointments had been made of other outside men. Dr. Thurstan applied. He was qualified so far back as 1876, and in London he held the post of physician to one of the largest hospitals for women. He was also an M.D. of Cambridge University, and had practised seven or eight years in Perth. Although he had repeatedly offered his services, they had invariably been refused. Dr. Astles qualified 20 years ago. He was on the tuition staff of the hospital in Melbourne, and he had a practice here. He had been rejected. Dr. Jameson had also applied and was rejected. He qualified so far back as 1883, and for several years had one of the largest practices in Perth. He (Mr. Foulkes) believed that Dr. Jameson was rejected in the year Dr. Randell, who had been qualified for two years, was elected. He believed Dr. Macauley qualified about 20 years ago in Edinburgh, and he had a large practice in the suburbs, at Cottesloe and also in Perth. He applied and had been rejected. As was said before, the result was that some of these gentlemen did not care to apply for these appointments when they found, as he (Mr. Foulkes) thought he could satisfy this House, they were made by a body of men who were not so disinterested and not so unbiased as we could expect them to be. It might be said that the blame altogether did not lie with the medical men; that there were lay members of the board. He thought he could prove that the management practically had been in the hands of those medical men. Sir George Shenton had been chairman of the board for the last seven years, and it might give an inkling to the House as to how some of those laymen attended to their duties when he told them that Sir George Shenton only attended nine meetings, he thought out of 18, four years ago,

owing to the fact that he was absent from the State that year. In 1891 and 1892 there were 32 meetings of the board, and out of that number the chairman only attended 14. If members looked at the report they would find that in the last two years certain lay members attended only 29 meetings out of a possible 319; and we would find from the report for 1898 that six laymen out of 12 only attended 16 meetings out of a possible 96. Some members were appointed who never attended at all. The late Mr. Justice Moorhead was appointed on the board of the hospital, and it would be found from *Hansard* for the year 1900, one member of the House stated that Mr. Moorhead said that although he had been on the board for three years he never attended, because he found it was useless to do so, as the management of the hospital was entirely in the hands of these medical men. Some of those gentlemen upon the board, no doubt, were estimable in their private capacities; but he contended that their appointments were made in the most haphazard style. Although they might be very good in many ways, men were appointed who did not attend the meetings and did not take sufficient interest in the management of the hospital. These gentlemen practically were not representative men; they practically represented only themselves, and it was a most extraordinary thing in connection with this hospital that really no one appeared to be represented except a few medical firms. The people who found the money—he meant the Government—were not represented on the board of management; neither were the people who used the hospital. That seemed an extraordinary position of affairs, and although these matters might be new to some members, they really had been frequently brought up in the House. A committee was appointed in 1900, comprising Mr. Oats, the late Mr. Vosper, and some of the other members. But, at any rate, those members took evidence, and their report was generally to the effect that the lay-members were not sufficiently representative, and that more representative men should be appointed. His suggestion to the Colonial Secretary was this, that he should set about trying to get more representative men. What he was asking the Minister to do was to see that the different locali-

ties, like Perth and the suburbs, were represented on the board. If the Minister did that, greater interest would, he thought, be taken. For instance, the different suburbs like Victoria Park, South Perth, North Perth, Subiaco, Leederville, and Claremont, and the various roads boards might be asked to send representatives to the board.

MR. JACOBY: Hear, hear. Let them be elected.

MR. FOULKES: If his suggestion were adopted we should be more likely to get people who would represent the different classes and sections of the community. He would suggest also that patients who used the hospitals should be represented. The friendly societies had one member already on the board, and he thought that such an important body was entitled to greater representation. There were certain trades, too, which by reason of the dangers and risks attached to them were responsible for a great number of patients being sent to the hospital—he referred particularly to the railway employees and the employees on the different buildings, in fact all dangerous places—and he would suggest that those engaged in this class of trade should be asked to send representatives. He would also strongly urge that it was time the Government were represented on the board. At present this amount of money was paid over to the hospital, and no check whatever was made upon the expenditure. Altogether something like £9,000 or £10,000 was handed over.

MR. JACOBY: Had they no auditors?

MEMBER: Yes.

MR. FOULKES: Auditors only audited the accounts. There was no one to see that economical management was carried out, and he would suggest that the Principal Medical Officer (Dr. Lovegrove) or Dr. Black, or some Government medical officer, should be appointed to the board, and not only appointed on the board, but a Government medical officer should be appointed as chairman of the board. An officer from the Treasury or some other civil servant who had good business capacity might be given a seat on the board. He had taken a great deal of interest in the subject. It had been inquired into previously, and the committee which investigated the matter in 1900

recommended that practising doctors in Perth should not have seats on the board to control other practising doctors. The report said: "Your committee find that a very considerable degree of friction exists between members of the medical profession not connected with the institution. . . . The present 'close corporation' system leads to friction and jealousy, and prevents that public supervision which is essential to the maintenance of efficiency and the prevention of abuses." It was to be borne in mind the medical men were not only on the medical staff but were managers of the hospital. The same men were masters and servants. He asked that a fresh board be appointed next January. The Hospitals Act provided that the appointment of the board of management should be made in January each year. Let the present appointments die out in January and the Government appoint a new board, and on that board the Government should be represented; also let no practising medical man be appointed on the board, the only medical men on the board to be Government medical officers who did not come in competition with outside medical men. The district municipalities should be represented on the board, also representatives of friendly societies and trades unions. He had had frequent discussions with the Colonial Secretary on the matter, and as a Minister of the Crown it was impossible for the Colonial Secretary to give any pledge that the appointments would be made in the manner indicated. He did not expect any definite promise of that kind, but he asked the Committee to support him in carrying the reduction of £5, so as to show clearly to the Government what the opinions of members were. He wished to put a stop to the miserable scramble for medical appointments. There was no doubt there had been a close corporation in Perth as to the medical appointments, which was not creditable to the medical profession. Some of the medical members of the board had held their appointments for six or seven years, and these gentlemen had secured for themselves every possible advantage. There were two medical gentlemen present, and he asked them to be generous and allow others to receive appointments. These two gentlemen had

received appointments for the past seven years, and now they should let other medical men have a chance. It seemed to be forgotten that it was the interest of the patients that had to be looked after and not the medical profession. The poor sick people should have the best possible medical men to attend them, and the appointments should be made by a disinterested and impartial body.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The thanks of the Committee were due to the hon. member for his instructive speech. With regard to the changes proposed, they were rather too sweeping; at the same time he was willing to admit that there was a great deal of good in what had been said, and many of the suggestions made might with profit be carried out by the Government, to the benefit of the Perth Hospital and the general public. It could not be expected that more could be said at present. The subject had been and was receiving his earnest attention, and he hoped the changes which would be made and decided by Cabinet would satisfy the hon. member. The Government were anxious to do their best in this direction, and to carry out the task, which the hon. member admitted was one of the utmost delicacy, with as much discrimination as we possibly could. So far as the work of the Perth Hospital was concerned, it had been both good and economical, and it compared well with that of hospitals in other parts of the State. Undoubtedly, there was a feeling of great unrest among the majority of Perth medical practitioners as to the manner in which they had been treated by the hospital committee, and a way might be found of assuaging the lacerated feelings of these medical gentlemen without in any way detracting from either the quality or the quantity of the work which the institution had already done.

DR. O'CONNOR: Was the Perth Hospital the most expensive in the State?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No; the least expensive, as he had already said.

DR. O'CONNOR: The member for Claremont (Mr. Foulkes) had made various little mistakes. In the first place, the question of whether the men on the hospital staff were the most competent for the position must remain largely one

of individual opinion. Many people would prefer to any properly qualified medical practitioner a man like Herr Rasmussen, or Ellis, the man now in prison. The Government appointed the medical staff, whom the hospital committee merely nominated.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Had any nomination made by the committee ever been refused by the Government?

DR. O'CONNOR: That was not a matter which concerned the hospital committee. As for the statement that Dr. Coventry had been appointed to the staff because he was a partner of Dr. Kenny, and that immediately on severing his connection with Dr. Kenny he had failed to secure reappointment, the real fact was that Dr. Coventry had of his own initiative given up the position. Dr. Astles and Dr. Jameson had applied for one position only, for which two other applicants also had applied.

MR. FOULKES: Who were the other two applicants?

DR. O'CONNOR: That was beside the point. The previous holder of the position was re-elected. At that time Dr. Jameson had just returned from Rome.

MR. FOULKES: Was not the man appointed a member of the board of management?

DR. O'CONNOR: Dr. Macauley had applied for only one position, to which Dr. Burkitt, who applied at the same time, had been appointed. As for the suggestion that the Government medical officer should be on the staff, the fact remained that Dr. Lovegrove, though allowed private practice, was debarred by the extent of his duties from engaging in it. Members of the Ministry had been on the board of management: Mr. James, Mr. Illingworth, and Mr. Randell. He personally had no great desire to be on the board, and neither had any other medical man, so far as he knew.

MR. FOULKES: Would the Colonial Secretary kindly make a note of that statement?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: *Hansard* would make a note of it.

MR. JACOBY congratulated the member for Claremont (Mr. Foulkes) on having carried out a most painful duty with a very fair degree of discretion. The root of the whole trouble lay in the

fact that the board of management was not elected by the subscribers.

MEMBER: The Perth Hospital had no subscribers.

MR. JACOBY: That fact reflected great discredit on the board of management, who ought to have taken steps to get subscribers. Matters looked as if the hospital staff, in refraining from seeking subscriptions, was desirous of creating a close corporation. Undoubtedly, certain members of the board of management, who were also on the medical staff, were not known as leading men in their profession. Members of the medical staff who held seats in this House were, of course, long and favourably known in this State, and the remark did not apply to them. Two or three ladies ought to be appointed to the board of management. A circumstance to which he drew special attention was that a man whose case he had mentioned here in a connection unfavourable to the hospital had, on returning shortly afterwards to the institution with several ribs fractured, been greatly worried by the doctor in permanent charge on the score of having had his case mentioned in Parliament. A stop must be put to conduct of that kind. He hoped that the members of the medical staff would alleviate public discontent by rectifying certain small matters which he had mentioned to them in conversation, but which he would not inflict on the Committee. He would content himself with saying that they were matters which tended to bring the hospital into disrepute. No doubt these defects would be remedied. If the matters he had privately mentioned were attended to, and steps taken to obtain subscribers, leaving in their hands the election of the board, past discontents would disappear. He and other members would be glad to subscribe.

MR. HASTIE: The previous speaker and the Colonial Secretary were optimists. Both in New Zealand and Australia nearly all towns, certainly all capitals, had trouble with their hospitals—witness Melbourne and Adelaide. The hospital in Perth should be put on an equal footing with those elsewhere. In the sparsely-populated back country, the people were required to subscribe to hospitals, but where population was thick the Government gave practically a charit-

able vote like that given to the Perth Hospital. If it were not a charity, the Minister would ask the public to bear all the expense, which was much more than the £9,000 appearing in this item. What were the items for washing, bedding, clothing, and surgical instruments for Government hospitals?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This was a "public" hospital: those items were for country hospitals.

MR. HASTIE: Each hospital should be debited with its full allowance.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That would swell the Estimates.

MR. JACOBY: What matter, if members had the information?

MR. HASTIE: Either let the Perth public subscribe towards their hospital or let the Government take over all the hospitals in the country. At present any group of people could by importunity persuade the Government to take care of their sick, while districts showing an independent desire to help themselves were assisted with subsidies only. The Minister would find doctors most ticklish people to deal with, more especially in Perth, Fremantle, and other places where the doctors had the spending of the money and the control of hospital arrangements. The hospital committee would be lucky if they found their work more pleasant than that of similar bodies.

MR. TAYLOR: To signify his disapproval of the present method of appointing the board of management of the Perth Hospital, he would vote for the amendment. He found here a piece of paper setting forth the names of the present staff and whom they were in partnership with, and he thought it necessary that the board of management should be reformed. He hoped the Colonial Secretary would reform it in the way indicated by the member for Claremont (Mr. Foulkes). It was, he considered, simply a disgrace to the intelligence of the people of this State when they found these medical firms in Perth appointing their own partners on the board of management of this hospital. He did not know that all these men were appointed by merit. He questioned very much whether they were.

MR. MORAN: In common with the hon. member, he had always expressed the opinion that there was a screw loose

somewhere in the management of the Perth Hospital. It had always been a mystery to him why the honorary offices of that noble institution should not be available to any duly qualified medical practitioner. He did not know whether the hon. member (Mr. Foulkes) intended to push the amendment for a reduction of £5. In his opinion the hon. member ought not to do so, for he had, apparently gained his point in the admissions made in the general discussion. He was thoroughly satisfied the Colonial Secretary was fully seized of the importance of going into the question of the hospital. The hon. gentleman had promised to overhaul the whole question of the medical vote, and he could see from the look on the face of the Colonial Treasurer that he agreed with the Opposition all through this discussion that economy was necessary. If the member for Claremont were to happen to lose on a division, it would look like a free hand being given to the Colonial Secretary in the old way.

MR. FOULKES: The board of management of the Perth hospital met about three days ago, and the time had come round for making a fresh lot of appointments. They had made a fresh lot of appointments. Perhaps it was quite unnecessary for him to mention to the Committee that they had all appointed themselves again and one or two others. These names would be sent to the Colonial Secretary for his approval, and one hoped the hon. gentleman would not approve of those appointments. Having done all this with a view to strengthen the Minister's hands, he would now press the amendment that the item be reduced by £5 in order that we might place it on record.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	13
Noes	...	...	...	11

Majority for ... 2

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Daugh	Mr. Diamond
Mr. Foulkes	Mr. Ewing
Mr. Hastie	Mr. Gardiner
Mr. Hayward	Mr. Gregory
Mr. Holman	Mr. James
Mr. Jacoby	Mr. Kingsmill
Mr. McDonald	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Morau	Mr. Monger
Mr. Reid	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Taylor	Mr. Rason
Mr. Wallace	Mr. Stone (Teller).
Mr. Yelverton	
Mr. Higham (Teller).	

Amendment thus passed, and the item reduced by £5.

DR. O'CONNOR: Supposing the hospital expended all the money it had?

THE PREMIER: The division, he took it, really had nothing to do with the amount, but with the constitution of the board.

Item—Leonora Hospital, grant-in-aid, erection and flooring tent, £20:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the words "and surgical instruments" be added. This would in no way increase the amount paid.

Amendment passed.

Item—Destruction of poison palms, Whitby Falls Asylum estate, £200:

MR. HIGHAM: What area of zamia palms was there on the estate?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There was a considerable extent. The value of the property as a farm would be greatly increased by the destruction of the palms.

MR. JACOBY: As it was intended to turn the estate into an experimental farm and not to keep stock there, it was not necessary to destroy the palms. It would be better to wait until after the estate was handed over to the Lands Department before expending the money.

MR. HAYWARD: This was a large amount for the destruction of palms. The cost per acre for destroying these palms was very small.

MR. STONE: Unless cattle were to be grazed on the land it was not necessary to destroy the palms. He moved that the item be struck out.

Amendment negatived.

Other items agreed to, and the vote (reduced to £90,464 16s. 6d.) passed.

Observatory, £3,649 14s.:

MR THOMAS moved that the vote be reduced by £1,000. This would be a test. Progress should be reported, as the Committee had done a good night's work. This vote required careful consideration. As in the near future some radical reductions would have to be made in the expenditure of the State, it was a matter for consideration whether the Observatory was required. Some big amount would have to be wiped off the Estimates, and

this might be one of them. It would be far better to give a slight subsidy to some other Observatory to send us wires than to keep up this costly establishment. In a small State it was extravagant to spend over £3,500 on an Observatory which he could not help looking upon as a worthless institution. He would not move the total excision of the item, because the Government needed time to give effect to the wishes of the Committee.

MR. TAYLOR: If the hon. member's (Mr. Thomas's) amendment were carried, could the items be dealt with afterwards?

THE CHAIRMAN: No. The reduced amount would stand as the vote.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY hoped the amendment would not be carried, principally because he did not share the mover's views with regard to an Observatory. This State's Observatory was at present in the transition stage: in a few months it was likely to be taken over by the Federal Government, as indeed it ought to be. Unfortunately, a majority of members appeared to hold the view that an Observatory was of no educational or practical value.

MR. MORAN: The Minister was losing courage on very slight provocation.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY asked the Committee not to interfere with the vote, as the institution would shortly be taken over by the Commonwealth.

MR. DAGLISH: Was it a fact that the astronomical part of the Observatory work had ceased, and that the meteorological part alone was receiving attention?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was not a fact.

MR. DAGLISH: A change in that direction was understood to have been made, or to be in contemplation.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The astrographic work had been abandoned.

MR. DAGLISH: Notwithstanding the abandonment of astrography, the institution still had a Government Astronomer, his first assistant, an astronomical computer and observer, and a senior astrographic observer. The staff seemed large for such a State as this, quite apart from the question of whether an Observatory was or was not needed. We scarcely required a Government Astronomer and a first

assistant to that Government Astronomer: one good meteorologist would suffice. In connection with this institution, retrenchment had, as usual, begun at the wrong end. Four men with salaries aggregating £370 a year were being dispensed with, and a saving of £185 was being effected in the pay of these men, whilst the Government Astronomer and his first assistant had their salaries increased by £190 in all. These increases had been hurriedly granted by the Assembly at the fag-end of last session. The unfortunate lowly paid officers were to be sacrificed. The ostensible reason for the increase granted to the Government Astronomer was that he provided members of Parliament visiting the Observatory with wine and other refreshments. Perhaps the member for Dundas (Mr. Thomas) would withdraw his amendment so as to allow a reduction to be moved in the amount of the first item. The effect of carrying a general reduction such as that proposed would be the dismissal of some more unfortunate officials in receipt of low salaries: eventually the Government Astronomer and his first assistant would constitute the whole staff.

MR. MORAN: It was news that the Observatory was to be taken over by the Federal Government. He deprecated attacks on this institution in the small hours of the morning. The Minister would do well to allow progress to be reported.

THE PREMIER: No. Ministerial members had stayed up specially to deal with the Estimates.

MR. MORAN: It was doubtful whether the Government had a majority in attendance, and whether the total attendance was sufficient to assure that the desire of the Legislative Assembly on this subject would be made known. If four Observatories were needed on the Eastern seaboard, surely one was not too much for the whole of the Western seaboard. Moreover, Fremantle was now a large seaport on a main trade route. He asked the Committee not to make a blind, groping assault on a useful institution. Attacks on the Observatory were made mainly because members did not understand the technical terms on the Estimates. For such an institution the total sum was not large, and it should

not be attacked blindly at this early hour of the morning.

MR. HASTIE: Last year the House divided on this item, and struck out an allowance of £100 to the Astronomer, and on the Supplementary Estimates the amount was restored as salary. If the first and second items were struck out, the institution would not be less efficient. Withdraw the amendment, and reduce the first item by £100.

MR. HASSELL: Last session he assisted in striking out the £100, and would if possible assist in striking out much more. The Observatory he looked on as perfectly useless. About 99 per cent. of the weather predictions were wrong. He would vote against every item discussed.

MR. MORAN: If, as stated, 99 forecasts out of 100 were reliable, the Astronomer's salary should be increased by £500. The man did not live who could foresee all atmospheric disturbances. Such criticisms could be levelled at every meteorologist.

MR. HASSELL: The £100 struck off last session had been restored in a thin House.

MR. MORAN: Then do not take advantage of a thin House now.

MR. TAYLOR: Withdraw the amendment and reduce the items. *Hansard* would show that last session the Premier (Mr. Leake) said the £100 allowance was to compensate the Astronomer for certain expenses, and that it would not be permanent. Yet the permanent increase now appeared. It was then pointed out that the Observatory was a place where members of Parliament and the *élite* of Perth went for a good "razzle dazzle." In a thin House the £100 was subsequently replaced on the Estimates.

MR. THOMAS: Recognising the futility of trying to reduce the vote by a reasonable sum, and in deference to the majority present, he asked leave to withdraw the amendment.

Leave refused.

Amendment (to reduce by £1,000) put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	8
Noes	...	...	...	17
				—
Majority against	...	...	...	9

AYES.
Mr. Hassell
Mr. Hastie
Mr. Holman
Mr. Jacoby
Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Stone
Mr. Taylor
Mr. Thomas (Teller).

NOES.
Mr. Daglish
Mr. Diamond
Mr. Ewing
Mr. Foulkes
Mr. Gardiner
Mr. Gregory
Mr. James
Mr. Kingsmill
Mr. McDonald
Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Monger
Mr. Moran
Mr. Rason
Mr. Reid
Mr. Wallace
Mr. Yelverton
Mr. Higham (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

MR. JACOBY: There had been an amendment to reduce the vote by £1,000, but it had not been carried. Could an amendment now be moved to reduce the vote by a smaller amount?

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was entitled to move for a smaller reduction.

MR. DAGLISH: The Observatory was unnecessarily expensive. He had the figures with regard to the Queensland Observatory, and every respect must be paid to the result of the observations by the Queensland Government Astronomer.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Did the hon. member mean Mr. Wragge?

MR. DAGLISH: Yes.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Mr. Wragge was not Government Astronomer, was he?

MR. DAGLISH: Mr. Wragge was meteorological observer, and it was these meteorological observations that were of value to a State, and outside the State. Mr. Wragge, in Queensland, was paid £500, as against £600 paid by this State, and he received instead of a palatial residence like the Government Observatory here £50 in lieu of residence. Then he had a staff comprising first assistant £250, second assistant £150, and third assistant £130, with a junior at £60 a year: a total altogether of £1,140.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: What about South Australia?

MR. DAGLISH said he was quite satisfied to risk the issue on the one case—that of the gentleman who had earned the highest fame in Australia for his meteorological observations and predictions.

MR. MORAN said Mr. Wragge got half-a-dozen different salaries.

MR. DAGLISH: Whether Mr. Wragge had other salaries for other purposes, he

did not know. That was the only one he could find. It would be a reasonable thing for us to put our institution on somewhat the same footing as that the one in Queensland; and even if we did that, we should be doing far more than we could properly afford. As soon as our revenue came down, as it soon must, to the same level as that in the Eastern States, we should have to cut the coat very much shorter than we had done in the past. [MEMBER: Did the hon. member think that payment in all our Government service should be the same as in the Eastern States?] In many cases the salaries should be higher, because of the increased cost of living. At present we had a higher revenue to pay them from, but with regard to luxuries we must be very careful as to the amount of money we spent on them. He did not think we could afford to keep up establishments of the same size as those which were kept up in the more thickly populated States. As to the department being taken over by the Federal Government, we were told precisely the same thing when last the Estimates were before Parliament. We had no official knowledge that the Observatory would be taken over in the near future. If the Observatory was to be handed over to the Commonwealth in a short time, we should not let the Federal Government take it on an extravagant basis, because we had to bear our share of keeping up the Federal establishments.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No one who had gone into the subject could say the Observatory was run extravagantly. The analogy drawn in regard to Queensland would not apply, for the Queensland Observatory was confined wholly and solely to meteorological work. It might be that was the most useful work done; that he did not intend to combat. The Observatory here was doing other work, and having been started should be maintained in a worthy fashion. The salaries paid in this State, as compared with those paid in the other States, appeared to be inadequate. The assistant who carried out the astronomical work in South Australia received a similar sum to the amount paid to the Astronomer here. A promise had been made to the Astrographic Society to take part in a world-wide scheme, and we could not

withdraw from the promise without giving notice. The Government had given notice of withdrawal.

MR. HASTIE: Had members an opportunity of proposing to reduce the several items?

THE CHAIRMAN: The Committee were dealing with the total sum now.

MR. HASTIE: That being so, if any friend of the Government moved that a vote be reduced by one-half, that would prevent any member going back. The member for Dundas was evidently playing into the hands of the Government. He moved that the vote be reduced by £190, being the amount that was placed on the Supplementary Estimates last year for the Government Astronomer and the first assistant.

POINTS OF ORDER—RULING.

MR. MORAN: The vote could not be touched now; the items would have to remain and the total be governed by the items. He asked for a ruling on the point.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question was put whether the vote should be reduced by £1,000 and was negative. The question now before the Committee was the total amount. Any member could move to reduce the vote by a less sum than £1,000.

MR. MORAN moved that the Committee disagree with the ruling of the Chairman.

MR. THOMAS: Could not the items be discussed? The Committee were dealing with the general question, and having negatived the amendment that the vote be reduced by £1,000 it was now open to members to deal with the items. There was an objection on the part of the Premier to withdrawing the amendment to reduce the vote by £1,000. Was it competent to deal with the items now?

THE CHAIRMAN: It was not in order now to move to reduce any item. There were several voices against the withdrawal of the amendment.

MR. THOMAS moved that the Committee disagree with the ruling of the Chairman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair, and the point having been stated, he said: If it was competent to reduce the vote by £1,000, it was competent to reduce the vote by a smaller amount. He therefore ruled that the

Committee could reduce the total of the vote, leaving the adjustment of the items to the Government.

THE CHAIRMAN resumed the Chair.

MR. THOMAS then submitted a point of order in writing.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair, and on the point of order said: The Committee having proceeded past the items and reached the total of the vote, it was not competent to deal with items.

COMMITTEE RESUMED.

MR. HASTIE moved that the vote be reduced by £190, which was the amount of the increases granted on last year's Supplementary Estimates.

MR. MORAN: To obviate the necessity for discussion, he suggested that the Government might take £190 off the item for stationery in the event of the amendment being carried, and so defeat the attack on two particular salaries. Was not the amendment out of order, seeing that it dealt with certain increases granted last session?

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment dealt with no particular item or items.

MR. TAYLOR: The object of the amendment was to reduce two salaries which had been unduly increased last session. It was idle for members who had voted in favour of the retention of the total vote at £3,649 14s. to express dissatisfaction at being precluded from dealing with individual items. The Chairman had given a plain ruling to the effect indicated. The object of the amendment now before us was to reduce the Government Astronomer's salary by £100 and that of his first assistant by £90. The amendment would reduce the salaries unfairly increased last year.

MR. MORAN: The previous speaker said the Committee had been deceived last year with reference to the £100 increase; yet it appeared from *Hansard* that on the Supplementary Estimates the then Premier (Mr. Leake) plainly stated that this sum was an increase of salary; while Mr. Taylor said, "If the officer were worth it, let him have it."

MR. TAYLOR: Read what had been said on the general Estimates.

MR. MORAN: The hon. member accused the late Premier of introducing

the increase in a thin House, and of stating it was only temporary; yet *Hansard* showed that Mr. Leake called it a direct increase of salary, and challenged a division, Mr. Taylor acquiescing in the increase.

MR. TAYLOR: *Hansard* for the 21st January, 1901, showed how strongly he had opposed the increase, upbraiding the Government with making it in spite of their promise that there should be no increases of salaries exceeding £200, and regretting that excuses were always found for increasing decent salaries. For the increase he had not voted; and he should not be judged by a jocular remark made on the Supplementary Estimates, when, owing to the scanty attendance, there was no chance of striking it out. He would vote for the amendment on the understanding that the first two items be reduced.

Amendment put and passed, and the item reduced by £100.

MR. MORAN: The items having been passed, the Government could not now deprive the Astronomer of his full salary.

Vote (as reduced) agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 18 minutes past 1 o'clock (Wednesday), until the afternoon.