

lation, although he had every sympathy with farmers. The mover appeared to labour under the impression that farmers and pastoralists were the only honest people in the State; and they were to be exempted while traders and others on the goldfields and in towns who desired to give a bill of sale were obliged to give seven days' notice of intention.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The clause was not introduced by the Government, but had been accepted so far as it related to exempting wool. This was in conformity with an undertaking given on the second reading that such amendment would be accepted; but the proposed new clause as printed went beyond that, and it was his intention later to move that the words "and other chattels" be struck out.

HON. S. J. HAYNES: The mover (not now present) had stated distinctly that it was his intention to apply the clause to "other chattels," and it was evident that the words "other chattels" would create doubt as to the application of the clause. Since the last sitting he (Mr. Haynes) had consulted a reliable legal authority, whose advice was that if an advance were sought under the proposed clause, and if the security included other chattels, notice of intention to give a bill of sale would be necessary as a safeguard. The Government had accepted the clause, and now proposed to amend that portion which the mover most desired to be retained.

HON. M. L. MOSS: Better move to report progress.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The mover did not desire to insist on the inclusion of the words "other chattels."

HON. S. J. HAYNES felt certain, from what the mover had said, that if the words were not included the mover would vote against the clause, and probably against the Bill. The mover being absent, something should be done. [A pause ensued.] He moved—

That the Chairman do now leave the Chair.

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

Ayes	...	...	13
Noes	...	...	11
—			
Majority for	...	...	2

Ayes.	Noes.
Hon. T. F. O. Brimage	Hon. H. Briggs
Hon. E. M. Clarke	Hon. J. D. Connolly
Hon. F. Connor	Hon. J. T. Glowrey
Hon. C. E. Dempster	Hon. Z. Lane
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. J. W. Langsford
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. R. D. McKenzie
Hon. W. T. Loton	Hon. M. L. Moss
Hon. W. Mailey	Hon. C. A. Piesse
Hon. W. Patrick	Hon. C. Sommers
Hon. G. Randall	Hon. J. A. Thomson
Hon. Sir E. Wittenoom	Hon. E. McClarty (Teller.)
Hon. J. W. Wright	
Hon. S. J. Haynes	
(Teller.)	

Question thus passed; the order lapsed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 5.48 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 12th September, 1906.

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THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

QUESTION—MINING OPTIONS, TO LEGISLATE.

MR. BATH asked the Premier: 1, Has his attention been drawn to the reported law case of Diamant v. Bewick, Moreing, & Co., as published in the *Morning Herald* of 18th May last and 11th September inst.? 2, Does the law in this State provide that leases trans-

ferred to registered companies who do not efficiently test them become saleable assets of such registered companies when they go into liquidation? 3. Does the Government intend to bring in legislation this session to insure that leases acquired on option from prospectors, but not efficiently worked, shall revert to the vendors in all cases where the alleged purchaser fails to carry out a satisfactory amount of mining work to efficiently test the prospects of the property as a legitimate mining venture?

THE PREMIER replied: 1. Yes. 2. It is a matter depending upon the terms of the contract between the parties. 3. The Government has no intention to restrict by legislation the rights of parties to enter into contracts on such terms as they think fit.

BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

(1) LAND TAX ASSESSMENT, (2) LAND TAX, transmitted to the Legislative Council.

BILL—SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.

Introduced by the TREASURER, and read a first time.

RETURN—MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE EXPENSES.

Mr. P. STONE (Greenough) moved—

That there be laid upon the table of the House a Return, showing—1. The number of municipalities in the State. 2. The number of members sent by each municipal council to attend municipal conferences. 3. The amount paid by each municipal council for conference expenses. 4. The amount paid by the Government towards defraying travelling or other expenses, if any.

He wished to call attention to the undue expenditure of money on municipal conferences, which were becoming too common. The Government, he understood, paid the fares of the delegates to the conferences, and there were nearly 100 delegates. Very little good was accomplished by the conferences. Perhaps these meetings might be held once in three or once in five years, but to have an annual outing or picnic at the expense of the ratepayers was not fair. If the

expenses of the delegates had to be collected direct from the people he did not think £5 would be subscribed in any district. His experience was that the person who was anxious for the picnic went round about a week before the time of holding the conference and induced someone to propose him as a delegate. It would be well if delegates paid their own expenses. He had known municipalities refuse to pay the expenses, but the representative had sent a lawyer's letter, and then the amount was paid.

MR. TAYLOR (Mt. Margaret) seconded the motion.

THE PREMIER: The information which the hon. member desired could be obtained, but that in regard to the Municipal Association would have to be received through the secretary of that body. He could not agree that these conferences were no good. He had attended two or three of the conferences, and matters were discussed by men who had a thorough knowledge of them and knew what they were talking about. The information gained at these conferences was of value in framing legislation dealing with municipalities. As far as the State was concerned the cost of these conferences was trifling indeed, the only assistance rendered being railway fares from the different centres.

MR. STONE: Who paid the Midland Railway Company the railway fares?

THE PREMIER: The local councils, he presumed, for the Government did not pay. Each council subscribed so much a year to the Municipal Association. In the case of councils consisting of six members two delegates were sent, councils consisting of nine members sent three delegates, and councils with 12 members or over sent four delegates. The councils subscribed sums of £5 5s., £7 7s., or £9 9s., which amounts were paid out of the three per cents. As far as the Government were concerned no expense was entailed. Some of the delegates charged their expenses to the municipal councils, but a large number of the delegates paid their out-of-pocket expenses themselves and did not debit them to the council. It was an arrangement between the councils and the delegates. He could almost give now the information which

the hon. member required. There were 46 municipalities in the State and 44 of these belonged to the Municipal Association. As to the roads boards, the Minister for Works intended to suggest that as they were so scattered it would be advisable to make the conference triennial instead of annual. In the case of roads boards, this year the expenses of delegates, and fares of delegates not granted railway passes, amounted to £350, and there was a grant to the roads board where the conference was held of £50. That was a grant to the district in which the conference was held to assist in entertaining the delegates. The Government contributed £30 to steamboat fares. The total was about £530. The present Minister intended to suggest that the conferences should be triennial instead of annual. There was no objection to furnishing the return.

MR. H. BROWN (Perth) must correct some of the mover's statements. When we considered the number of years for which the majority of roads board members had been supervising the expenditure of Government funds, surely no ratepayer would cavil at the small sum spent on the yearly trip, which did not cost any one roads board more than £15 to £20. The conference delegates gave to roads board work a great proportion of their time, absolutely without fee or reward. As to municipal delegates, in nine cases out of ten the expense of the trip was borne by the mayor. In almost every municipality the so-called three-per-cent. account was always exceeded, and any deficit in the conference expenses came out of the mayor's pocket. At every conference each member expended a sum largely in excess of his allowance. No member of Parliament, at all events, should object to the cost. If the conferences represented holiday trips, the holidays were well earned.

MR. G. TAYLOR (Mount Margaret) supported the motion. These annual picnics were rather expensive; and if roads board and municipal ratepayers were called on to contribute funds for the purpose, they would strongly object. The expense, however, came out of the three-per-cents.; in other words, out of the rates. If the money were not spent

on the annual picnic, the mayor would have more money to lavish on distinguished visitors to the municipality. It would be much wiser if some municipalities spent the three-per-cents. in making roads and footpaths, and some roads boards in extending the roads. It was fair, however, that municipal and roads board delegates should meet in conference every three years. But what was the result of the annual meetings? When a municipal or a roads board Bill was before the House the conference passed large numbers of printed resolutions instructing the Government how to deal with the Bill, and instructing the Opposition how to move amendments. What was the outcome? Judging by the manner in which the House treated the conference suggestions, members generally did not place the same reliance on them as was displayed by the Premier and the member for Perth.

MR. H. BROWN: Were not municipal delegates the best judges of what was needed for their purposes?

MR. TAYLOR: Judging some of them by their work, they were not very good judges. Let us judge of the tree by its fruit. Both the Premier and the member for Perth, when acting as mayor of Bunbury and mayor of Perth respectively, attended the conferences. But why have annual conferences to consider municipal or roads board legislation when no material alterations were made in our municipal and roads board Acts for years at a stretch? Each conference simply reaffirmed resolutions passed at previous conferences. The Government, as pointed out by the Premier on the Land Tax Assessment Bill, subsidised to the amount of £800 and £1,200 roads boards that collected only £100 or £200 in rates.

MR. E. C. BARNETT (Albany): As an old municipal councillor he believed that a triennial conference would serve every useful purpose. The money expended on delegates at the conference was money for which the council seldom received value. He would support any measure to make the conferences triennial.

MR. T. WALKER (Kanowna) would not oppose the amendment, though he

disagreed with the opinions of the two last speakers. How frequently conferences should be held was for municipalities and roads boards to determine. It was a hopeful sign that delegates from these bodies should meet periodically to consider better methods of local government. Many great reforms effected in this House originated in those conferences, which were the scenes of advanced discussions not only on municipal matters but on matters of general politics. Within the last 25 years the State had made marvellous progress, and in the same period the functions of municipal government had been greatly extended in cities like Glasgow and Birmingham. Many of the councillors in our larger municipalities were diligent students of the examples furnished by the great municipalities of Britain. The value of the conferences could not be shown immediately in pounds, shillings and pence in the municipal balance-sheets; but good would ultimately accrue. Money might be saved in years to come, and better methods of government introduced. How but by meeting and conferring could councillors educate themselves in more up-to-date methods? For this reason any curtailment of the conferences would be disastrous to the development of our local bodies. Since we delegated our principal functions to the Commonwealth Parliament, we had become a sort of great municipal head, and for the future our principal subject of concern must be matters connected with our municipalities. We should have to devise better methods of local government, and to increase rather than diminish the powers of local authorities. Some people misunderstood the functions of roads boards and municipalities.

MR. STONE had worked on them for 25 years.

MR. WALKER was not reflecting on the hon. member, whom he regarded as the apostle of local authorities. But in this State we committed to local bodies functions which in sister States pertained solely to the central Government. In New South Wales the main roads were maintained by the State. There was really a roads and bridges department, and only certain limited areas within municipal boundaries, which were

very much narrowed in New South Wales, were within the province of local boards. Otherwise the Government had charge of the main roads. But what did we do here? We gave some of the roads boards an area in which we could lose England. The roads board was expected to look after the main arteries and roads and keep them fit for traffic. The boards could not collect sufficient to keep the roads in repair, because the population of the district was not sufficient. It would be exceedingly unfair to expect the boards to defray this cost. It should never be begrudged to them that a few pounds were sent from the central Government to help them do this work. It was this that disrated roads boards, because they got money from the Treasury, and we heard repeatedly a plan to cut down the votes, which meant starving the country. The roads boards could not find the money; therefore it would have to come from somewhere else. It should come from the national source when the work they were doing was of a national character. He supported the motion, but he hoped the member would not use the information as an argument to prevent the roads boards delegates or municipal councils meeting together and becoming acquainted with up-to-date methods of municipal control.

MR. STONE (in reply): It was pleasing to hear that there was an idea of roads boards conferences being held only once in three years in future. He had been through roads boards balance-sheets, and had noticed the expenses were double the amount expended on the roads.

Question put and passed.

RETURN—ROAD BOARDS CONFERENCE EXPENSES.

On motion by MR. P. STONE, ordered: That there be laid upon the table a return, showing—1, The number of roads boards in the State. 2, The number of members sent by each board to attend the roads board conferences. 3, The amount paid by each board for conference expenses. 4, The amount paid by the Government towards defraying travelling or other expenses, if any.

**MOTION—SCHOOL FEES REGULATION.
TO DISALLOW CHARGES.**

MR. T. H. BATH (Brown Hill) : I move—

That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that the amendments to Regulations 98 and 227, made under "The Elementary Education Act Amendment Act 1893" appearing in the *Government Gazette* for 7th September, 1906, be disallowed.

In introducing this motion, I may say at the outset that I do it with extreme regret, because I was under the impression that if there was one question about which members of the House could agree irrespective of party, it would be on the advantages of education. I was under the impression that never in the history of Western Australia would there be an attempt on the part of anyone charged with the administration of the Education Department to have even the slightest relapse into barbarism. One would imagine we had a Minister for Education who had been translated into the 20th century from the dark ages. When a proposal such as that embodied in the amendment of the regulations specified is actually proposed to be introduced on the 1st November this year, I would have thought if any move were made by the Parliament of the State in deference to the wishes of the people, it would have been a step in advance and not a retrogressive step such as the one against which this motion is lodged. Although it may appear to be a somewhat serious charge, it seems that the attempted economy in the direction of the expenditure of the Education Department must have been occasioned by the fact that the necessity has arisen for the introduction of new taxation. For years and years in this State the working community—and by that I do not mean those who do manual labour—have patiently borne the heat and burden of the day so far as taxation is concerned. They have in the most generous manner provided the expenditure from which the Education Department has been supported, and now when an attempt is made to reduce the unjust burdens imposed on people and an endeavour is made to adjust taxation in such a way that it will be more equitably distributed, even to the small extent as embodied in the land taxation legislation, we find an outcry for economy. I

have no objection to economy if it can be shown in the departments of the State there is room for economy in the cost of administration without reducing the efficiency. The support of the House should be in favour of such economy, but I maintain the proposed economy, or the proposed introduction of a system of school fees for children attending our elementary schools, cannot by any stretch of imagination be called economy. It is one of the most expensive experiments that can be introduced by any Minister. It is said in education, as in other matters, that parents should be compelled to pay for the education of their children, that is compelled to pay directly. This is entirely in opposition to what has been the trend in all civilised countries in the world, that is the general recognition of the fact that educational development is a social service, that in education more than in any other service rendered by the State the advantage is not conferred on the person educated alone, but is an advantage which is secured by the whole of the community. We have throughout the whole civilised world the history of thousands of individuals, men who have used their education in a self-sacrificing manner and spent their lives without any pecuniary advantage to themselves other than a mere livelihood in scientific research and in medical research, and in efforts to increase the general stock of knowledge and utilise it for the general good of mankind. It being recognised for instance that the parents of a family, by virtue of that family, are conferring a benefit on the community, it is better, instead of making the charge on the parents heavier because of their having a family, by methods of taxation and other means that have been devised in other countries, to raise the money by the State and provide education for the people free of charge. There has been no educationalist in America, in Europe, or in any part of the world who has dissented from this. Every educational authority we can quote expresses the opinion that not only should the State embark on elementary education, but should extend its operations farther and farther in the direction of providing higher educational facilities. In regard to this question it may be said, when the State has taught the three R's to children,

it has sufficiently performed its duty. I only desire to quote the authority of a gentleman more eminent than the Minister. Sir Richard Jebb stated some years ago that elementary education unless crowned by something higher is not only barren, but may become a danger. If we teach our democracy to read we must also teach them to think. Unfortunately it would be better for the State and for the children if we had never embarked on elementary education, rather than to teach them to a certain extent and then say, "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther; no higher education shall be imparted to you." It is merely creating in the children who are desirous of farther knowledge a desire which the State in its unwisdom says it is not going to fulfil. Nothing could cause more discontent in the minds of people than to awaken a desire, and then fail in our duty to meet the desire of the people for knowledge. I have noticed that in the Australian States there are generally two classes. There are the children, who by virtue of the elementary education received are desirous of perfecting it to a higher degree, and others desirous of extending their knowledge, but owing to the force of circumstances and the absence of provisions by the State for secondary education are compelled to go without that knowledge being imparted to them. On the other hand we have those who by force of birth and circumstances are able to secure this education, and yet fail to appreciate it. They regard it as something which is attached to their station, something which must be endured rather than enjoyed. The result is that at the two ends of the social scale we have two classes of people, neither of which secures the advantages it would secure if the State undertook the policy not only of providing elementary education but also of extending it into higher channels. We have the report of the Mosely Commission which was appointed by Mr. Mosely, a gentleman of means in the old country, who selected a number of artisans and others to go to America to examine the result of the industrial undertakings with a view to promoting greater success in similar undertakings in the old country. The commission made a most exhaustive examina-

tion not only of the ordinary educational facilities provided in America, but also of many industrial institutions, technical colleges, agricultural colleges, and all those other means the Americans so lavishly place at the disposal of the children of the people whether they be rich or poor. The Mosely Commission state in their report:—

The members are deeply impressed by the evidence they have gathered in the United States of the absolute belief in the value of education, both to the community at large and to agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and the service of the State. Although in the past the belief in education has been the effect rather than the cause of American prosperity, during the last quarter of a century education has had a powerful and far-reaching influence, and it cannot be doubted that in the future it will become more and more the cause of industrial and commercial progress and of national well-being. They are satisfied that in years to come, in competing with American produce, we shall be called upon to face trained men gifted with both enterprise and knowledge. They desire to impress on the British public the absolute need of immediate preparation on our part to meet such competition. They have also been impressed with the spirit that animates both teachers and pupils, and by the manner in which the two classes co-operate in the schools and colleges. Willingness, if not an overwhelming desire to learn, seems to characterise the scholars, and teachers seem to be possessed of but one wish—that of helping their pupils in every possible way. The absence of class prejudice and of any "religious difficulty" serves most materially to facilitate the work of the schools. The closest connection is being established between theory and practice, the practical bent of the men of letters and science and the breadth of their outlook being very remarkable.

The commissioners appointed by the New South Wales Government with a world-wide commission to examine into the methods of education practised not only in America but on the continent of Europe and Japan make this statement in their report so far as New South Wales is concerned, and it applies with even greater force to Western Australia because our facilities are not so extensive as theirs:—

Let it be clearly recognised that nationally we dare not accept the situation as it stands, that no units in the British Empire can afford to be inferior to Europe and Japan in the matter of education, and we shall face the difficult problem of educational reform with more earnestness. Not to do so would be national insanity.

Things have come to a pretty pass in

Western Australia when the Minister for Education in this State, which is presumably an enlightened community, has to have his attention directed to the country of Japan in order that he may gain some inspiration in regard to educational methods. To Japan, where almost 80 per cent. of the population live on a rice diet, where their poverty has been remarked by almost every individual who visits that country, the Minister for Education must go in order to receive inspiration in the educational development of this State! We know that as a result of her policy Japan has forged ahead, that she is gradually not only securing the markets of China, Korea, and Manchuria, but also becoming a formidable rival to American commerce even on America's own shores, on the Pacific Slope of America. And this is undoubtedly due to the fact that Japan has put all the energy of her people, money, and enthusiasm into educational development, and is more and more providing educational facilities free of charge to the population of that country, whether they happen to be rich or whether they happen to be poor. What they can do in a comparatively poor country Australia ought to be able to do, and Western Australia particularly, in view of its greater facilities, its greater resources, and greater average wealth of the population. Then, again, we have in the report of Mr. Tate, recently appointed Director of Education in Victoria, some reference to the result of educational development in New Zealand. So far as New Zealand is concerned, she outdistances the Australian States in the money and the efficiency devoted not only to primary education, but also to the maintenance of her technical schools, secondary schools, and her university colleges. Mr. Tate paid a visit to New Zealand in order to investigate her educational methods, and in the course of his report to the Premier he said:—

In Victoria the Education Department is directly concerned with primary education and technical instruction only. Our ignorance and indifference in the matter of co-ordination of educational agencies must be removed if we are to hold our own in the competition of States. Co-ordination means economy of money and of effort, and at the same time increased efficiency. There is in progress at the present time throughout the British

Empire, and in a still more active form in the United States, a complete change of attitude towards public education, both as regards the subject matter of instruction and the methods employed; and as regards the part which a completely organised education scheme should perform in national life. No student of education in other lands can fail to recognise this. The report of the Mosely Commission emphasises it strongly.

At the conclusion of the report he says:—

The problem of co-ordinating into a national system the recognised grades of education—primary, secondary, continuation or higher primary, technical, and university—should be taken in hand, and the powers of the Education Department should be enlarged so as to allow of State-supervised continuation and secondary schools. The report of the Mosely commission should be studied in this connection.

And then in perusing the report the Premier, Mr. Bent, stated:—

I have read this report. If the Government had not to pay £82,500 for pensions in connection with the Education Department, it could provide everything recommended by Mr. Tate.

So that even the Premier, Mr. Bent, was disposed to regard the recommendations of Mr. Tate as being desirable to introduce into the Victorian Education Department.

THE TREASURER: If he could find the money.

MR. BATH: He was only referring to the pension list. What other countries could do with poorer resources, Australia ought to be able to do with much better resources. In the course of discussions which have taken place in this House and in various policy speeches and Ministerial utterances which have been delivered, the assertion has always been heard that in Western Australia we are particularly generous in regard to our expenditure in the Education Department, and this delusion seems to have been indulged in not only by members of the present Ministry but in the past. It is a feature of annual reports; but I tell members that so far as our position in educational matters is concerned we are behind almost the whole of the rest of the world. I am only speaking what is absolutely the truth. Take for instance the position of the American States of the Union, new countries which owing to their constitution and their recent development and the industries which they pursue are on precisely the same basis as Western Australia. We find

that in the State of Montana they have a population of 243,000 people, and they spend £247,000 on education, or over £1 per head of the population, and their total expenditure in other directions for the purposes of government is only £310,000; in Nebraska there is a population of 1,066,300 and they expend on education £954,800, whilst their total expenditure in other directions of government is only £479,000. In Nevada there is a population of only 43,335 people, and they expend £51,000 on education. The State of Nevada also runs a university with a fair number of professors and over 300 students. Then in the State of Utah they have a population of 276,000, and they spend £330,000 on education, or a trifle over £1 per head of the population, whilst their total expenditure in other directions of government is only £320,000. In the State of Washington, one of the newest of the United States of America, they have a population of 518,000, and they expend £810,000 in education, and £800,000 in other departments of government. Taking the various States of Australasia, New Zealand is at the head in regard to the money she spends on education. She has a population of between 800,000 and 900,000, and she expends £650,000 on education, or about 15s. per head of the population; Tasmania has a population of 180,000, and she expends £67,000 on education; Western Australia has a population of over 250,000, and expends £149,000; Queensland has a population of something over 500,000, and expends £288,000; Victoria has a population of 1,210,000, and expends £677,000; New South Wales has a population of 1,478,000, and expends £757,000 on education. So that even comparing our position with the other States of Australasia, Western Australia does not do a great deal so far as her Education Department is concerned.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: More per head than the other countries.

MR. BATH: It may be more per head for the children, but not for the population.

THE TREASURER: You have the wrong figures for the last year you have quoted.

MR. BATH: Not only does Western Australia occupy a poor position in regard to the United States of America,

but even the South American republics, which we are always led to believe are half civilised—these republics spend a considerably higher amount on educational facilities than we do in Western Australia. In the Argentine Republic, in Chili, in Brazil, and in Peru they devote a great deal of attention to their educational institutions; and not only does the State provide primary education, but it also does a great deal in providing educational facilities of a secondary and technical nature and in agricultural colleges. Those are countries which, if we take their population and work out their revenue and expenditure, and their income per head of the population from the industries in which they embark, lag a long way behind any individual State in Australia.

THE TREASURER: Can you give us the figures?

MR. BATH: I can give them to the hon. gentleman. They are in the *Year Book*, but I have not them here at the present time. The hon. gentleman will find that my statement is absolutely correct. So far as Australia is concerned I may say that in regard to her imports and exports, the tonnage of the shipping entered and cleared, the amount of savings bank deposits, the production of pastoral and agricultural produce, and in many other other directions she absolutely heads the whole world, taking the amount per head of the population. If she can do this, if her natural resources will enable her to do this, it will enable her to devote more attention than she does to educational development, and it will enable Western Australia to bring herself into line with other communities that have not the benefits she enjoys. I have only to turn to Switzerland, half of which is absolutely barren and useless so far as the needs of the community are concerned, and which, if we are to judge by its resources and by the wealth per head of the population, is absolutely poor in comparison with Western Australia; yet in Switzerland they are able to make the compulsory age range to 15 years during which the children attend school, and their education system costs a higher sum per head of population, notwithstanding that the relative value of money in Switzerland is lower than it is in Western Australia;

and they are enabled to provide a free secondary education not only to the children of the Swiss but in many of the secondary schools to the children of foreigners who happen to be in the country. Then again, we have only to turn to Finland. In Norman's book entitled *All the Russias*, we find that Finland leads the world so far as the small percentage of those who cannot read and write is concerned, compared with the rest of the world. In Finland they have carried their educational development to a high degree, and not only do they provide facilities for the sons of the rich people who can afford to pay, but they also provide facilities for the poorest people in the country. If Finland, half covered with bogs, fens, useless forests, and lakes can afford this, undoubtedly the richer communities of Australia can do it. In America, it is true a system which the Federal Government at Washington have introduced has largely assisted in enabling the States to spend the large sums they do on educational facilities. In all the younger States of America the Federal Government have provided that out of every six square miles of public domain alienated, two sections, or two square miles, are devoted to an educational fund, the proceeds of the sales of these sections being turned into an educational endowment fund; and the annual income from that endowment fund is utilised and given to the State for educational purposes. In New Zealand the same thing is done in regard to Crown lands. And as I pointed out yesterday, New Zealand has decided that all Crown lands at present unalienated will be devoted in the future to educational development. In New Zealand, as the result of the endowment for primary education provided by the State, they have an annual income of £49,956. The endowments provided for secondary education bring in annual rents of £3,928. The endowments for university schools bring in an annual rental of £16,518. The rents received from the lands held under the University Endowment Act in New Zealand are not yet vested in any college, but they draw an annual income of £783, which for the present is being allowed to accumulate. In Western Australia, though it is somewhat late for us to introduce this system, I believe it

would be an advantage if the Government thought fit on new areas of land thrown open to utilise a certain proportion and vest the proceeds in a fund which would be used for a university endowment. As the State grew in population and as the industries of the State developed, this endowment would become more and more valuable, until in the future, without making any very great call on the community as a whole, the result of this endowment would materially aid in providing educational facilities for the people. If this had been done some years ago when the great development in land selection took place, we would have been in a good position even to-day; but it is not too late even now to introduce the experiment; and I hope the Government will give consideration to this matter and vest a certain portion of the land they throw open to a trust fund to be used as an endowment, not only as has been done so far as the proposed university is concerned, but also for primary education and technical instruction. I have moved this motion because I think the step the Government have taken in charging these fees is absolutely wrong, and one opposed to the opinions of all persons whose opinions are worth having on educational matters. We see that in Great Britain they are alive to the necessity for educational development. The report of the Mosely Commission was an eye-opener to educational authorities in Great Britain. I have only to refer to the utterances of Dr. Hill, an eminent educational authority in the old country, while lecturing here in Western Australia. His remarks made at the meeting in connection with the proposal to establish a university were to the effect that it was not only necessary to provide educational facilities, but it was essentially necessary in the interests of the community that our educational system should be democratised. Then we have in the university extension committees, and in the various educational committees at work in the old country trying to improve the British system, some of the most noted men—men connected with universities, cultured men like John Morley or Mr. Haldane, and many others eminent in the domains of law, letters, or science—devoting themselves whole-heartedly to the work of improving

the educational system of Great Britain, and endeavouring to bring it into line with that which obtains in Germany, France, and the United States. If these amended regulations are not annulled, the step taken by the Minister for Education will remain in the annals of Western Australia as an eternal disgrace. If we take any attitude as members of this House, it should be an attitude of progression, not an attitude of retrogression. While for the time being we may not suffer any ill effects from the alteration, the time will undoubtedly come when we will rue the day that we interfered with our system of primary education, and the time will come when other countries which recognise more generously their obligations in this respect will forge ahead of Western Australia, because of the fact that they have interested themselves in education, have recognised its necessity in the economy of any country, and have set themselves wholeheartedly to increase it, instead of limiting it as is proposed by the Minister for Education.

THE TREASURER (Hon. Frank Wilson): I move that the debate be adjourned.

Several LABOUR MEMBERS: No.

MR. FOULKES: Will the Minister give an opportunity for discussing this matter to-morrow?

MR. WALKER: Or Tuesday next?

THE TREASURER: Yes; on Tuesday.

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

Ayes	...	...	24
Noes	...	...	13

Majority for ... 11

AYES.

Mr. Barnett
Mr. Brown
Mr. Cowcher
Mr. Davies
Mr. Eddy
Mr. Ewing
Mr. Foulkes
Mr. Gordon
Mr. Gregory
Mr. Gull
Mr. Illingworth
Mr. Keenan
Mr. Layman
Mr. McLarty
Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Monger
Mr. N. J. Moore
Mr. S. F. Moore
Mr. Smith
Mr. Stone
Mr. Varyard
Mr. F. Wilson
Mr. Hardwick (Teller).

NOES.

Mr. Bath
Mr. Bolton
Mr. Collier
Mr. Hicks
Mr. Holman
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Taylor
Mr. Underwood
Mr. Wulker
Mr. Ware
Mr. A. J. Wilson
Mr. Troy (Teller).

Motion thus passed, the debate adjourned.

PUBLIC BATTERIES INQUIRY, TO PRINT REPORT.

MR. G. TAYLOR (Mount Margaret) moved—

That the report of the Inquiry Board on the State Battery System, together with appendices, be printed.

This was an extensive report of 120 odd pages of typewriting. The Minister had estimated that the inquiry board would cost £400; but considering the volume of the report presented, the amount of travelling done by members, and the area covered and also the time taken, one would be safe in saying the report would cost between £1,000 and £1,500. The report of an inquiry board dealing with the public battery system which had cost the State roughly a quarter of a million of money, dealing also with private batteries subsidised by the Government as public crushers, also dealing with the general management of public batteries and the various phases of the battery system and containing recommendations to the Minister, should be printed. It was a voluminous production. He did not think the Government desired to prevent the printing of the report which had cost anything between £800 and £1,500. The cost of printing was only a mere bagatelle. The value of the report to the people of Western Australia and the Mines Department itself was incalculable. A few typewritten copies of the report would be of no value to the State. No doubt many applications for copies of the report would be received, therefore it was only right that the report should be printed. Members would see the necessity of having the report printed and circulated so that those interested might be able to read it.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. Gregory): It was intended to get something like 100 copies of the report turned out by cyclostyle, which would enable a copy to be sent to each of the prospectors' associations in the State and to each member of Parliament. This could be done at little cost in the department. The inquiry had already cost a great deal and he did not want to increase

that cost. He hoped the hon. member would be satisfied with that promise.

MR. TAYLOR: What would be the expense of printing 1,000 copies of the report?

THE MINISTER: To print 200 copies would cost between £40 and £50. If the hon. member would withdraw his motion and afterwards it was found that the cost of printing would amount to only £15 or £20, then he would have the report printed. If the cost exceeded that it would be better to have the report typed and turned out by cyclostyle.

MR. SCADDAN: What would be the cost of the cyclostyle copies?

THE MINISTER: A couple of pounds. If the report could be printed for £20 there would be no objection to its being done, but the inquiry had cost so much that the Government did not feel inclined to spend more money unless some good reason were shown.

MR. J. B. HOLMAN (Murchison): It was to be regretted the Minister raised an objection to the printing of the report, which could be done for £50 or £60 at the very outside. If the report was printed and distributed in the State amongst those interested in the public battery system it would save a great deal of money. When speaking on the battery question some time ago he made some strong remarks, and he regretted to say that what he then stated was more than true. The report proved that the statements he made were not strong enough. After some £1,100 or £1,200 had been spent on the inquiry, to give full effect to the recommendation of the board full publicity should be given to the report. Therefore it should be printed and distributed. The Minister had stated that 100 copies turned out by the cyclostyle would cost about £2. He understood it would take a fortnight to do this work and the cost would be about £10. Therefore there was very little difference between the cost of turning out copies by the cyclostyle and printing the report. It was necessary in a matter of this kind that members should be able to call for copies of such a report at any time. After 80 members were each supplied with a copy very few would be left to send to the leaseholders and prospectors' associations. The Press in the country

should be supplied with copies. So far only the metropolitan Press had been supplied with copies of the report. Too great publicity could not be given to the report.

MR. W. D. JOHNSON (Guildford):

It must be realised that it was false economy to spend £1,100 to get a report made, and then that the report should lie on the table and the information not be given to anyone. It was true that if the Minister had cyclostyle copies of the report made he could distribute them amongst members, but we desired when we appointed a Royal Commission that the information obtained should go farther than to members of Parliament. It was true the Press had given certain information from the report, but those directly and mainly interested in the report would not read it unless it were printed. The miners and prospectors and other organisations connected with the mining industry were interested. Copies of the report should be distributed amongst leaseholders and prospectors' associations. It would be false economy not to have the report printed. There was sufficient in the report to justify the printing of it.

MR. TROY (Mt. Magnet) supported the motion. The Minister knew with what expectation the prospectors and the people interested in the mining industry looked forward to this inquiry. The action of the Minister in appointing the board met with approval, but the associations had not been able to obtain all the information contained in the report from the Press, which published only a digest of the report. It was the duty of members to carry the motion so that a sufficient number of copies of the report could be printed and that every association in the country would receive a copy. Many parts of the State could not be visited by the board, because it was desired to get the report in quickly. These centres would specially like to get a copy of the report. It would be of educational value to them, and make them fully understand the disabilities under which they laboured. At present they did not understand that. The board was appointed chiefly to find out the defects in the public battery system.

Many of the numerous complaints would not be forthcoming if customers of the State batteries knew the exact condition of affairs. No other report ever presented to the House made such sweeping recommendations and charges. To suppress it was needless. The cost of printing would be small; and it seemed foolish to spend over a thousand pounds on an inquiry board if we annulled its recommendations by preventing the publication of the facts.

MR. TAYLOR (in reply): The Minister had given an assurance that the report would be printed if the cost did not exceed £30. The motion could safely be withdrawn; for the report was no longer than the first annual report of the Public Service Commissioner, 500 copies of which appeared to have cost £27 8s. 8d.

THE MINISTER: An estimate would be procured to-morrow.

MR. TAYLOR had complained of the extravagance of the Printing Office; but it was false economy to refrain from printing a report on a State battery system which had cost a quarter of a million of money. The inquiry cost £1,100; and it was not economy to refrain from printing 500 copies. He would withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

MOTION—MINES DEVELOPMENT, HOW TO ASSIST.

Debate resumed from the 25th July, on the motion by MR. LYNCH "That the Government should consider the advisability of providing on the next Loan Estimates for a substantial allocation of money, to give assistance to owners of approved mining properties on the erection of winding, pumping, and reduction plants."

MR. M. F. TROY (Mt. Magnet): I wish at the outset to congratulate the member for Leonora on the very comprehensive and satisfactory manner in which he introduced this motion. I feel sure that there is no other member of this House who would take such pains to supply the information which the hon. member has provided. The matter is one

which probably more than any other concerns the future of our mining industry, because during the past two or three years the greater portion of that industry, has been falling into the hands of the small men. In previous years, when a prospector found a property he sold it sooner or later to some company, which took out of his hands the work of developing that property at a depth. At one time the mining companies did all the developmental work. Capital was procured from various sources, with the result that the only mines sunk to any depth were in the hands of companies many having their headquarters outside the State; and all development work was done by companies instead of by individuals. During the past two or three years prospectors have taken a greater interest than they previously displayed in the development of our mines. In every goldfield of the State, with the probable exception of the Kalgoorlie field—and even there the prospectors are doing more development work than they ever did previously—the duty of developing the mining industry is falling on our prospectors and leaseholders. The North Coolgardie, Murchison, Pilbarra, and Dundas Goldfields are now being opened up by the prospector, who five or six years ago never thought of going below water-level. To-day he can sink deeper because he has been greatly assisted by the introduction of the State battery system, which has enabled him to get more gold from his property than he could secure in previous years. Now that the stone can be crushed at a public battery, he can often secure a sufficient return from the stone above water-level to enable him to sink below that level; and many of our prospectors would rather work their own properties, with the hope of securing a fair return, than sell them to companies who would probably pay a low price. The prospectors are anxious to retain their properties, if they can find sufficient funds to carry on developmental work. I can quote numerous instances in which, if prospectors had received the support they desired and deserved, they would have worked their mines more systematically than is now possible; and it is because the member for Leonora recognises that many prospectors in this State are

unable successfully to develop their properties that he has moved this motion. We find that though much has been said of State assistance to our mining industry, and though much is said in this House of how the industry should be fostered and assisted, the prospector receives very little more assistance to-day than he received in years past. There is only one method by which he is assisted—through the public batteries. The Mining Development Act provides that he shall receive certain assistance to sink below-water level; and members are often misled by the opinion that in every instance the prospector receives this assistance. I wish to point out that it is rarely granted. Hundreds of prospectors may apply, but rarely are their applications favourably received, because the Act provides also that assistance shall not be given unless with the approval of the State Mining Engineer. In hundreds of cases that officer does not see his way to approve. Only recently I had occasion to apply to the Minister for assistance to a property at a place called Yuin, on the Yalgoo Goldfield, which property I believe could some years ago have been sold to a company for £20,000. The gentleman who owns the property has worked it for many years; in fact, I believe that seven or eight years ago he made a battery of wood, and with a wooden stamper secured sufficient gold to buy a unit battery. Later on, he tells me, Mr. Martin, engineer, of Gawler, South Australia, when visiting the Murchison saw how this man was endeavouring to develop his mine, and promised to send him a five-head mill. The owner took the stone in a wheelbarrow to the battery, and by this tedious process was able still farther to increase his plant, with the result that the mine is to-day opened up to a depth of about 200ft. It is not systematically opened up, and the development is therefore retarded: but it has a winding plant, a 10-head battery, and is generally equipped in fairly up-to-date fashion on the surface. That mine to-day is undoubtedly recognised by experts who have recently visited it to be one of the best in Western Australia. I believe that not long ago a Mr. Doolette inspected the property, and was amazed to find that a mine of such promise existed in that locality, and that

very little was known about it. The reason is, the owner has been endeavouring during all these years to develop the mine himself. He does not wish to dispose of it to some company, for he holds that it contains sufficient gold to keep himself and his family all their lives; and naturally he wishes to retain the property on which he has worked so long. But he has lately got into low water, because the mine, being developed to a depth, has become more costly to work; and the working is all the more costly because the mine was originally developed in a primitive manner. Finding himself in financial difficulties, he approached the Mines Department for a loan of £500 to aid him in introducing rock drills with a view to the work being done much cheaper; and when the Minister found how that man had persevered and struggled, he assured me that he would meet that man's wishes; but the State Mining Engineer has now reported to me that the Minister cannot see his way clear to grant the request. I believe the Minister cannot make these grants, because he has not the funds. If a certain sum of money were to be put apart from loan funds, as desired by the motion, it would give the Minister sufficient funds to enable him to help deserving prospectors, such as the one I have mentioned. There are localities where mines have been abandoned at one time or another; for instance there is Paynesville, or East Mt. Magnet. A letter I have received from a gentleman there informs me that there are prospectors there working in mines abandoned some years ago, and that they are sanguine they will be able to do well out of these mines; but they cannot do much good unless they receive some assistance from Government to enable them get stone below water-level. This gentleman has a five-head battery, and he wants a few pounds to enable him to purchase a boiler. If the Minister had the money, deserving prospectors of that kind would be assisted. There is great need for much to be done by the State to farther encourage the mining industry. It is apparent that the companies are not taking the same interest in the development of mines as in previous years. No company will now buy a property unless there is a profit in sight. True, several properties have been sold

at Black Range lately in the prospecting stage; but in every mine sold there to companies, there could be seen a profit over and above the expenses for some time to come. Unless companies can be shown that there is a profit ahead, there will be no purchases of mining properties in this State, and all developmental work must be done by prospectors. But they cannot do it unless they can get below water-level, and working below water-level adds considerably to the cost of mining. Because of the difficulty of coping with the water, mining costs about twice as much below as it does above water-level. To assist these persons endeavouring to get below water-level to develop our mining properties, we must have aid from State funds; and the House would be wise in carrying this motion to enable the Minister who may be in power for the time being to have the money at his command to give assistance to these prospectors and to aid in the mining development of the State. I hope that members on both sides of the House will recognise the necessity for carrying a motion of this character.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. Gregory) : I have no great objection to the motion, but I think some slight exception should be taken to some of the statements made by the member for Leonora in moving this motion. In the first place I desire to thank the member for Mt. Magnet for his kindness in continuing the debate for me at a moment's notice. So far as I can see, little harm could result from the passing of the motion, because up to the present—and I think I will be able to show this—we have been expending, in comparison with any of the other States of Australasia, a very fair sum indeed in the development of the mining industry. The member for Leonora said that the mining in this State was in a state of stagnation. I cannot agree with him that there is any stagnation in our mining industry at the present time. Certainly the gold output is not equal to what it was last year or the year before, but at the same time I think there is more genuine prospecting going on in Western Australia to-day than in almost any period of its history. In 1895 and 1896 there was more talk

of prospecting than there is to-day, and probably there were more people out in what we may term so-called prospecting; but so far as the genuine prospecting or developing of our mining industry is concerned, I do not think that at any time in the history of the State there has been more done than is being done at the present time. It is not necessary, to my mind, that we should have men prospecting out in the far-back country. Certainly it is wise that a certain amount of prospecting should be going on, but there is no doubt that there are many old fields abandoned years and years ago that are well worth prospecting at the present time. Only within the last month I visited Fraser's Range district, a little to the south of Southern Cross, a district in which old prospectors of this State found a good deal of gold, and in which a good deal of prospecting work was being done at the time of the discovery of Coolgardie. At that time nearly all the prospectors left Fraser's Range; new finds were made beyond Coolgardie, and the Fraser's Range district was deserted. At the time of my visit, I saw many promising properties, and I heard many stories of mines that had been worked to a certain degree for their wealth in the old days. I am satisfied that at Fraser's Range, quite close to our railway system, there is a large area fit for prospecting. Ravensthorpe is almost a new district, where there is a large area of mineral country; and there is more prospecting going on there to-day than I think has taken place in that district in any other period of its history. In the Meekatharra district, although an old district, recent developments have shown that there is a magnificent belt worthy of a great deal of prospecting. The last reports on the Black Range district go to show that the district is not confined to a small area, but that there is an enormous area there well worth prospecting. Only a few days ago some good reports were received in regard to the old Roebourne district. In the Pilbarra country, more especially in connection with tin-mining, there have been wonderful developments. I do not know that there has been any period in our history when more prospecting has been done than is going on at present.

Let us take the figures in connection with the mining industry. The member for Leonora seemed to think that there are considerably less people employed in this industry to-day than there were in past years. In 1901 there were 16,755 persons employed as miners in Western Australia. In 1904 there were 16,848. In 1905 there were 16,832, and at the end of June this year there were 16,973. So, although there were a few less employed this year than in 1903, yet there were more persons employed in mining in June this year than in 1901, 1904, or 1905.

MR. HOLMAN: That is not the whole total of those engaged in mining.

THE MINISTER: No. There are persons called diggers. In the last report I had I think it was mentioned that 50 diggers were supposed to be employed on the tinfields in the Pilbarra goldfield, but I am sure there must be at least 150 diggers working on the Moolvella tinfield. I am quite satisfied that there are 250 to 350 diggers employed on the Pilbarra goldfield in tin-mining and gold-mining. Diggers are not classed as miners, and we have no record except what we receive as an approximate number employed, and that is usually given as the number of men holding miners' rights. I am satisfied that we have now more genuine prospectors, more men trying to develop the mining industry in the State, than we have had at any other time in the mining history of Western Australia; and we have an equal number of men employed in mining above and underground to those employed in 1901. So, I do not think it is fair to say that there is any stagnation in the industry. Certainly the output is a little less, but we need only look up the figures to find that the grade of ore has come down, and that a greater tonnage has to be worked to-day in comparison with what was worked a few years ago; and I think we can well consider that the decreased output will mean not a decrease in the number of men employed, but on the other hand a very necessary increase. I feel satisfied as to the future. We have no reason to doubt. There has been a great number of new discoveries made recently. I need only mention Barrambie, Wodgina, and Jourdie Hills. There are many new dis-

coveries being made, and I think we may rest quite satisfied so far as the future of mining is concerned. If this motion is carried—and I have no objection to offer to it—is it going to place the assistance to mining on any different footing from what it has been in the past? If so, I would like to be shown how and in what way the motion would put any assistance given on a different footing. The member for Leonora spoke strongly in connection with the great fuss we made of the amount paid away in dividends, and he said he would prefer to boast of an increase in labour. I do not think we make any mistake. If any public man speaking in connection with the mineral resources of the State can show a great output of gold, and that the work is remunerative, and that we have copper, iron, tin, and other resources, and if it will induce people to come here to invest in our industries, we are doing good work, and it is our duty to do all we can to develop our industries, as long as we do it fairly and honestly.

At 6:30, the SPEAKER left the Chair.

At 7:30, Chair resumed.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (continuing): When the House adjourned for tea I was dealing with the labour employed in the gold-mining industry, a matter that had been referred to in derogatory terms by the member for Mt. Leonora. I desire to emphasise that it is our duty on every occasion so long as we can fairly and honestly do so to make all we possibly can of the great mineral resources of the State. There is nothing we need feel ashamed of. I have pointed out that there is a greater number of men employed in the mining industry this year than last year. If we can show that we are declaring large dividends on the capital invested, it is our duty on every occasion to try and point out honestly and conscientiously the great resources of the State. Presuming we pass this motion, I would like to ask the question, have we been backward in regard to the development of this industry? I have had a return prepared showing the money voted in New Zealand, Victoria, and Western Australia for the development of the mineral resources of these countries, and I find

the average for 21 years in New Zealand was £42,000 per year. In Victoria, the average being taken only for a period of nine years was £27,518 per annum, but to that we have to add several small items. During the year 1904 they voted £23,000, but that does not affect the average to any great extent. Still for nine years the average was £20,000 per annum voted for the purpose of assisting the mining industry. In Western Australia the average for 16 years—and in giving these amounts I include all moneys voted in the old days for roads and tracks and water conservation, not including the Coolgardie Water Scheme, but money expended in putting down tanks and in making roads and tracks and work of a similar nature—has been £59,228 per annum. That is the amount expended by the various Governments and charged up to the development of the mineral resources of the State. I think that compares more than favourably with the two countries, New Zealand and Victoria, which I have mentioned. Then there are the special amounts which have been voted. Last year in addition to the amount for roads and water supplies we spent £220,000 on State batteries. In advances in mining work we spent £7,400, advances for boring £4,700; aid for crushing plants, £859; subsidies for private crushing batteries, £5,715; purchase of boring plants, £3,000; providing means of transport £5,600, and drainage £1,200. In the last three years in these items we have spent £25,516, that is in addition to the £220,000 I have mentioned in connection with the State battery system. In addition to that we have spent over £13,000 already for the purpose of having an efficient school of mines in Kalgoorlie; so that taking it all round I do not think it can be said for a moment we have been chary in granting assistance for the development of our mineral resources. The member for Leonora pointed out what he thought was something special to which we should give attention, that efforts should be made for the purpose of promoting local companies in this State. I think the member is a little late in asking that we should give special attention to that now, because that has been one of the most important planks of the platform I have always advanced in

connection with the mining industry. We have only to look to the great work done in Victoria, especially in Bendigo and Ballarat, to see how people there have assisted in the development of their own mineral resources, to make us think that it would be a splendid thing if we could secure greater confidence amongst our own people by some special effort to induce our people to invest more in the resources of the State. I made a special offer to the people of Malcolm. I told them that if they would form a local company the State would give them special assistance. I tried to promote the formation of a local company there. I did the same at Menzies, and the same at Kalgoorlie. At Greenbushes a company was formed, and it has been specially assisted by the Government. Every effort is being made by the Mines Department to try and push forward this system of endeavouring to assist our own people to invest in our mining properties. Of course we shall have to do more perhaps in the way of legislation than has been done in the past for protecting our own people. This session a small amendment will be made in the Criminal Code by which it will be made a penal offence for anyone to publish false information in regard to a mining property. We shall try and protect the ordinary mining man, for mistakes can easily be made in reports on a mining venture; so we are going to hedge this clause round with precautions that no prosecution can be taken until after inquiry has been made by the Minister for Mines and not until the evidence has been reviewed by the Attorney General, and only on the dictum of the Attorney General shall a prosecution follow. There have been two or three cases lately in which, if the Government had had greater powers than they possess at present, some action might have been taken. In the new mining legislation we are asking the House to give the Minister greater powers so that when reports are made he will be able to send officers out for the purpose of sampling a mine. We have not that power now. By making that provision and taking action we shall let the public know that there is a possibility of reports being fairer, clearer, and more honest than in some instances in the past. If we can

do this, knowing our mineral resources are so good, we ought to be able to induce our people to assist more than they have done in the past in the development of the mining industry. I feel satisfied if we can get our own people to take a greater interest in mining we shall do much to assist the industry. If we are to allow the industry to remain the cat's-paw of rogues, people who do not understand much about mining are not likely to invest money in mining ventures, for it is a more speculative industry than any other. We know that the man who puts money into mining takes great risks. If persons lay themselves out to rob the public we must take precautions, and if we can prove people have been dishonest we shall be able to place them in a position to stand their trial. Such legislation will be brought forward this year. We must take greater precautions than have been taken in the past. What we want is confidence, and if we can give confidence to the ordinary investor who has not a great knowledge of mining, and is not in a position to make an examination for himself, we shall do a great deal to assist the industry. I think I have shown that the assistance given to the industry in the past has not in any sense been mean. When I point out that for the past 16 years we have averaged nearly £60,000 for the development of the industry, I do not think any person can cavil at what has been done. There are many other ways, by means of railway communication, water supplies, in trying to open up stock routes to give a cheaper meat supply to the people, also reorganising the battery system, by which we can give greater security than we have had in the past. I do not want members to believe that the same old policy must continue. The question of how we should allocate money from the amount granted is an awkward one. I have often thought it would be wise to appoint mining boards in the various districts, but when I have seriously considered the question the difficulty of appointing the boards in outlying districts has appeared. In the constituency I represent, if we had a mining board at Menzies they would give very little care or attention to the Mt. Ida district, or to Davyhurst, Siberia, or away to Pingin or Garri; and if we had mining boards

at all those little centres, I think that the policy of granting assistance would have to be continued as it has been in the past, that is that any assistance granted should be controlled by the head office, and subject only to the reports obtained from the various officials. I do not think it is wise, except in special cases, to grant assistance for development work. The better way to assist is by lending say a moiety of the expenditure in the purchase of machinery. If they have a mine to some extent opened up and come to the Crown for assistance for the purpose of purchasing machinery, then if the Government grant an advance of a moiety of that money they have always good security for it. They know that the persons asking are genuine. They can tell by the plans of the mine whether these men have genuinely tried to develop their workings, and if we find that these men are making genuine efforts to become owners and to develop their own mine, but have not the requisite resources, it will be well worth the while of the Crown to come to their assistance. In future, while I have control of this department, I intend to give far greater attention to applications from persons desiring to purchase machinery than to those from people who desire to spend the money merely on developmental work. In many instances we receive applications from persons who have taken up abandoned propositions. They send down nice plans of what has been done; but they themselves may not have put in a month's or three months' work on the ground, and they come to the Crown for assistance.

MR. TAYLOR: That is hardly a legitimate case.

THE MINISTER: Not a legitimate case at all. Moreover, in granting assistance for development—unless in special circumstances, unless the work they are going to do is something which will prove the whole district—we are not likely to get as good results as we would by lending money for the purchase of machinery. If a man has got his mine fairly well developed and wants machinery for cheaply working it, we are more likely to get a return than by lending money for development work. That is the policy I propose to pursue in the future;

and I have no objection to the motion being carried, because, so far as I can judge, it means very little more than we have done in the past. We intend to pursue the same policy, with the exception I have mentioned. A good deal of money has been granted for development work. That policy I think should, except in special cases, not be pursued. I may mention one case in which we recently promised assistance for development work, that is the North End at Kalgoorlie. A lot of applications came from the Kalgoorlie district for assistance for deep sinking at the North End, and I published an announcement to the effect that I would receive applications from the various companies or persons who owned properties, and that we would grant assistance to one company at that end. Some ten or twelve applications were received. The Government Geologist was sent to examine, and he has recommended that assistance for deep sinking be granted to one particular property. We are going to grant that company assistance.

MR. HOLMAN: Was not that company ready to sink anyhow, whether it got the assistance or not?

THE MINISTER: I cannot tell you. I have read through the report of the Government Geologist. But what we wanted to do was to try and see which was going to do the most benefit to the State. I want to impress upon members that when this assistance is given it will be given on the distinct understanding that out of the first profits from the mine that money has to be repaid to the Crown, with interest added. Should the work turn out a failure, we will regard it in the nature of a subsidy.

MR. TAYLOR: You are a money-lending office in the other event.

THE MINISTER: We are a money lending office if it turns out well; if it fails we look upon it as a subsidy. I may mention an instance at Cue, where we advanced £1,000, and so far as I can judge at present, it has been a failure; and the Government look upon that as a subsidy given to the industry in that district. We always put a clause in our agreements to the effect that when any assistance for development work is granted

in the event of the mine turning out profitably the money has to be repaid, and a lien is always held by the Crown over the lease until repayment has been made. And when lending money for the purpose of assisting in the purchase of machinery, we have a mortgage over that machinery; and as we usually advance only a moiety of the money, the security to the Crown is always particularly good, and one which is easily realisable. The main policy of Parliament should be to try and induce our own people to become the owners of their own mining propositions. If a man, or a company, or party of miners will do their own development work, and they want assistance for the purpose of providing machinery, such assistance should be given, for we all recognise that it is by cheap working that mines can be made a success. If, as under the old system, a man has to cart his ore one, two, or three miles, money which really should be profit goes in carting and high crushing charges. The greatest assistance we can give to a miner is that which will enable him to become the owner of his own mine and to develop that mine cheaply and profitably. Therefore, I think that after considering the question of railways, water, and other matters of that sort, the best assistance we can give the miner is to aid him in putting machinery on his property, and enable him to become the owner of his own mine. I have no objection to offer to the motion. I do not think it pledges us to anything more than we have adopted in the past. I hope the statement I have made with regard to our future policy, that instead of granting money for doing ordinary development work the money shall be expended more for the purchase of machinery, will meet with the approval of members.

MR. T. WALKER (Kanowna): Whilst I approve of assistance being given in the manner suggested by the Minister, on good security, I think it would be wise policy to admit of a little bit of elasticity in the assistance to mining generally. I admit that in the past a good deal of money has been wasted; not

by taking wrong methods, but by the indiscriminate granting of loans by the Government to parties who, perhaps, were undeserving or unworthy of assistance. Now, while I am speaking, there occurs to my mind a peculiar case in which I think Government assistance would be of extreme value. I am alluding to that old mining field Kurnalpi. The Minister will probably remember that a long time ago I submitted to him a proposal from the miners. The proposal was of this nature, that a prospecting party from among those resident on the spot, selected by those living there, should be assisted by the Government, but only to the extent of providing it with food and tools for exploration. Those who are living there are confident that the gold at that spot is by no means exhausted; but for a long time the field has been on the decline. At one period it was a flourishing centre, one of the most flourishing in the State, I believe. In the early history of the goldfields it was a flourishing township; to-day buildings are in ruins and deserted, and their desolate appearance is a painful spectacle. And yet there are people who have lived there from then till now and still preserve their faith in the place. But they have lived there so long and the gold getting has become so scarce in the immediate vicinity of the old township that they are penniless. How they get along at all is a mystery; and as a matter of fact many have deserted the place within the last two years. I think that proposition was a wise one. It was not a proposition of adventurers, not a proposition for assistance to that class of people who come to the Government to get a job to tide them over a period of idleness, to get a few horses and go away anywhere and anyhow with food and Government supplies. It was a proposition to assist people who were not desirous of deserting the old place, but of prospecting it thoroughly within an area of say 20 miles, and of giving the place a thorough trial. I do not see why there should not be a possibility of helping these people by the Mines Department. Is it not to the interest of the State that such men as these should be assisted; old pioneers, workers on the

field, who have done so much to encourage prospecting and mine development generally in this State? Many of them are old experienced men, as honest as the day, men who would not cheat a comrade or the Government of a farthing. They merely want subsistence while they do this work for the State. That is all they ask; and yet the rules will not permit, I believe, of that assistance being given. I should like to see some discretion used, even if it be a departure from the ordinary methods in cases of that sort, so that good may accrue ultimately to the whole State. Men experienced as those men are would not be likely to waste—in fact they would not have any money to waste—and they would not be inclined to sponge on the Government for their bare subsistence without giving service in return. I should like to see a sum—and it need be only a very small sum—placed on the Estimates to help in a case like that. Then there is another instance, at Randell's. The sulphides there are exceedingly difficult to work, and it is hard for the poor man to test the ores. The work is too expensive for the poor miner to prosecute. There is one mine there which I believe is flourishing, at least it has exceedingly good promise. Capital has been put into it, mostly Perth capital, and the results are gratifying. Men are being employed there; in fact it is the only thing which is keeping the place alive; but the reefs these men are exploiting are in the neighbourhood of others, and the men have asked that the Government should test these reefs by deep sinking. They ask for a bore to be put down. Putting down a bore may not be the most satisfactory way of securing a test, and certainly there is no security for it, and if the thing be a failure the money would be wasted, but at the same time the contrary may prove to be the case.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: One bore would be of no use.

MR. WALKER: Supposing we put down more than one bore in the district you are testing. Surely it is worth trying, if you can spend money on wild-goose-chase exploring parties. Surely the money would not be wasted, for the geological information obtained would be of value

to the State, as testing the quality of our lodes; and meanwhile it would give to the people who have been living there in hope, expending their all in the endeavour to work those refractory lodes, some encouragement to remain in the place. I am sure the Minister will admit that the great benefit conferred by the mining industry on the State has been conferred through the instrumentality of the poor men, the real workers. And if assistance should be given to anybody it should be given to those who have no means, who cannot afford to do the development work necessary in the hard sulphide reefs in places like Randell's. When a man has enough capital to give security to the State, when his development has proceeded so far that he can begin to erect machinery, when he has tested his mine to that extent, then while I do not wish to discredit the value of his proposition, I say that when security is available money can be procured. But one must have money to get the security in the first instance. The real need for Government assistance is experienced where there are the workers and the energy, but no cash behind. It is those people whom I desire to see helped.

THE MINISTER: You must remember that they are legion.

MR. WALKER: Well, they are not so numerous. How much money would be needed? What is thrown away on a trip would suffice to help the people at Kurnalpi.

THE MINISTER: That is but a small place.

MR. WALKER: The total sum would not run into four figures if you helped several centres. And what would be the chances if the experiment were successful? Take the case of the men who discovered a rich reef on the wood-line near Kanowna? Such discoveries would absorb labour now unemployed, and would relieve the finances of the State. I am not complaining at all of what has been promised; but I should like to see help extended to those prospectors who have not the money to develop a mine sufficiently to warrant the erection of machinery, those, in short, who are on the hunt for new gold, for fresh prospects. Those

should not be forgotten. In other States the example has been set of helping very liberally indeed this class of gold-hunter. I cannot say that the results have always been very gratifying; but good has been done, and other States are lavish in such help to prospectors. I should like to see this branch of the Mines Department turned into a sort of respectable loan office, lending money in certain cases without security. When men can give security they are in a fair way to help themselves. The men who cannot begin to develop, who may know that the gold is there but have not a penny in their pockets to do development work or any other necessary work, are those whom I wish to assist. And particularly do I think that a whole township like Randell's, or like Kurnalpi, should have some small vote set aside to enable the men to try the district, to let them know whether it is worth their while to hang on, or whether they should seek new pastures. That would be not only a generous but a useful act of the department; and I hope that the Minister will slightly widen his policy, to admit of helping those necessitous men who are really, after all, the true pioneers of the goldfields areas.

MR. H. R. UNDERWOOD (Pilbarra): My principal reason for rising to support this motion is that I scarcely agree with the Minister for Mines (Hon. H. Gregory), or with the member for Kanowna (Mr. Walker). In the electorate I represent there is a district, Bamboo Creek, worked many years ago before the days when mine management had been brought to its present pitch of excellence, and when extravagance was rampant. The mines of that district were worked to water-level; and then, owing to the extravagance and inexperience of the managers, the mines were thrown up. And there is many good practical miners who firmly believe that there is yet in Bamboo Creek abundance of gold. The returns from that place have been very good; and I feel sure that if the Government will come forward with assistance, principally to procure pumping gear, a great field will be opened up in that district. The Minister states that the Government is

not prepared to give assistance except when the owner of the mine has done the work. Such assistance certainly cannot be given in a place like Bamboo Creek.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES : What I said was, that some persons picked up abandoned shows on which considerable work had been done, and then sent to the department elaborate plans, with a request for assistance to proceed with development work.

MR. UNDERWOOD : The shows at Bamboo Creek have undoubtedly been abandoned. The member for Kanowna says that the Government should assist those who have no money. In the district I speak of the shows would be worked by men who have some money, but have not enough to risk the purchase of pumping and winding gear.

MR. WALKER : I do not wish to prevent the assistance of such men ; but I desire that the poor man also should be assisted.

MR. UNDERWOOD : I am sure that if assistance were given to men who, as I say, have money, in order that they may try the deserted mines at Bamboo Creek, a really good goldfield would be opened up there ; and I trust that the Minister, when preparing his estimates, will not be too harsh in considering whether the shows were opened up by the present owners. One other statement I should like to make. The administration of this vote should be altogether free from political control. I mean that the vote should be used for the benefit of practical men who are looking for minerals, and not for the benefit of candidates who are prospecting for seats in Parliament. At the late Pilbarra election an element of that sort was introduced ; and I think it is one of the worst features of political life. I thoroughly agree that the expenditure of money as suggested would be advantageous to the State ; but I think we should take care that it is not expended to obtain a seat in Parliament for any particular candidate, or to retain a seat for any particular member.

MR. J. B. HOLMAN (Murchison) : As the Minister assures us that he has no intention of opposing the motion, it is not necessary to give the matter much farther

consideration. The motion asks that the Government should merely consider the advisability of providing on the next Loan Estimates for a substantial allocation of money to give assistance to owners of approved mining properties, in the erection of winding, pumping, and reduction plants. I maintain that this should be one of the first considerations of the Government. As the Minister said a few moments ago, there are at the present moment in this State more of those properties abandoned and subsequently taken up by prospectors than there ever were previously. I can fully bear out his statement. In almost every mining field we find that companies have abandoned their holdings and that prospectors have taken up the work and are pushing it on as fast as they can. Take the case of the Murchison Goldfield. At the present time I dare say I could count the Murchison mining companies on the fingers of one hand. In my own district, which covers thousands of miles, I do not think that more than two or three companies are working. There are no companies working at Nannine, only one at Meekatharra, only one at Wiluna, and the Peak Hill company is not at work except for the purpose of reducing the wages of the miners.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES : That company's exemption was cancelled.

MR. HOLMAN : I know that the company has a few men employed on the lease ; but the company has over thirty leases taken up, and the smallest contains six acres ; so the aggregate area must be nearly three hundred acres. During the whole time for which the company has held that property only two or three leases have been worked. The remaining leases have never been worked at all, though there are hundreds of men who would be quite willing to go to Peak Hill and to work several of those leases. We must seriously consider what is to be done with such areas of ground held by companies and never worked at all. It is very fine for the Minister, year in and year out, to permit concentration of labour on one or two leases ; but in my opinion this should be stopped and fewer amalgamations of leases permitted,

so that large areas held idle may be opened up. We should give companies operating in Western Australia every consideration for the work they are doing here. I should not encroach on the interests of any company or other party of men from any other country, who have invested money here; but the time has arrived when we should prevent them from exploiting this State by means which perhaps are hardly legitimate, so as to get large areas of land and refusing to do any work thereon. At Peak Hill there is only one company, which has had exemption until August of this year; and that company holds some three hundred acres of the best gold-bearing country there; and now it is pleading the fact that the leases have for some time been under exemption, and the fact that the company has been miserably managed, as excuses for obtaining a reduction of wages in a district where many men are out of employment. There are not half-a-dozen mining companies on the whole of the Murchison Goldfield. Out of the many companies floated there, there are not half-a-dozen working now, but there are hundreds, I may say thousands of prospectors working in Murchison districts. At Meekatharra, a place that has been opened up solely by working parties and prospectors, and which, though the Minister said it was an old centre, is not so very old, being only six or seven years old, the work has been greatly retarded because of the want of sufficient facilities in the shape of water and crushing plants, and also because of the scarcity of timber. They have a water supply, but I am sorry to say it is giving out. Four or five months ago a water supply was promised for that district, and the assurance was given that the scheme would be completed within a few months. I do not think the work is far advanced at present. However, I am sure that the Minister will give his assurance that the prospectors in that district will obtain this facility.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: The pipes are on the road.

MR. HOLMAN: I received a wire to-day saying that the water is giving out there at present. There is a Government cyanide plant there, but it has

been idle for 12 months, and gold worth thousands of pounds is locked up in the sands lying there untreated. At Wiluna there is only one company working, but a mining company there has held leases for the last four or five years, and has not paid a day's wages in the whole of that time. Certainly some of its leases are let on tribute, but that is not the way to open up the country, because tributors only drag out what they can in the easiest possible manner; they take all the gold near the surface, and when the mine is worked out to water-level it is useless for all practical purposes until a large sum of money is spent in erecting pumping appliances and machinery. With leases like that the Minister should not grant exemptions, or allow the companies to hold the ground by granting tributes; he should compel them to employ a certain amount of labour to open up the mines in a proper manner. A few days ago I was at Higginsville, and I found there some 100 men prospecting and labouring under great difficulties. They had to pay from 25s. to 30s. a thousand gallons for water for domestic purposes and for mining purposes. One of the first things the Minister should do should be to see that these prospectors have a supply of water, not only to carry on their mining, but also for domestic purposes. A motion was moved by me some time ago in connection with the assistance given to prospectors. To my mind it showed that the assistance given in the past was not the assistance of the right character. Lending camels, horses, and carts to prospectors who have not as yet discovered anything payable in Western Australia, to go out prospecting, is not a system that is going to do a great deal for the country. Help should be given in the way indicated by the motion moved by the member for Leonora, that is to grant assistance towards the erection of pumping, winding, and reduction plants. Many prospectors on the Murchison have worked their properties to water-level; and unless they obtain assistance by way of a grant for the erection of machinery, it will be impossible for them to carry on. It is all very well for the Minister to say that in no time in the history of Western

Australia has mining looked so well. I have travelled a great deal over Western Australia in the past 12 months, and I am sorry to say that I cannot agree with the Minister. The mining industry is not in a flourishing condition at the present time, and that fact is clearly proved by almost every other industry in the State being in a depressed condition. The prospects of Western Australia to-day are not by any means what we can congratulate ourselves on. We should look to something to remedy the evil that exists. Of course giving encouragement to local companies is one of the principal things to be done. We should encourage people in the State to invest a little of their capital in our mines, and unless we do that we can look to an end of a great deal of employment now given in the mining industry in the near future, because as soon as the mining companies find their properties are not paying, they close them down and obtain exemption and allow their leases to remain idle for years. I have known shareholders in local companies in Bendigo, men working in the district for years, to pay calls to local mining companies for 20 years and then get well repaid for outlay in opening up the properties. Almost all the companies in Bendigo were some years ago owned locally. At the present time, perhaps, speculation from other parts has advanced in Bendigo as in other districts; but mining there is not so good as it was a few years ago, notwithstanding that they have in some parts obtained greater returns than they were getting a few years ago. As was done in Bendigo, we should encourage people in Perth and the State generally to invest a little capital to open up our mines; and then we could be sure that local people would not expend their money to get as much out of the mine as they could and then lock it up and get exemption. I was pleased to hear that the Minister is going to do something in the near future to prevent those glowing reports of mining companies and false reports made time after time with a view to inducing people to invest money in mining so as to rob these people of their money. A considerable amount of harm has been done to

mining in Western Australia during the last few years in this way. We have only to look back at the affairs of the Boulder Deep Levels, the Hannans Star, and the Golden Pole, for cases where investors were robbed of a considerable amount of money; and we have also to look at the Nurlarla reports, the Whitford reports, and the reports published in the Eastern States and elsewhere in connection with the Wagin find. So far as we have reason to believe, the glowing reports sent from those districts were only made with the view of inducing people to invest money, and allowing a lot of speculators to take money out of the pockets of other people. If the Minister will bring down legislation to punish those who publish false mining reports in connection with the mining properties in this State, I can assure him he will get all the assistance from me I can possibly give him. Now that the rabbit-proof fence is being constructed through the State, and we can get a definite opinion as to the great tract of our territory traversed by this fence, the greatest part of which is probably gold-bearing, it would be advisable to have the fence charted and the water supplies along the fence shown. This would enable the prospectors to go out and make camps along the fence. The great difficulty prospectors have in going out to look for new country is the fact that they do not know where the water supplies are, and a considerable amount of their time is taken up in searching for water. If they know that they can get a water supply within a week or a few days, they can spend a great deal more time in prospecting. When prospectors go out and discover anything, even at present, they have to give a large portion of their holdings to get people with money to assist them in opening up their properties. I maintain that one of the best ways in which we can assist the prospectors who go into new country to open up their properties, is to give them more liberal terms. We could give them practically the right to the lease without the payment of fees so long as they worked the property themselves; and when their property is proved we should give them assistance towards the erection of

plant and a battery. if the property is anything worth erecting machinery on. The motion only asks for an expression of opinion by the House as to whether the Government should provide this money separately on the Loan Estimates. I am in accord with it. I hope that the money will not only be put on the Estimates, but that it will be granted in the direction the member for Leonora asked when he moved the motion. The Minister said that we gave more assistance in Western Australia towards the development of mining than was done in Victoria; but I know some instances in Victoria where sums amounting to £6,000 and £10,000 have been given to mining ventures to assist in development work. If instead of giving a few paltry pounds as now to send out camels and horses with men to prospect over country already run over, we gave substantial sums, a lot more good would be done than is being done at present.

MR. G. TAYLOR (Mt. Margaret): There is no great necessity to urge the motion, because the Minister has given assurance that he will not oppose it, and we know that, considering the large sums of money that have been voted by Parliament from time to time for the development of the gold-mining industry, no change has so suddenly come over members of this House that they would give grudging support to any Estimates that come down for that purpose. What I thought was in the mind of the member for Leonora—at least if it was not in his mind it is in mine—was that Parliament should direct in some way how these moneys are to be expended. We voted last year something like £100,000 of loan funds in a lump sum for the Minister, and the Minister has the expenditure of this at his own sweet will. In a State so large as Western Australia, because of the varying conditions the industry takes in the different districts, it would be wise if Parliament directed the Minister as to the way in which the money voted in such a large sum should be expended. For instance, the Minister has pointed out to-night that he intends to give more freely in future to property holders who can show that there is sufficient develop-

ment work done to warrant the erection of machinery. That was in some degree rightly disagreed with by the member for Kanowna. When a mine reaches the stage that through her development work she has proved the absolute necessity for machinery, there is not much necessity for the leaseholder to go to the Government for assistance, because there are any number of private firms who would erect the necessary machinery for farther working and development to exhaust the ore bodies already proved and tested by the development which has taken place. In my opinion we should assist the men who are prospecting and developing, doing the work themselves, and who are perfectly competent and capable of doing it, but who have not the capital to carry them on when they reach a stage at which their individual exertions, without the aid of winding and pumping machinery, are not equal to farther prospect the property at a depth. There are many men who require pumping gear to develop their mine at a depth. Some of our properties in the State have proved at a depth while others have proved nearest the surface. In most of the mining centres we are brought face to face with water at a shallow depth. Many such centres have added largely to the gold wealth of the State from the alluvial standpoint and rich patches in what are known as "dad" shows. In some of these mines salt water is reached at from 25ft. to 50ft. Once they go as deep as 80ft. the water is too heavy, and it is absolutely impossible for the prospector to develop the show below 50 or 60 feet in such localities. It is at this stage that the prospector should receive some assistance at the hands of the Government. Some help should be given to those who have worked for years and have shown that they have had unbounded confidence in the localities in which they have lived for years and are prepared to farther prospect there and search for gold. The Government might come to the assistance of such people. Cases have been illustrated by the members for Kanowna and Murchison. If in such localities one lode was developed at a depth and proved successful, it would

mean that private enterprise would come in and farther develop the localities and would bring what to-day is an almost deserted place into a thriving and flourishing centre both in the way of finding employment for the people and adding to the wealth of the State. What I am troubled about most is the allocation of the money. I have pointed out the difficulty which individuals have of reaching the vote which has been granted by Parliament for specific purposes. I could give cases, I have already instanced many and I will not avail myself of this motion to speak again on that point, for I recognise that we shall see on the Estimates the way in which the allocations are made and the amount of money to be expended. I shall then point out in my humble way what is the best manner for the money to be allocated. There have been many deserving cases, but assistance has not been granted. I will not pass any strictures on the Minister for Mines, but I may point out that there are many men to-day who have given their time and energies in developing various shows in different parts of Western Australia and those shows have reached a depth when the men can no longer prosecute their inquiries without aid. They have reached the water-level and cannot go farther without pumping gear. They have no money to supply the pumping plant. They have applied repeatedly to the Mines Department, but unfortunately they have come along—that is about the most reasonable way to put it—when the vote has been either expended or allocated for purposes which in the opinion of the Minister were the best way in which the money should be expended. These men have invariably had to leave their shows and try somewhere else on the surface, thus following their avocation as prospectors. It is necessary that the Government should not be so particular in sending out parties with camels and horses and drays to prospect the outlying areas of our goldfields. There are ample places which within the last 10 years have supported from 1,000 to 3,000 or 4,000 people on alluvial fields which have been worked out, and in some of these centres reefs have been found, some of them

payable and a number of them too far from the railway terminus to be worked profitably, for the ores were all of a low grade and would not pay for the heavy expense incurred in working them. In these centres the Government might help the men in trying to develop the properties without spending money in sending camel parties into far-back country, as the member for Murchison pointed out, to be lost, and the camel men have to be hunted up by the wheelbarrow prospector. I have seen the wheelbarrow men farther out in the interior than the alleged prospectors with the Government camels. When Black Range was rushed over five or six years ago I saw the wheelbarrow men farther out than the Government camel prospector.

MR. UNDERWOOD: The camels have got farther back than the wheelbarrows.

MR. TAYLOR: I am not saying that all the parties supplied with Government camels for prospecting parties have not faithfully carried out the intentions of the department, but I know of prospecting parties who have received camels from the Government going out prospecting and I have seen those prospectors not so far out as the wheelbarrow men.

MR. UNDERWOOD: I have seen them farther out.

MR. TAYLOR: The hon. member is lucky to see what I have not seen. I am speaking of Black Range four or five years ago. Although Black Range was found twelve years ago, the last rush that brought the place into importance took place about five years ago. It was then in the district I had the honour to represent and I went there during the recess to see what the prospectors were doing, and I say that I saw the camel men not so far out as the wheelbarrow men. The wheelbarrow men would jocularly say, "we are looking for the camel men that you Government people have sent out." I am not responsible for what the member for Pilbarra saw. In the outlandish place that he comes from, I suppose the wheelbarrow has not made its appearance. This Parliament should direct more accurately how the large sum of money which I hope will be voted, whether out of loan or revenue, should be expended.

There should be a certain amount of money voted for a specific purpose. Then at the end of the financial year the Minister would be able to come down and say, "I have expended the money Parliament authorised," and he could give to the House a statement as to how the expenditure was laid out, and as far as he could tell the House how much the State had benefited financially by the vote that Parliament had granted. Then we would be in a position to know how we were going on, and whether we would be justified in increasing the vote or otherwise. That is all I have to say in supporting the motion. If it had been opposed by the Minister there would have been a necessity for me to advocate this expenditure, but there is no necessity to-night. I content myself with supporting the motion, and with indicating the attitude I shall take up when the Estimates are before us and we know what the vote is to be for this purpose.

MR. H. BROWN (Perth): We are here to vote and not to talk, and after the assurance of the Minister that he is in favour of the motion, I move—

That the question be now put.

Motion put and negatived.

AMENDMENT.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (West Perth): I have very little to say on this question. I have consistently, since I have had the privilege of sitting in Parliament, opposed all expenditure from loan moneys that were not to be expended on reproductive works. Members who have been present in years gone by, when I sat in the old Parliament, know that is the position I have always taken up. I have no particular objection to what is intended by the motion. The objection I have is to the word in the motion "loan." I ask members to consider whether it is wise to go to the English money market and borrow money to lend on this class of investment. What is it? "A substantial allocation of money to give assistance to owners of approved mining properties on the erection of winding, pumping, and reduction plants." Of course I quite recognise it may be said

that this is really to be reproductive. If a district were established by some mines being developed, and a line of reef were discovered and also confirmed, it might become reproductive. But to whom will it become reproductive? Certainly not to the State, which borrows the money and has to provide interest and sinking fund. If reproductive, it will be so to the adjoining leaseholders, whose property would be thus developed. I want to suggest that we ought not to borrow money for such purposes as these. I admit that we ought to spend the money. The work ought to be done and assistance should be granted as far as it is in our power to grant it. We have to meet a bill of £822,000 a year, and we propose to go upon the market for money for the construction of certain spur railways and other developments of the kind. I ask the House to consider whether we ought to suggest to the Government to borrow money for this particular purpose. I want to be consistent with my past history in this matter, and also to call the attention of the House to what we are doing. The proposal is to borrow money for this particular purpose, and that the next Loan Bill shall contain a substantial allocation of money for it. The correct thing to do during this stage is to strike out the word "loan." Then the proposal would read, "provide on the next Estimates for a substantial allocation of money to give assistance to owners of approved mining properties on the erection of winding, pumping, and reduction plants." To that I have no objection whatever. The objection I have is to going on the market to borrow money and allocate it to this purpose. For this reason, I move an amendment—

That the word "loan" in the third line be struck out.

I hope other members also will be consistent, and that the help we propose to give will not be provided out of loan moneys.

MR. M. F. TROY: I ask the Minister his opinion regarding this amendment, because he knows, more than any other member, what effect it will have on the finances.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: It will not make a bit of difference, so far as the actual wording is concerned. I should simply say that the amount would be provided on our next Estimates; and that would be equally vague. If an amendment of that sort were passed by the House, it would be to some extent a direction to the Government that such money was not to be expended from loan funds. In regard to the amendment, the member for West Perth (Mr. Illingworth) stated that it would not be a fair thing to place such expenditure upon our Loan Estimates. When I was speaking I stated that, if assistance was granted under this heading, it should be upon properties where a fair amount of development work had been done, and where the State felt it would be wise to come forward and provide a moiety of the cost of machinery. That would be, that the owner of the property should find one-half the cost, and the State, holding the security of a mortgage, should find the other half, the borrower paying interest upon the money. The security in almost every instance would be good. If we kept to these conditions and insisted upon the borrower finding half the cost of the purchase of the machinery, there would be very few instances where the State would not have very fair security for the amount advanced.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: If they had that security, it would not be necessary to make an advance.

THE MINISTER: I quite differ from the hon. member. A man dealing with large sums can always go to a bank. He understands banking arrangements, and is always able to finance himself outside the State funds. A small man who has perhaps been many months labouring in developing his property may possibly find himself stopped from working through a sudden inrush of water, or the water may have developed to such a depth that he may require winding machinery so as to economically raise the dirt from the bottom level. In many instances it would be a wise thing for the State to grant assistance, and such men rarely think of going to the bank for aid. At present, owing to our recent legisla-

tion, banks are not too anxious to lend money on mining properties. It would be difficult indeed, especially on small mines, to get any assistance at all.

MR. SCADDAN: They are making a good thing out of it, apparently.

THE MINISTER: The hon. member knows more about that than I do.

MR. TAYLOR: Question.

THE MINISTER: If general assistance is to be granted, and the money for developing the mining industry is to be confined to revenue this year, I am afraid that a very small sum will be provided, and but little assistance given. The greater portion of the vote usually granted is expended in water supplies. That has been the main feature in the past, and we cannot say that those votes are comparatively reproductive. In regard to the district the member for Pilbarra (Mr. Underwood) comes from, the mining map shows a country absolutely dotted with wells. One can hardly go any distance where there has been prospecting going on without seeing a well. I think that work is indirectly reproductive. In an indirect sense it will be so, because it would be absolutely impossible for the people to prospect in this country if it were not for the assistance given in that way. Most of that work has been carried out by the expenditure of loan money. We cannot throughout the State find interest and sinking fund in connection with matters of that sort, yet that is an instance where money has been expended in what one may call reproductive work. I hope we are going to continue, to some extent, that policy, because the country has to be opened up. There is going to be a large amount of money expended in sinking wells and making tanks for the purpose of helping those men who are game enough to go out and fight the battle of life. If we continue to do that work, we shall, I think, be quite justified in spending loan moneys for the purpose.

MR. TAYLOR: The water is very near the surface, is it not?

THE MINISTER: Anything from 40ft. to 80ft. or perhaps 100ft. in depth. The average would be 60ft. to 65ft., I think. There was a big expenditure last year. For instance, at Menzies a large tank

was put down by the previous Administration, for which I thank them. I think something like £23,000 was authorised there for the erection of a very large tank, and in my opinion that to a great extent will be reproductive.

MR. TAYLOR : There is no well water there.

THE MINISTER : There is no well water in the district. I think that work will be to a fair extent reproductive, and will pay interest on its outlay. It is impossible for us to find money for works of that sort out of revenue. I can assure members that a fair sum of money will be provided on the Estimates for the development of the back country. Whether works of this sort should be provided from loan money is a matter for the House to decide, but as far as I can observe, if the advance is made carefully, there is no danger at all in granting the assistance from loan money. But if assistance were being granted as suggested by the member for Kanowna (Mr. Walker), if we were going to provide small sums of money for the purpose of prospectors in the district he mentioned, Kurnalpi, I should take it that any such assistance should be granted from the revenue vote. There is one thing I have done recently. I found an amount of money was granted for subsidising public crushing plant, and we have been giving 1s. and 2s. a ton where there is no State battery. I found that we paid this from loan money. I stopped that. If any vote at all should be paid from revenue, a vote of this sort most decidedly should be, and I hope that never in the future will votes of this kind be granted from loan moneys. Yet I believe there are many purposes for which expenditure has been charged to loan moneys and in relation to which loss has been incurred, for instance the purchase of camels, and there have been many losses in connection with that. Such losses the State has to accept. I have known of something like 24 camels being lost. I hope the hon. member will not press the amendment. Members will see when we are dealing with the Estimates the small amount we are enabled to provide this year for mining development, and when we bring down our Loan Estimates we will try

to put it clearly upon these Estimates under what conditions these moneys will be expended. I always hold that we cannot assist the development of the State in any better way than by trying to give water supplies in the out-back centres, and a fair sum of money must be placed on the Estimates for that purpose.

MR. J. SCADDAN (Ivanhoe) : I would support the member for West Perth in an amendment dealing with the expenditure of loan moneys on nonproductive works generally, but I am not prepared to agree to the striking out of loan moneys in relation to the mining industry, while such expenditure is permitted to continue in regard to other works in the State. If the hon. member came down with a definite motion to stop the farther use of loan moneys on nonproductive works, I certainly would support him, but I cannot see the utility of supporting the present amendment. I do not desire to be parochial for a moment, but I believe it would be detrimental to the mining industry if we came down now and prevented any expenditure of loan money in the direction of encouraging that industry. I wish to say, however, that one would not be an ideal Minister if he could not find means except from loan moneys. I have in my mind the fact that during the past year we derived from the dividend duty tax something like £137,000 odd, and I think a fair proportion of that money was obtained from mining companies. I think that we should ear-mark a certain amount of this money derived from the dividends of our rich mines, so as to assist out-back districts, instead of spending it all on agricultural railways. I believe that the member for Forrest (Mr. A. J. Wilson) seconded the amendment to strike out the reference to loan moneys; and in view of that I think it would be well to consider the matter of reducing railway freights so as to encourage the timber industry. As a goldfields member I know that the goldfields railway is about the only one that is paying, showing that the great proportion of the profits on our railways are derived from the goldfields people, who are paying for unprofitable railways. Yet we propose

to reduce the timber freights. I say that is unwise. Our mining industry is not going back to any great extent, but it is certainly not advancing. I intend to make a farther reference to the manner in which the mining industry can be encouraged ; but I must confine myself to the subject of the amendment. It is our duty to ear-mark a certain proportion of the money derived from mining companies' dividends ; and I would extend the tax to the profits made by those companies, whether or not they paid dividends ; and the money so ear-marked should be used by the method already adopted, to encourage our mining industry.

MR. T. H. BATH (Brown Hill) : I had no intention of speaking to this motion, because I consider that the speech of the mover (Mr. Lynch) traversed the ground in so thorough and workmanlike a manner that there is little left for other members to say ; and I have no wish to indulge in any wearisome repetition of the arguments which can be adduced in favour of the proposal. I should, however, like to say, in view of the amendment, that according to the motion the assistance to be provided on the Estimates must be given on lines somewhat similar to the assistance rendered by the Agricultural Bank ; and in the course of his remarks, the member for Leonora (Mr. Lynch) made it plain that he had in view a return for the assistance rendered to prospectors and leaseholders of certainly much less than would be exacted by a private institution, but somewhat on the basis of the rate paid by those settlers who utilise the Agricultural Bank ; and if that policy were carried out the fears of the member for West Perth would be set at rest, and his amendment would be unnecessary.

MR. ILLINGWORTH : The Agricultural Bank provides interest and sinking fund.

MR. BATH : The return obtained by the utilisation of loan moneys for mining development would pay interest and sinking fund. I quite agree with the member for West Perth that he has in the past been a consistent advocate of expending loan moneys on none but reproductive works. But I should like to remind the hon. member that in those

days that was very much of a pious opinion ; and on many occasions, while he might give voice to that sentiment, he had very little chance of giving it effect.

MR. ILLINGWORTH : I voted for it, any how.

MR. BATH : And it seems to me, in view of recent developments and of votes passed on the Loan Estimates only last session, that the hon. member has grown weary of well-doing. Those aggressive views which he held in the past, when he was one of the minority in the House, have been sadly changed now that he is one of a majority.

MR. ILLINGWORTH : He was in the Chair, and had no opportunity of speaking.

MR. BATH : That was a good place to occupy in the circumstances ; but I remember one occasion when I, as Chairman, felt strongly on the subject under discussion, and induced one of the deputy chairmen to take the Chair, that I might have an opportunity of expressing my views ; and I think that the hon. member had probably the same opportunity. I quite agree with him that in matters of this kind, if we are consistent advocates of using loan moneys for reproductive public works only, we have to be as consistent in respect of the mining industry as of any other industry ; and I cannot quite endorse the opinion of the member for Ivanhoe (Mr. Scaddan), that because we have not been consistent with regard to other industries we should not be consistent when dealing with the mining industry. It is a case of two wrongs not making a right. If spending loan moneys on nonproductive works be bad, we ought not to undertake such expenditure for the benefit of any industry, but ought rather to try to eradicate the evil from every department of the State. But if the views of the member for Leonora when moving this motion are to be given effect to, the amendment of the member for West Perth is unnecessary. If, however, the latter member fears that in giving effect to the resolution, loan moneys will be utilised for works which cannot by any possibility be reproductive, then I consider his amendment is quite right.

and entitled to the support of every member who holds similar views. Because it is only by adhering to our principles, only by determining that every department of State shall strictly adhere to the policy that no loan funds shall be utilised for other than reproductive works, only by that policy securing the support of every member who has the well-being of the State at heart, that we can make it impossible for any Government, no matter how strong the majority which it can command on other matters, to utilise loan moneys as they were authorised to be utilised last session, for the erection of public buildings and for road-making. I believe it would have been better had the member for Leonora made the motion read as his views show that he desired it to read ; and I think the preferable course would be to amend it, not as proposed by the member for West Perth, but by adding the words, "on similar lines to those on which the Agricultural Bank is conducted in this State."

MR. A. J. WILSON (Forrest) : I should not speak at all on this motion but for the fact that the member for Ivanhoe (Mr. Scaddan) will insist on having his little joke. While it is perfectly true that I did move in this House to try to secure a reduction of railway freights with a view to assisting the timber industry, it is not true that I advocated assisting that industry from loan funds, although there would perhaps have been a much greater justification for granting such assistance to the timber industry than for granting it as the motion proposes. I wish to direct members' attention to the fact that the Minister for Mines, speaking to-night on this motion, pointed out that when moneys were advanced as proposed, and the mine turned out a success, the borrowers would be expected to repay the money, plus what I presume will be only a nominal rate of interest ; but that in cases where the investment was not successful—[MR. GULL: Most cases]—I do not know whether the cases will be many or few, then the State will treat the expenditure as a subsidy to the mining industry. I have no objection to the mining industry being subsidised in that manner ; but my objection lies to the source from which

the subsidy is taken. I say that subsidies of that class ought to be made exclusively from revenue, because it is not a reproductive mine that needs such assistance. Reproductive mines can generally help themselves fairly well. It is the mine which is for the time being not reproductive, which has fallen behind for want of money for development—the mine which may have possibilities if sunk a little deeper—that will need this subsidy. I have always insisted that loan moneys should be used exclusively for works of a reproductive nature, though not necessarily for works reproductive from the very commencement. When moneys are spent on railways and in agricultural development, years may elapse before the works become reproductive. But before a penny is expended the Government have a reasonable assurance that in ordinary circumstances there will be a return of interest and sinking fund in the future. On the other hand, when we put the money into a mining venture, not even the most astute mining expert can give us a probable assurance that the proposition will turn out right. Many members have had bitter experience of the truth of my statement. But it does not apply to moneys expended on agricultural railways or agricultural development. I therefore think that the amendment is a step in the right direction ; and I wish members to understand distinctly that I personally have the greatest sympathy with the granting of considerable sums for the development of our gold-mining industry ; but I wish those sums to come from consolidated revenue, and not from any of our loan funds. And because I believe that, I have much pleasure in supporting the amendment of the member for West Perth.

MR. A. C. GULL (Swan) : I will support the amendment, because I realise, as I think many members will realise, that the lending of money for the development of mining is largely a speculation ; and being a speculation, that money should come out of revenue and not out of loan. I am perfectly willing to give assistance to prospectors, and to make it as liberal as possible. At the same time, the idea

that such expenditure can be made reproductive, or that a sinking fund can be attached to loan moneys expended in mining development, is out of all reason.

THE PREMIER: And yet you suggested to cut down the land tax by one-half.

MR. GULL: I suggested that the land tax be cut down by one-half for the simple reason that you are putting your tax, by your exemptions, on only a small portion of the community, instead of upon the whole.

MR. BATH: Why did you not oppose the exemptions?

MR. GULL: I did. There is no doubt whatever value the Minister may estimate his security at in the first instance at the time the advance is made, in the event of his having to realise he is not going to get anything like the value of the plant, not one-fifth of what it cost to put the plant on the mine.

MR. E. C. BARNETT (Albany): I support the motion, and have every hope that the assistance granted by the State, even from loan funds, will prove a profitable investment. Considering the large interest this State has in the mining industry, we are warranted in running a certain amount of risk in fostering that industry.

MR. M. F. TROY (on amendment): I shall vote against the amendment, not because I desire to see money spent out of loan funds in an unproductive method, but because, knowing that the intention of the mover was that the money should be advanced just as advances are made by the Agricultural Bank, I think it right to vote against the amendment. At the same time, though it is my intention to vote against the amendment, I intend to add to the motion the words, "in the same way as is done by the Agricultural Bank." I think that will provide against anything being done such as it is feared will happen by some members who have spoken.

MR. SCADDAN: There is no parallel.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. member has already spoken to the amendment.

MR. TROY: No; I merely asked a question. Much has been said to the effect that every member should see that money is not spent in a manner which could be called unproductive; but it has been forgotten by members on both sides of the House that for years past moneys have been provided on the Loan Estimates for assisting the mining industry. Every year we vote a certain amount of money for the purpose of assisting the development of the mining industry; and that money has not been spent in an unproductive manner; it has been spent in providing water supplies and in other ways to enable prospectors and those engaged in mining to open up the country. That cannot be called unproductive work any more than the building of agricultural railways. One member says it is not the mines which pay that require assistance. Those are the mines, above all, that we want to see assisted—or, rather, the persons who own these mines—because when a reproductive mine has been worked to water-level, then it is that the difficulty of working it begins. No man is going to work it below water-level if some encouragement is not given him to do so; no man is going to work a mine below water-level if it has not been found to pay for working above that level. Any man who worked a mine above water-level and found it did not pay, and continued to work it below water-level would be a lunatic. No doubt no person will ask for assistance to work a mining property unless, down to water-level, that mine has proved to be a payable one. The Minister would not receive support from a single member were he to advance money to persons whose mines were not payable propositions. Before the money is granted by the Government, the Minister safeguards himself by obtaining the advice of the State Mining Engineer; he has the reports of the tonnage crushed and the results of the crushings in connection with every mine making application for an advance, and since that is the case he cannot very well go wrong. Again it must also be remembered that the Minister always has security for the money advanced. He does not advance to the full value of the security; he advances

only about half that value, and therefore he provides against losses. Still, to meet the wishes of the mover of the amendment, I think it would serve the same purpose if the original motion were carried, and if, later on, an amendment on the lines I have suggested were added to the original motion.

Amendment (to omit "loan") passed; the question as amended agreed to.

BILL—WINES, BEER, AND SPIRIT SALE ACT AMENDMENT.

NO NEW LICENSES.

SECOND READING MOVED.

MR. F. ILLINGWORTH (West Perth): in moving the second reading said: I think there need be little discussion on the second reading of this Bill. The Bill was introduced last session by the member for Claremont (Mr. Foulkes), and I presume that hon. member would have moved in this direction this year if he had not in the meantime taken a seat on a licensing bench in his district. Local option has been adopted in principle by nearly all the States of the Commonwealth, and by New Zealand; and the Premier of this State has promised publicly that a Bill to amend the Licensing Act will be introduced early next session, and that the Bill will contain the principle of local option. At least 40 members of the House are, I understand, pledged to the principle of local option. So it necessarily follows that if the Ministry introduce a Bill with the principle of local option included in it, that clause, at any rate, will be carried by this House. The object of this Bill, which consists practically of one clause, is to provide that in the meanwhile, until this House has had an opportunity of dealing with the question of local option, no farther licenses shall be granted. It is certain that when the people deal with this question they will deal with it drastically; and whether they increase, or decrease, or abolish, which they will be able to do, certain licenses, the question of compensation in some form or other will arise. Whether that compensation will be a money compensation—

which I think is not possible—or a time compensation, it is still desirable that the fewer hotels to be dealt with the better. Under the present system, every three months applicants for licenses approach the licensing benches; and they are doing so still—in fact, there is quite a rush to obtain licenses, arising out of the fact that those interested in the traffic can see that in the very near future the issue of licenses will be in the hands of the people and not in the hands of the licensing benches. It seems to me and to some others desirable that we should stop the issue of farther licenses until the people have an opportunity of giving their voice on the matter. It is this principle that is contained in the Bill—to stop the issue of licenses until this House has an opportunity of dealing with the principle of local option. Provision is made in the Bill that should any new district arise within 20 miles of a licensed house, a license may be granted; also that licenses may be transferred as is done to-day, and farther that provisional certificates which may already have been granted shall be good and shall continue as if this Bill did not exist. The only other provision in the Bill is that in the event of its being passed it shall last for only one year, so that this House shall have full control when we have dealt with the question of local option in the proposed new Bill. I am not now going to occupy the time of the House by speaking on the main question: that can be done when the main Bill is before the House. I should like, however, to mention that at present we have one license to every 370 men, women, and children in this State. The average worked out when this question was being broadly discussed was that one license to every 700 of the population is ample for all purposes; but here we have one license to every 320 persons in the State. I should like to call attention to some figures which have been recently published, which I believe to be absolutely accurate, on the main question itself. In Victoria the expenditure on drink last year amounted to £1,967,470, or £4 2s. per head of the whole population, or £7 11s. 3d. per head of the adult population. The lowest average is that of Tasmania—£2 7s. 7d. per head of the whole population, or £4 15s. per head of the adult population. Against this, put Western Aus-

tralia with an expenditure on drink of £1,446,110, or £7 ls. 5d. per head of the whole population, or £11 7s. per head of the adult population. Last year the average for the whole of Australia, including Western Australia, was £7 9s. 7d.; and our proportion was £11 7s. There are some economic questions in which it is argued that demand creates the supply. That may be true in some cases. It cannot but be argued that in this particular traffic the supply creates the demand. The proof is that we have one license to every 370 of the population; and as the effect of that we have £11 7s. per head of the adult population spent in drink. It cannot be said there is any necessity for an increase, and certainly there is not likely to be any material necessity for an increase during the coming year; and, as I have said, the great principle of local option has swept the whole Commonwealth and New Zealand, and I feel perfectly certain that the favourable promise given to the deputation by the Premier, and by the fact, I believe I am correct in saying, that 40 out of the 50 members of the House are pledged to local option in some form or other, it is certain the Bill containing that principle will be passed by the House next session. In view of this, I am asking what is reasonable when I say that no farther licenses should be issued during the coming year, except in special cases that may arise, for which the Bill makes provision. That being the one principle, and as I am not desirous of touching the main question, I shall content myself with moving the second reading.

THE PREMIER (Hon. N. J. Moore): I move that the debate be adjourned.

Motion put, and a division called for.

MR. H. BROWN: I ask whether the member for Claremont, who is interested, should vote. The hon. member is a licensing magistrate.

MR. FOULKES: On the point of order, I assure the member for Perth I have no interest whatever in the Bill.

MR. H. BROWN: As a licensing magistrate?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think that can be taken as an interest.

Division resulted as follows:—

Ayes	...	...	...	21
Noes	...	...	...	16

Majority for ... 3

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Brebber	Mr. Barnett
Mr. Brown	Mr. Bath
Mr. Davies	Mr. Bolton
Mr. Eddy	Mr. Collier
Mr. Ewing	Mr. Cowcher
Mr. Gordon	Mr. Daglish
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Foulkes
Mr. Gull	Mr. Hicks
Mr. Hayward	Mr. Holman
Mr. Keenan	Mr. Horan
Mr. Layman	Mr. Hudson
Mr. McLarty	Mr. Illingworth
Mr. Mitchell	Mr. Scaddau
Mr. Monger	Mr. Taylor
Mr. N. J. Moore	Mr. Underwood
Mr. S. F. Moore	Mr. Walker
Mr. Smith	Mr. Ware
Mr. Stone	Mr. Troy (Teller).
Mr. A. J. Wilson	
Mr. F. Wilson	
Mr. Hardwick (Teller).	

Motion thus passed, the debate adjourned.

BILL—VACCINATION ACT AMENDMENT.

SECOND READING.

Order read for resumption of debate on the second reading.

MR. G. TAYLOR: I move that the debate be adjourned, as members do not seem ready to go on.

MR. SPEAKER: The member must move that the Order of the Day be postponed. But it is well known that if the member who had previously moved the adjournment is not present, it is competent for any member to continue the debate.

MR. TAYLOR: I move that the Order of the Day be postponed.

MR. A. J. WILSON: Does the member move that it be postponed for a week, or any time?

MR. SPEAKER: No; the member moves that the Order be postponed.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	20
Noes	...	...	...	18

Majority for ... 2

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Barnett	Mr. Bath
Mr. Brown	Mr. Bolton
Mr. Eddy	Mr. Brebber
Mr. Foulkes	Mr. Collier
Mr. Gordon	Mr. Cowcher
Mr. Gull	Mr. Daglish
Mr. Hayward	Mr. Davies
Mr. Hicks	Mr. Ewing
Mr. Illingworth	Mr. Holman
Mr. Layman	Mr. Horan
Mr. McLarty	Mr. Hudson
Mr. Mitchell	Mr. Keenan
Mr. Monger	Mr. Underwood
Mr. N. J. Moore	Mr. Walker
Mr. S. F. Moore	Mr. Ware
Mr. Scaddan	Mr. A. J. Wilson
Mr. Smith	Mr. F. Wilson
Mr. Stone	Mr. Troy (Teller).
Mr. Taylor	
Mr. Hardwick (Teller).	

Motion thus passed, the debate adjourned.

MOTION—RAILWAY PROJECT, PINJARRAH-MARRADONG.

Debate resumed from the 25th July, on the motion by Mr. McLarty "That in order to open up the agricultural and timber lands lying between Pinjarrah and Marradong, the Government should consider the advisability of proceeding with the construction of the railway at an early date."

THE PREMIER (Hon. N. J. Moore): The motion proposed is one to which the Government do not intend to offer objection. The country referred to in the proposal is well known to be some of the best-timbered country in Western Australia; and as the member stated when speaking to this motion, provision was made some years ago for a survey of the country lying between Pinjarrah and Marradong, and £4,000 was provided on the Estimates for a survey, which eventually was made. Although it would not be possible to follow the survey made on that occasion, still if a proposition were carried to construct the line, it would mean that if the survey as originally made was to be adhered to, it would entail a far greater expenditure than would be possible at present. The proposal the Government are considering is to allow for a line to be constructed of a steeper grade, and consequently at very much less cost than that originally contemplated. The principal area of land which will be opened up by this line is what is known as the Flora and Fauna Reserve, a reserve which was dedicated for the purpose of flora

and fauna some few years ago, and which until quite recently has remained virgin forest. It is admitted on all hands that the timber on this reserve is the best in the State, and quite recently the timber inquiry board made a recommendation to the effect that the Government should favourably consider a proposition for building a railway into this particular reserve. [MR. TAYLOR: What is the area?] About 250,000 acres. The only land that has been leased in that is a timber permit which is held by Whittaker Bros., containing something like 20,000 acres. That was taken up under the Land Act of 1904, which permitted timber permits to be taken in lieu of timber leases. Prior to that, several small areas were cut over under the royalty system. But that is really the only portion which has been alienated in any way, although applications have been received for more than three times the area of the land. It was considered by the present Government it would not be advisable to deal with this reserve in any other way than that which has hitherto prevailed in dealing with reserves, namely by advertising the fact that the particular reserve would be thrown open at a certain date, and then every application would be considered on its merits. A survey was made during the régime of the late Government with a view of providing for a line to open up that area from what is known as North Dandalup; but it was found that there would be very steep grades, and the line would be very expensive, and whilst it would afford facilities for a few millers in that direction, it would not be of any great assistance in agricultural development. Several proposals have been made to build a private railway line, but the Government recognise that if a private line is permitted to be constructed into that reserve it will practically give the owners of that line a monopoly. Consequently we have decided that, rather than allow any private line to be constructed there, if a line is to be made it shall be a Government line, and the location will probably be up what is known as the Maranup Brook. Some few years ago there was a mill 11 miles up that brook from Pinjarrah. It worked for years, but owing to the heavy cost of carting it was found necessary to close down. At the present time every information is being

obtained in regard to the area that will be served, and it is found possible to construct a line of 1 in 30 grade at a very reasonable cost, which will open up a considerable area of timber country in the vicinity. At the same time, it is not practicable at the present stage in the history of the State to construct a line right through to Marradong. There are many other places in the State which certainly require a line before the district beyond the particular area of which I have already spoken. We are anxious to serve the people in the Marradong Valley, but if a line is constructed it will only be for a limited distance into the range, and it will be constructed more with a view of serving the timber industry. There are certain areas of good land in some of the leases in the neighbourhood of this line, and also in the Flora and Fauna Reserve, and it is proposed by the Government to resume various areas within the timber leases with a view of throwing them open for agricultural settlement. The line was at one time proposed to be constructed by Mr. Teesdale Smith, as mentioned by the member for Murray in his speech; but after doing the earthworks for some six or eight miles it was decided not to go on at any farther length.

MR. TAYLOR: Was only the earthwork done?

THE PREMIER: Only the earthwork on six miles of railway.

MR. EWING: Is that the same line?

THE PREMIER: Practically.

MR. TAYLOR: Could you utilise that work?

THE PREMIER: The first five miles from Pinjarrah is practically good, level, open plain, and practically the whole seven or eight miles was done at a cost of something like £400 or £500; so it was a very small expenditure, and would be of little value. It would be necessary to acquire a certain amount of private land to permit of this line being constructed. As to the line mentioned by the member for Murray as having been surveyed, it would be impossible to build that without the expenditure of more money than could be spared at the present time. Costly earthworks and embankments in following the track laid down would entail very heavy expenditure. The motion is to the effect that the Government

should consider the advisability of proceeding with the construction of the railway at an early date. The wording of the proposal is very reasonable, and the Government have no objection to offer. All that is asked is to consider the advisability of constructing the line.

MR. G. S. F. COWCHER (Williams): I think the member for Murray has outlined the conditions very well, and the Premier has said that the line would open up the Flora and Fauna Reserve. We would be quite satisfied if we could get 25 miles built as the first section, leaving the other sections for future construction, and this line would serve Marradong and all up the Hotham River, and if continued up to Hotham Bridge it would serve Wandering. There are first-class agricultural lands. There are numerous small settlements, and the line would assist these people, and it would also open up a large industry in the timber land. People at Marradong have to cart 40 or 50 miles to Pinjarrah or 70 miles to Armadale; otherwise 40 miles to Williams, and then by rail 185 miles to Perth. A few of these people have lived in the place for something like 40 years, and have reared families there. They cannot do much on the land at Marradong and the Hotham River unless people have railway facilities or something of this sort. The Premier has already told us that there are something like 250,000 acres of forest on the land; and a royalty of £1 an acre would be £250,000, which would be three times the cost of the construction of the line. The line would open up a new avenue of revenue, and provide employment for hundreds of men. I claim to know something about the timber on that land. I dare say I know as much about it as anybody, for I have travelled through the whole of it, and I do not think there is a finer belt of jarrah in the whole of the jarrah forest. In my opinion it would take some 40 or 50 years to cut down the jarrah. I strongly support the motion.

MR. T. H. BATH (Brown Hill): The Premier has pointed out that the motion is only a tentative one. It asks the House to request the Government to consider the advisability of constructing this

line. I hope the member for Murray has no desire to acquire the exclusive right to the consideration of the Government for his proposal. We have a number of undertakings mentioned. Amongst them are six agricultural railways as outlined by the Premier in his policy speech. Then we have a very deserving proposition in regard to railway communication for Black Range. We have also a proposal for a railway from Coolgardie to Norseman; also one for a line from Leonora to Lawlers, and one for the Pilbarra Railway, and proposals for a number of other lines which are even more deserving of consideration than the proposition put forward by the member for Murray. No doubt we must bow to his superior knowledge of the district which will be served by this line. In moving the motion he gave us some very interesting information as to the timber possibilities, and as to the agricultural land which lies towards Marradong, and also in places along the first portion of the route. I do not see that members can offer any very strong objection to the Government's considering the advisability of constructing the line. There is not the slightest doubt that even if the House did not approve of it the Government, if they thought it necessary, would proceed with the consideration of the advisability without any mandate from this House; therefore I have no desire to offer any opposition to the motion, except to ask the member for Murray whether he would not be prepared to amend the motion in order to ask the Government to consider all the lines which have been mooted either by local individuals or by members, and which they think equally deserving of the Government's consideration. The only thing is that the Government must have either a very big loan or a very large amount of revenue if they are to carry out all the works which have been proposed by various members of the House, which have been outlined by the Premier in his policy speech, and which I have no doubt will be farther outlined when the Estimates are being considered and when the question of agricultural spur lines comes up for consideration.

MR. A. C. GULL (Swan): I intend to support the motion. I have no personal knowledge of the timber in that

locality. I indorse all that has been claimed for it. As regards the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition that the motion might be enlarged so as to deal with all those lines referred to, I am sure the member for Murray does not wish to encroach on the privilege of the member for any other district. He is quite satisfied to work out his own little point, and let others work out theirs for their various districts. I know that the forest country spoken of is undoubtedly the finest jarrah country in Western Australia, and the possibilities otherwise than that are about on an average with the possibilities of many other districts where we find timber country and first-class gullies. When you get farther away from the line and eventually get up into the Marradong district, that is a very fertile locality. I am sure the residents of that district do not expect for a moment that the line is to be carried out to the full extent. It may ultimately be, but they will be satisfied to have a section built for them.

MR. A. J. WILSON (Forrest): This proposition is one which has my heartiest endorsement, and I was deeply pleased at the manner in which the Premier on behalf of the Government spoke in relation to the motion. There is a very material difference between a man being pledged to something and a man keeping his pledges. Of course some members on the Opposition side of the House are familiar with that political experience. What strikes me as the most important argument for this railway project is not primarily the timber supply to be tapped by the line when built. We must have some regard to the future, and must look after the interests of settlers on our agricultural lands away to the east of the jarrah country—men who sooner or later will have to look for markets beyond the coast-line of Western Australia. And if they are to obtain cheap carriage, we must by some means reduce the distance from their district to the ports. By the construction of this line that distance will for some of the settlers be shortened by 80, 90, or 100 miles, whether the port from which they ship their produce be Fremantle or Bunbury. In this lies the strongest possible argument for the construction of a connect-

ing link between the South-Western and the Great Southern Railways, for the purpose of bringing those agriculturists within the closest possible reach of their market. If the first section of the line were built for 20 or 25 miles, it would for almost the whole of that distance traverse one of the finest belts of timber in the State, which hitherto has not been utilised owing to the lack of railway facilities. I am glad that the Government do not propose to invite private offers for the construction of the railway, though no doubt many people would be but too willing to build it, and, after using it for a few years, hand it over to the Government free of cost. But if the line is built by the Government, it will make available the adjacent areas to the small firms engaged in the timber industry, firms who desire to utilise small areas for their mills, and who have neither the capital nor the opportunity to conduct business on a large scale in expensive establishments. These firms will have easy access to the markets available. I feel quite confident that the direct and indirect benefits which will accrue to the timber industry alone by the construction of this line will amply justify the early construction of a section to a distance of 25 miles from Pinjarrah, and that will place the settlers in the Marradong district within a much more reasonable distance of railway communication than they are now. The construction of that section of the line will raise hopes in the bosoms of the pioneer settlers in the Marradong district, and it will encourage them to put forward better efforts for their own prosperity and for the welfare of the State.

MR. G. TAYLOR (Mt. Margaret): I have no desire to offer any strong objection to the motion, which asks that the Government should merely consider the advisability of proceeding with the construction of the railway. I understand for a distance of some 50 miles. But I wish the mover and the House to recognise that I will reserve the right to deal on its merits with any actual proposal for the construction of this line. In his policy speech the Premier has already outlined nearly a dozen railways, practically all in agricultural areas. We

know also that deputation after deputation from certain portions of the goldfields have, as a result of many agitations, urged preceding Governments to construct railways connecting our existing railway system with the outlying goldfields centres. These representations have been practically unheeded. In view of that fact, and of the need for an extension of the goldfields railway system to Norseman and to places mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Bath), I am, I think, acting wisely in reserving to myself the right to deal on their merits with any agricultural railway Bills. The railway returns for the past four or six years prove that the goldfields railways are carrying the burden of all the other railways. The agricultural lines are not paying; yet we are ever hearing in the House and outside of the necessity for farther extending the agricultural lines, with the alleged intention—whether genuine or not I am not prepared to say—of giving greater facilities to the farmer. We have heard to-night of farmers who have been for forty years without railway communication in a fertile district in this State; and I suppose they are now agitated because the Premier and other agricultural members have in the last twelve months been so jubilant about agricultural railways. Again, I suppose these agricultural settlers are farther stimulated by the slipshod manner in which we dealt last year with certain railway Bills at the very close of the session. I can understand agriculturists urging their demands for railway communication when they were so liberally treated last session; and I am reminded of some climbing down by the member for Northam (Hon. J. Mitchell). I cannot explain how he climbed down, for I did not see him perform that acrobatic feat; but I believe he is capable of doing it in a most expert manner. There are other proposed railways which in my opinion are more deserving of support, though I have not had the pleasure of seeing the area spoken of so highly by the member for Murray, whom I may congratulate on the clear and lucid manner in which he introduced his motion. The Leader of the Opposition reminds me that he has seen the country, and he speaks well of it. But I wish to say that

no matter how anxious the House may be for the farther extension of agricultural railways, there is a breaking point; it is necessary for this House to give due consideration to these proposals, while we have so many railway lines indicated by the Premier in his policy speech. These proposals should be brought down to the House, to give members ample time to deal with the different routes. I venture to say that when the battle of the routes comes before this House we shall find that members representing these various districts, who sit on the Government side of the House, will have varying opinions as to which route is the most deserving. We know that the very railway indicated by the Premier this afternoon, which the Government thought it wise last session not to go on with, that is the line from Jandakot to Armadale, was the line which the then member for East Fremantle (Mr. J. J. Holmes) and the present Minister for Works (Hon. J. Price) strongly opposed, and to which the Attorney General was hostile, the idea of these hon. gentlemen being that the railway should go from Jandakot to Mundijong. I suppose the Government recognise in this an opportunity of dealing with that subject; and I would like to give the Premier a little advice upon it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That line is not under discussion.

MR. TAYLOR: I am dealing with the Marradong Railway. This is a motion dealing with agricultural areas, and we have so many agricultural proposals before the House. As this motion will sanction the Government's constructing this line, I think I am perfectly within my rights in reminding members of the obligations or undertakings of the Government with respect to the construction of agricultural railways. We have nothing less than a dozen on the boards now. It will not take me a minute to give this advice to the Premier. It would be well for him to get on with the Jandakot-Armadale proposition, if the Premier has any idea that the gentleman returned at the last election for East Fremantle will come back to the House; because if that gentleman does come back to the House he will have a battle of the routes fought time after time and night after night in this House. I do not

oppose the motion moved by the member for Murray; but while I am not in opposition to it, I reserve to myself the right to deal with the proposal for constructing the railway when it comes before the House. I will need a little more information from the Premier than he has given to-night.

MR. J. P. McLARTY (in reply as mover): I am pleased at the reception the motion has had, and my thanks are due to members on both sides of the House for the support they have given to it. The motion has been a considerable time on the Notice Paper, and I began to fear some of us would die of senile decay before we reached it. We are not tied to any particular route for this railway to Marradong. We leave that to the Government. We hope, however, that it will start from Pinjarrah. This railway will be necessary to open up the Flora and Fauna Reserve, as the Premier has stated; and it will pass through two private blocks; but I am authorised by the owners of these blocks to state that they will deal most liberally with the Government. I cannot include all the other lines in my motion as suggested, but I will offer no objection to them. The reason I am anxious about this matter is that the Marradong proposal has been so long before the House. As I said before, Mr. Ferguson is quite willing to construct a railway himself, providing he gets concessions in the timber country; but I think it would be better for the Government to carry out the work. I do not think I need say any more, seeing that the motion has been so favourably received.

Question put and passed.

BILL—JURY ACT AMENDMENT,

MAJORITY VERDICT.

SECOND READING MOVED.

MR. H. BROWN (Perth) in moving the second reading said: This is the first Bill I have really had the honour of introducing, and I think it is one that will appeal to the majority of members. It is solely providing that in the case of civil trials, five-sixths of the jury, if they agree,

shall decide the case, and that if, after being locked up for 12 hours, the jury still disagree, a new trial may be ordered without the unnecessary expense of any new process for that purpose. The last clause is very necessary. It provides that managers of mines shall be exempt from serving on juries. I am sure members opposite who represent mining districts will see that it is a necessary amendment. I trust members will at all events approve of the second reading. I do not intend to make this a party question, or to appeal to the country if I am defeated, but I trust that the measure will appeal to the good sense of the members of the House.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. N. Keenan): The Bill proposed in such short terms by the hon. member is really a most radical change in our system of trial by jury.

MR. BATH: Majority rule is one of the principles of radicalism.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: The hon. member may find many cases where it is not at all applicable. The principle of trial by jury has come down to us from very ancient days. It has always been the rule, and I trust as long as juries will last that it will be the rule, that the verdict of the jury shall be unanimous. There are many people who disagree with the jury system and who blame it for very serious miscarriages of justice; but may I be permitted to point out that the real virtue in the case of a jury is that if we have 6 or 12 practical men and we leave an issue of fact to them and they are unanimous on that issue, in all probability they will be correct; but immediately we cut off fractional parts of that verdict, we destroy the whole virtue of the jury system. It seems to me that to adopt a measure of this character hastily, as it will be if we pass the Bill to-night, would be to practically abandon the jury system. If it is correct to say that in civil cases a majority verdict should be accepted, if we admit that principle, there can be no hesitation in applying it generally. What is the justification that is alleged for the change? It is simply this, that in the collection of 12 jurors or 6 jurors, one man or more can be bribed, can be made to

give a verdict contrary to his conscience. If that is true in civil cases it is equally true in criminal cases. Therefore I am forced to the conclusion that if it is a wise thing, recognising that state of affairs—which I do not admit but which is alleged—if it is a wise thing to admit of a majority verdict in civil cases it must be an equally wise thing in cases where men are put on their trial for offences against the good order of the State. I should hesitate to ask for a change of law in such cases. Therefore we should not ask for a similar change in civil cases. The member for Perth (Mr. Brown) was kind enough to say that this was not a party measure. I can assure him of that fact because I intend to oppose it. I look on the Bill as an immature effort, as the result of a few cases; because after all, how many cases can we call to mind which have shown a breakdown of the jury system? It is true we can show one or two isolated cases, but we should change the law for isolated cases—it must be for some general class of cases.

MR. SCADDAN: This is not to repeal the Jury Act.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: It repeals the system of our jury administration, because if the Bill is passed a majority verdict can be given, and I have pointed out that this is a dangerous innovation.

MR. SCADDAN: It is not a mere majority.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: I admit at once that is so. I will give the clause of the Bill itself. It says—

Where the jury, upon the trial of any civil cause or of any issue or issues in such a cause, have remained six hours or upwards in deliberation, if all the jurors do not agree as to the verdict to be given or the answer to be given to any question submitted to them by the court or presiding Judge, or as to the amount of damages to be assessed, the decision of five-sixths of them as to any such verdict or answer shall be taken and entered as the verdict, finding, or assessment of the jury as a whole.

That is the principle I object to.

MR. H. BROWN: It will reduce the solicitors' costs.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: The member puts it on the ground that it will reduce the solicitors' costs. That somehow shows how minds revel in the most disgusting thoughts, and never rise

to a consideration of the question from a standpoint that is worthy of the House. Some members have to invariably confine themselves to a point of view that seems to associate itself with their lives. I trust the House will not follow in the footsteps suggested by the hon. member. Surely the question is an important one, worthy of discussion, not from the point of view alleged, but if it would be of ultimate good to the community then we should make a change of this character. The whole history, I venture to say, of trial by jury has stood the test for years, for centuries; and after all is said and done can anyone tell me of a system that has not at some time been capable of breakdown—even the most perfect system. I will ask the member for *Ivanhoe* to tell me if anything of which he knows, however perfect it may appear, has not on some occasions failed to work up to expectations.

MR. SCADDAN : That justifies an amendment.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL : The hon. member for *Ivanhoe* gives me a reminder well to the point. I submit that none of the experiments made in social government have stood such a severe, such a long or such a successful test as the jury system. The change would be only justified if the member in charge of the Bill could show that the jury system as now applied has broken down, not merely in isolated cases but as a general rule. Let me again point out that the cases which have arisen and which have been used as illustrations for justifying a change of this character are solely connected with one particular class of claims, that is to say the claims arising from actions for libel.

MR. H. BROWN : You know the jury weeks beforehand.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL : If the member thinks that, the difficulty can be got over in quite a different way. If he conceives the only difficulty in the path of juries to-day is the knowledge some time prior to the trial as to who will be the jurors, he should take another course than introducing this Bill. What I would point out to the House is that the illustrations found for justifying a change of this character are solely found

in connection with actions for libel. I have come to the conclusion that some classes of cases would be better removed from the province of juries altogether, for the reason that the surrounding circumstances are such that it is almost impossible to imagine that we can find 12 or 6 men who have not in some measure committed themselves to opinions before they go into a jury-box. If that is admitted, the proper cure is to provide that actions for libel against newspapers or against individuals should not be tried by jury. If the House comes to the conclusion that cases of that character, from the general verdicts given, are such that a jury should not deal with them, let it say so, and not lay down a general rule for all cases whether of an exceptional character or ordinary cases arising every day. And after all we know that for one libel case tried there are 200 or 300 cases of ordinary actions arising from contract or tort of an ordinary character.

MR. H. BROWN : Libel cases are not mentioned in the Bill.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL : It seems I cannot use an argument that will penetrate into the member's mind. I have illustrated the cases named for the change by saying that the argument is based on the failure of juries to return verdicts in libel cases. If I am wrong, let me be contradicted; but if I am not wrong, let my argument stand, and I say that if justification for the Bill rests on the failure of juries in libel cases to give fair verdicts, make the change in regard to libel actions. I do not know of an argument addressed by any one in support of the Bill that will justify its acceptance. We have had the system of trial by jury handed down from generation to generation; it has stood the test of an infinite lapse of time; and if that is so, and if we only find in a few special cases it has failed we are not justified, far from justified, in making so radical a change as is proposed by the Bill. There is a farther clause tacked on to the Bill for the purpose of exempting certain persons from serving on juries. I think that clause infinitesimal in importance to the rest of the Bill, and does not call for discussion when

I am so strongly opposed to the more important clauses of the measure. For that reason I do not propose to discuss that clause. I will ask the House to be careful before tampering with the system which, in spite of all drawbacks, has worked substantial justice; and above all not to do so until at any rate some real substantial reason has been put forward, and wholly different from the very slight reasons which are submitted in support of this Bill.

MR. A. C. GULL (Swan): I intend to support the motion, and I want to point out that the able arguments used by the Attorney General are on a side issue. This is not a question of doing away with the jury system, but simply of modifying it. I have watched the question for years, and there is scarcely any measure that has been before this House with which I am more in accord than this. I have recognised for years that it was possible for one man—a biased man, and in some cases, I regret to say, a man who has been got at—to hold out, refusing to come to a decision, and thereby forcing a new trial at a cost of thousands of pounds to both sides. And in many cases this has been an absolute waste of money, there having been no justification whatever for the jury to disagree. As I said just now, it is not a question of attacking the jury system, but of providing that ten men out of twelve shall decide the issue, and shall not be subservient to or under the dominance of one or two in arriving at a decision. With regard to the argument that if this principle be good in civil cases it should be good in criminal cases also, I am not going to controvert that contention. If in practice the principle is found to be good in civil cases, I do not see why it should not be carried a step farther and made to apply to other cases as well. The Bill merely limits the principle to civil cases, in which it has repeatedly occurred that the jury has disagreed, the case has been sent to a new trial, the jury has disagreed again, and eventually in some cases the action has been abandoned simply because it was found to be impossible to get a jury to

agree. Cases are on record here where a couple of trials have ended in this way, a big majority of the jury having been in favour of a verdict, and one or two men opposed it. I intend to support the Bill.

On motion by MR. TAYLOR, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10:34 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 13th September, 1906.

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THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

PRIVILEGE—SELECT COMMITTEE'S POWERS TO CALL FOR PAPERS.

FEDERAL TELEGRAMS NOT PRODUCED.

HON. J. M. DREW (Central): I hope I shall be permitted to make a statement which I think is very necessary for this House to hear, as to a development that occurred during the taking of evidence by the select committee appointed to inquire into the outbreak of bubonic plague in Geraldton. The committee was appointed some weeks ago, and consists of Mr. Maley, Mr. Langsford, and