

the members of the Legislative Assembly, who, having arrived,

His Excellency delivered the following Speech:—

“MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE
“GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE
“COUNCIL,—

“MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
“LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

“I have pleasure in releasing you from
“your labours, which have been prolonged
“owing to the many important matters
“you have had to deal with.

“Your approval of the extension of the
“railway system to the goldfields, and of
“the policy of the Government with regard
“to the development of the mineral re-
“sources generally, coupled with the en-
“couragement which you have given to
“the further occupation and settlement of
“the land, must result in promoting the
“best interests of the colony.

“MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
“LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

“The financial position of the colony is
“satisfactory. The revenue continues to
“increase, and the expenditure is being
“kept within reasonable limits.

“I thank you for the liberal supplies
“you have granted for the use of the
“public service, and I trust the large
“amount which you have provided for
“works and other services will result in
“much benefit.

“MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE
“GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE
“COUNCIL,—

“MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
“LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

“The Loan Bill which you have passed,
“and which has already been assented to,
“will enable the Government to proceed
“with the important railway lines to the
“chief centres on the Coolgardie and Mur-
“chison Goldfields, and also with many
“other works of pressing importance.

“The future of the colony as a large
“gold-producing country seems to be abso-
“lutely assured. The export of gold con-
“tinues to increase; much attention is
“being given to the erection of mining
“machinery; a large amount of foreign
“capital is being introduced; and there is
“ample evidence to prove that the develop-
“ment and progress of the goldfields are

“largely assisting the advancement and
“general prosperity of the people.

“I now prorogue this Parliament till
“Wednesday, 27th March next.”

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 28th November, 1894.

Re-introduction next session of Imported Labour
Registry Bill—Midland Junction Railway Station—
Message from the Governor: Assent to a Bill—
Perth-Subiaco Road (motion for adjournment)—
Restriction re Expenditure upon Eastern Goldfields
Water Supply—Message from the Legislative Council
concurring in expenditure of £50,000 upon exten-
sion of Goldfields Water Supply—Message from the
Legislative Council agreeing to amendment in the
Medical Bill—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at
4.15 p.m.

PRAYERS.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF IMPORTED LABOUR REGISTRY BILL.

MR. JAMES: I should like to ask
the Premier, without notice, whether the
Government will, in the early part of
next session, re-introduce the Imported
Labour Registry Bill?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest):
The Government have not yet considered
the matter, but I see no reason why we
should not re-introduce it—I do not know
whether in the exact form of the Bill of
this session or not. It seems to me it
is impossible to get the Bill through in
another place. The Government, how-
ever, will consider the matter.

MIDLAND JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION.

MR. HARPER: I should like to ask
the Commissioner of Railways, without
notice, whether there is any probability,
in the near future, of a new railway
station being erected at the Midland
Junction? At present the whole of the

traffic at the station has to cross a line that is in use every day, and every hour of the day, which is a source of considerable danger, and it is not at all unlikely that somebody will be killed there before long, unless some steps are taken to remove this danger.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn): In reply to the hon. member, I may say that this question of a terminal station at the Junction has been under discussion between the Government and the Midland Railway Company, as represented by their Engineer, for some time; but the difficulty has been to arrive at an agreement as to the cost of the station, and a site, which would meet the views of both parties. Some three weeks ago this discussion terminated, and the matter was mutually settled. The papers are now in the hands of the Engineer-in-Chief and the Company's Engineer; and I feel sure, from what I have heard lately, that the plan proposed by the Government will be accepted. If so, the work will be proceeded with, and completed as early as possible. The Government recognise the necessity of undertaking this work as soon as possible, inasmuch as the traffic now converging at the Junction is altogether beyond the means of the present station, and I hope very soon to be able to start the new station.

PERTH-SUBIACO ROAD: ALLEGED FAULTY CONSTRUCTION.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

MR. RANDELL: I wish to make a few remarks, which I will follow with a motion, in order to call attention to certain statements which have appeared in print in connection with the new road now being formed at the top of Hay Street, leading to Subiaco. I took the opportunity of visiting and inspecting the road this morning, and I was certainly astonished to find the way it is being constructed. I am certainly more astonished to find that the Engineer-in-Chief, for whom I entertain the highest respect, has stated that he is the author of the plan upon which that road is being made. It is said that the road is to be 12 feet wide. On stepping it across, I thought it was about 14 feet, which I thought sufficiently narrow to allow of two carriages to pass

each other—and we cannot suppose that that will not happen. I am persuaded that, as the road is elevated some two feet above the level of the surrounding sand on either side, —

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn): I was there to-day, and I am quite sure that is exaggerated.

MR. RANDELL: I think it is rather under than over the mark. The sand is heaped up in the centre of the road, and the metal is put on the top of that. I am a pretty good judge of measurements, and I am certain that road is two feet above the level of the sand on either side of it; and the result will be that when two vehicles meet, and try to cross each other, one of them must inevitably go off the road, and it must inevitably turn over if it does so. I cannot conceive what is the reason for this extraordinary proceeding. Even supposing that in the distant future it should be proposed to make the road right across, instead of 12 feet wide, we cannot expect it to be done soon; and, if the road is intended to answer its purpose at all, it ought to be made safe for traffic from the first. As I say, I cannot conceive what the object is in raising the road so high above the level of the ground. It cannot be that a flood is anticipated in that part of the city. I am sure there is no rainfall in Perth heavy enough to create a flood in that locality. I think it is simply a waste of money. I am sure the work will have to be undone, or you will have to widen the road; and, even in that case, the crown of the road is too high. I desire to record my firm conviction that the work will have to be undone again almost immediately it is opened for traffic, as it will be found to be an intolerable nuisance. I move that the House do now adjourn.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn): In view of the possibility of this question cropping up this afternoon, I went up to examine this road to-day, and I invited as many members as could make it convenient to accompany me. I was unfortunate enough only to secure the attendance of one or two members. I had not previously seen this road, and I had my mind perfectly open about it. Having seen it, I feel satisfied that if the hon. member had gone with us he would have altered his

opinion very much indeed. The hon. member may shake his head as much as he likes, but I am satisfied that he would, because, in the meantime, a portion of the road has been completed, to show how it will be when it is finished as it is intended to be. It affords a practical demonstration to anybody who knows anything about roads that this road when completed will be a first-class piece of work. I feel satisfied that if anyone goes there now, and sees this portion of it that has been completed, he will say at once it is a splendid piece of work. The road cannot be completed to its full width with the sum of money now available—some £1,400 or £1,500—but we propose to make it go as far as we can. As to its being two feet above the surrounding level, I am sure it is not two feet. I took some little trouble to ascertain that fact. I know it looks rather high, because the batter is not yet prepared; but when that is put on there will be no chance of any cart turning over. We came down it to-day, and did not turn over. I have no hesitation in saying that the piece of road now constructed is a very excellent piece of road. The only question is whether it would not have been wiser to have spent more money on the road, and to have stretched it out wider, from the first. But the crown of the road as it is made now will stand for ever and a day; and when the City Council has sufficient funds to complete the road to its full width, the present crown will form a magnificent portion of the main road. That was demonstrated to us to-day, by the small portion of the road which was completed for the purpose of showing what is intended to be done. With regard to the cost of the road, it was anticipated at first that some of the refuse stone from the quarry at North Fremantle could be used at a very much reduced rate, but, when we came to call for tenders, we discovered that bluestone—a material which has been rather beyond our reach—could be landed there at a price which the Government would have been foolish not to have accepted; and the figures quoted in this morning's paper, on the authority of the Engineer-in-Chief, as to the cost of the work, may be accepted as about right. If the crown of the road or the causeway does appear a bit high at the present moment, it will

be found that when there is traffic on it it will spread out, certainly a foot or more, on either side. Members may laugh. I have had as much practical experience as most of them of roads; and there never was a road yet that did not flatten out with traffic. Even railways do it. I think it is most unfair to the department to pass judgment upon an unfinished work—an absolutely unfinished work. I can assure the House that the money spent on this road, so far as my judgment is able to carry me, is being judiciously spent, and that the road when finished will be an excellent road. I can refer to the two hon. members who accompanied me to give their unbiassed opinion as to the road. I do not know what their opinion is, but I have no hesitation in referring to them, and I believe it will be satisfactory to members.

MR. WOOD: I was one of the members who inspected this road to-day, and it certainly looks to me to have too much crown—it is raised too high, and it seems too narrow for the quantity of metal put on it. Of course, I only looked at it from an unprofessional point of view, but it struck me that it ought to be made a little wider, and not quite so high. I think it would then be all right. The Engineer-in-Chief was with us, and, having heard what he had to say, you could not fail to be convinced that the road is the very best road ever made in Western Australia. But my own opinion is that it has too much metal on it, in too confined a space, and that it ought to be made three feet wider. But the man in charge, Mr. Irvine, assured us that the road would spread as traffic went over it.

MR. PATERSON: I also was present, and heard the Engineer-in-Chief's arguments, and the conclusion I came to was that when the road is finished it will be a very fine road. It will be pretty level with the ground alongside, and there will be no very great pitch. That is, when it is all finished like a portion of it was to-day. We went off the road, and came on to it again, and our trap did not turn over, but a considerable portion of the side fell away, and I came to the conclusion that, until it is properly finished, the sides are bound to give way. But, according to the finished piece, I should say that the road when it is completed will be a magnificent road. It does look very

high; but you notice that more particularly because of the dreadfully bad piece of road before you come to this new road. I think, however, it might be a couple of feet wider, for the material that is on it. But we must remember that the road is not yet finished; and when it is finished, like the small piece that was shown us to-day, I should say it will be a perfect road. I feel confident it will spread out at least 20 inches when there has been traffic over it.

Motion for adjournment put and negatived.

RESTRICTION UPON THE EXPENDITURE IN CONNECTION WITH GOLD-FIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

MR. HARPER: I move, in accordance with notice, "That in consequence of the very large sums of money which have been expended or involved in making provision for water supply on the Eastern goldfields, it is desirable that in the future the water supply for other than railway or main road purposes on these goldfields should be left to private enterprise; this House being of opinion that the facilities for condensing, and the competition of condenser owners and carriers, would be ample to ensure a sufficient supply for the security of human life; and that as long as it is understood that the Government are prepared to compete with private enterprise in this matter, that belief is certain to operate against the steady and efficient supply from private sources." I think this motion explains its own object, without many words from me. I, and a good many other members, think the time must be very soon coming when we shall have to put a stop to the system of *carte blanche* expenditure which has been carried on by the Government, through their officers, in keeping the goldfields roads open at all hazards, and at an enormous expense of money. Whether the money has been wasted or not is not the question now. The position at present, so far as I am informed, is this: that the residents on these goldfields have pretty well satisfied themselves, and everyone else too, that water is procurable from one or more sources—either by condensing or by sinking. Fresh water has been tapped in various places, and I am informed that

around Coolgardie there are at present hundreds of condensers, which are quite capable of dealing with the question of water supply. I am also informed that there are one or two more private parties or companies who are prepared to go into larger schemes for supplying large volumes of water. The question is, whether we may not now safely leave it to private enterprise to do what is necessary. I think, considering the large amount of money spent by the Government on these goldfields, that other goldfields will be quite justified in expecting that large sums will be spent on them, too; and, if we go on in the future as we have in the past, the revenues of this colony will not be able to keep up with such expenditure. If larger areas of auriferous country are opened up farther to the Eastward, and we continue the same lavish scale of expenditure upon them as we have in the past, there will be nothing left for anything else. Considering that there are now ample means of providing water, and that there are a number of people prepared to undertake the work themselves, I think it is quite time they should be given an opportunity to exercise their enterprise in that way. So long as it is felt that the Government can be approached by deputations and in other ways, and pressure brought to bear upon them to spend money in all directions, so long will it prevent private enterprise from undertaking the work and meeting the requirements of the fields. I think the time has come when we should say plainly in this House that the people on these goldfields must provide water for themselves. I think I may safely say that there is probably no goldfield in the world that ever had the amount of consideration shown to it by the Government of the country, and so much public expenditure incurred upon it as these Eastern goldfields of ours have. I believe that as a general rule people on other goldfields have been left entirely to themselves to supply any large quantities of water required. As there is, apparently, no danger now to human life—which is the only consideration that should weigh very heavily with the Government—I think it is about time we began to stop this lavish expenditure. With these few remarks, I beg to move the motion standing in my name.

MR. SIMPSON: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion. I am sure that all motions emanating from the hon. member for Beverley are accepted by this House as the result of careful and mature consideration, and I know of no motion that has been submitted to this House which suggests more exactly my own ideas in connection with this water supply question than the motion now before us. We all realise that the Government in supplying the goldfields with water are complying with what they consider to be the exigencies of the situation, their desire being to assist in the development of our auriferous resources. But I think the time has now come, considering the enormous expenditure which they have embarked in, when they may leave the matter in the hands of private enterprise, with every confidence that the public wants will be supplied. It has been a common complaint—I have heard it reiterated in many places—that where private enterprise has been projected it has been strangled by the wretched restrictions imposed by the Government. I think if this resolution is agreed to, and the principle of encouraging private enterprise affirmed, it will have a beneficial effect in giving private enterprise free play to deal with the requirements of the situation. I should imagine the Government will only be too glad to give their support to this motion. It will distinctly, to my mind, operate in the interests of the development of our goldfields, and of our "back country" resources. So long as the roads to the fields are kept open, and a water supply provided for our railway service, I do not think that any reasonable man in the community, so long as he is a man determined to do the best he can for himself in a new country, would ask for any further expenditure by the Government in this direction. The history of this colony in its early development does not indicate that the Government felt themselves called upon to expend money in providing water for the development of other industries, such as the pastoral industry. The pioneers who embarked in that industry had to do the best they could for themselves. They had to sink their own wells and to make their own dams to secure water for themselves; and following upon the squatter we have the miner, who is glad to make

use of the enterprise of the earlier pioneers.

MR. MORAN: Nothing of the sort.

MR. SIMPSON: I was quite prepared to hear the hon. member's interjection. I have observed that whenever the hon. member for Yilgarn finds himself face to face with a subject upon which he is profoundly ignorant, he is prepared to assert his opinion upon it. I say the miners have been glad to use the squatters' wells as the base of their operations. That has been the case in the other colonies, and it has been the case in this colony, both at Yilgarn and the Murchison. Charley Glass's well, and other squatters' wells, formed the base of operations for the pioneer prospectors of Golden Valley. Seeing the large expenditure incurred by the Government up to the present time, and the provision they have made for water conservation on our Eastern goldfields, seeing also the huge proportions which the mining industry has now assumed, I think it would be distinctly in the interests of the country if private enterprise were now allowed to step in. I do not want to check or restrict the kindly intentions of the Government in their desire to develop the great mining industry, but I do not think anyone, seeing how carefully and thoughtfully this resolution is worded, can reasonably object to it. I think it conveys the exact principle which should guide the action of the Government in this matter.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I quite agree with the hon. member who has just spoken that the motion is very reasonably worded, and of course everyone would desire to act in accordance with it, if possible. Of course, the Government of the country—when I say the Government, I mean the Parliament of the country as well—do not wish to spend any more money in opening up the goldfields than is absolutely necessary; and no one would be more pleased than myself if we could altogether do away with this expenditure in connection with water supply, especially on the Coolgardie goldfields. But, unfortunately, there are special difficulties in the way. If a large number of people congregate in a waterless country, what are you to do? If nothing is done by private enterprise, because of the risks to be encountered,

the Government are put in this position: they must either warn people not to go there, and induce those who are there to return to the settled parts of the country, or they must do something to find these people with the first necessary of life in such a country—water. That has been the position we have found ourselves in, with regard to Coolgardie.

MR. SIMPSON: They got through to Lake Carey without the assistance of the Government.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): That was only a few people, and they managed it because it was a good season, and rain had fallen.

MR. SIMPSON: There were 300 people camped there.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The Lake Carey country is quite a different country from Coolgardie. You are away from the eucalyptus. Water and grass may be generally found where there are no eucalypti. I have no doubt that the farther you go away North from Coolgardie the more likely you will be to find water by sinking. When you get out of the timber country no doubt it will be so; as has been proved at Lake Carey. But this country about Yilgarn is exceptional country. Fortunately there is gold there, otherwise I do not believe it would ever have been settled. I do not mean to say that the land is not good—the soil is very good—but it is an entirely waterless country, or almost so—so much so that there are no squatters there, and no squatters' wells. They could not get out so far. With the exception of a few soaks, and tanks made by Hunt a few years ago, no fresh water has been found until a well was recently sunk there. I mention this to show that the Coolgardie country is not the same as any other part of the colony, wherever I have been, for water. If I except the plains of Eucla, you can always find water at a reasonable depth, in any part of the colony, by sinking. So much was that idea running in our minds that we would not believe for a long time that it could not be found at Coolgardie. But we know now it is a very difficult thing to find water there; and, but for that well I have referred to, none had been found. I hope they may find many more wells now. The proposition now before us does not restrict the Government to any large

extent, after all, because all we have done in the past has been to provide water on the main roads, and the main centres here and there. The tanks we have provided are all on the main roads, or close to them; so that this motion would not bind the Government to do less, I think, than they have done in the past—unless, perhaps, the hon. member means that the Government should not provide any tanks within townsite areas? [MR. HARPER: Hear, hear.] We have not provided many—three I think at Coolgardie, and one at Hannan's, and a few other places. These tanks, when they are filled, will be the greatest possible boon to the travelling public, and I hope some revenue will be derived from them, although not very much. We must remember that, although the expenditure has been large, it has not been so terribly large, after all, taking into consideration all that has been done, and the exceptional difficulties. About £160,000 has been spent in the development of our goldfields during the last four years, and out of that we have built a telegraph line to Marble Bar and from Mullewa to Cue, and from Southern Cross to Coolgardie; also erected public buildings at Southern Cross, and constructed roads, and done other things. So that if you take away from this £160,000 what has been expended in other works, there is not such a tremendous lot after all for water supply. Still it is a good deal for this country to spend. The worst of it is, such a lot has been spent without any benefit being derived from it, so far. If all these tanks were full, I do not suppose there would be any complaint about this expenditure. After all, we must remember it is not all on one side of the ledger. An immense amount of gold has been found, and sent out of the colony, and we must have derived some benefit from it. It was a million and a quarter when I made my financial statement, and it has been going on ever since. Last month, I think, the value of the gold exported was something like £70,000; so that we are getting on towards a million and a half as the value of the gold that has been exported out of the colony up to the present time. Therefore, we should not altogether begrudge this expenditure, after all, as we have something to show for it. I do not think this resolution

would prevent the Government from doing anything we propose doing, except perhaps, further boring. I do not know whether the hon. member includes boring. Does he intend that we should discontinue our boring operations?

MR. HARPER: Yes.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I hope members will consider that carefully. I am afraid, myself, that this boring will not be successful, but we know that the public won't be satisfied unless we go down some 3,000ft. or so. I really think it is worth a trial, if only to set the public mind at rest, and to make sure whether there is a supply of water underneath or not. The question is, whether it is worth while to spend a few more thousands in this way, in deference to popular opinion, and in opposition to scientific opinion. I should advise that we do sink a few deep bores at Coolgardie, and about that part of the country, so as to satisfy people whether there is water there or not. I am not going to divide the House with regard to this motion. It is for the House to say whether it would be wise to pass it or not. The Government are quite alive to the necessity of not spending more than we can help at present in this direction. In fact, we have not such a big amount to spend, and we will have to be very careful, I suppose, in spending money upon goldfields in the future. Seeing that we have not very much to spend, and do not want to do more than is absolutely necessary, I think the hon. member would do well not to press his motion, especially if he means that we are not to do any artesian boring. If the motion is carried, and his object is to stop the Government from boring, the Government will take it that we are not to proceed any further with our boring operations at Coolgardie.

MR. SOLOMON: I would have supported the motion, had the hon. member not said that he intends it to include boring. I think it would be a great mistake to stop the boring operations. There would be a great outcry, and great disappointment, if the Government were to stop their boring operations at Coolgardie. It is what the whole country is looking forward to. I hope the hon. member will reconsider this matter, and either amend his motion so that the Gov-

ernment may proceed with their boring operations, or withdraw his motion altogether.

MR. WOOD: This motion, like all the motions brought forward by the hon. member for Beverley, is a well-considered, a very moderate, and, I think, a very good motion in the abstract. But I think, myself, it should not interfere with the boring operations being carried out, because undoubtedly the country will never be satisfied until the question of artesian supply is set at rest, one way or the other. Even if we have to spend £10,000, the question ought to be settled once for all, or there will always be dissatisfaction in the public mind, and unless the hon. member is prepared to modify his resolution in that respect, I cannot accept it.

MR. MORAN: No doubt this motion is the outcome of the discussion that took place in the House the other evening. The hon. member for Beverley, who is always in his place, and listens very carefully to what is going on, is pretty cute in bringing forward motions of a popular character, when he finds how the wind is blowing. No doubt, in the abstract, this is a very proper motion, but I do not know that it is necessary. The Government have not spent a penny more than was necessary to keep the highroad open. That permanent well at Coolgardie has been a great help to keeping the road open between Southern Cross and the outlying fields. Had it not been for that well, it would have been impossible for prospectors to have loaded up, and gone on again to their destination. Seeing that the Government are at the present moment in considerable straits for the want of money to spend in this direction, it does seem to me that a motion which seeks to further tie their hands is uncalled for. I believe, myself, that this House next session will be authorising the Government to spend money in carrying out a comprehensive scheme for the discovery of water, all over the colony. It must not be thought that, because in the past a considerable amount of the expenditure in this direction has been incurred at Coolgardie, the Government are unduly favouring that goldfield. I was surprised at the support given to this motion by the hon. member for Geraldton, who

generally poses as the miner's friend. It appears the hon. member has changed his mind as well as his seat. He thinks nothing of the miner now. According to his new idea, it is owing to the squatter and the cockatoo farmer that gold has been discovered in this colony. I suppose the hon. member imbued that idea when indulging in the hospitality of the Murchison squatters. He was never at Southern Cross, I believe, and this probably accounts for his lamentable ignorance of what he is talking about. I have been all over that country, and I never yet found a squatter's well which had been of any service to the mining community. There is very little of the squatting element in and about the Coolgardie country. That goldfield was not opened up by the early settlers. Had it not been for men of experience in gold-mining, who came here from the other colonies, we would not have heard much about Coolgardie. These goldfields, after all, return a large amount of revenue to the Government, in comparison with the Murchison and the other goldfields of the colony. I do not wish to detract from the claims of the Murchison in any way. I believe there's a bit of gold up there; but it is absurd to compare it with the Coolgardie country. The hon. member who brought forward this motion should bear in mind that this House has been very indulgent towards the agricultural industry, and done a great deal towards its development. I only hope that all this coddling which the agricultural industry has received will show as good results in the future as the gold-mining industry. I shall certainly object to this resolution if it is intended to prevent the Government from putting down any more bores.

MR. SIMPSON: I wish to goodness they would succeed in putting down one or two "bores" in this House.

MR. MORAN: The hon. member himself should be the first. Altogether, I think this motion might just as well be withdrawn. With the gathered experience which the Government have had in the past, in connection with this question of water supply, I think we may fairly expect more satisfactory results in the future.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: No doubt the hon. member for Coolgardie will not be

satisfied until all the money raised for the development of goldfields is spent in his own district. There has been too much of this pap-feeding since the present Government is in office. Southern Cross is just as waterless as Coolgardie; yet what has been done there? Private enterprise has found water there, and condensed it.

THE PREMIER (HON. SIR J. FORREST): Not for supplying the population.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: The owners supply the water for their own mines. Why can't they do so at Coolgardie? They will never do it, so long as they find the Government is willing to do everything for them. Private enterprise is stifled altogether. The more the Government do, the less will private enterprise do. If the Government had not done so much for Coolgardie, I believe the water difficulty would have been settled long ago. I agree it is the duty of the Government to keep the main roads open for the travelling public; but, as soon as private enterprise is prepared to step in, the Government ought to retire, and let private enterprise take up the work. We have recently seen the result of private enterprise, even at Coolgardie, where a well was sunk yielding 15,000 gallons a day. Why should the Government spend thousands of pounds to test whether there is an artesian supply or not? Why not offer a bonus of so much per foot to any private individual or company to test it, at some place selected by the Government engineer? So far as I am concerned, I believe I have a great deal more interest in Coolgardie and the Eastern goldfields than the member who represents the district has.

MR. MORAN: How do you know? You mind your own business.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: I believe I have. It seems to me that because he represents the district he thinks it ought to get everything. He fancies Coolgardie is the whole colony. I do not blame him for advocating the interests of his own district; it is only natural he should do so. But this House should consider the interests of the whole colony, and consider whether it is wise to continue this expenditure for the benefit of this particular district, to find water in people's back yards. The more that is done by the Government for people—no matter

where they are; it is only human nature—the less will people do for themselves. I think it is about time some check was placed on this expenditure of public money. I intend to support the resolution.

MR. LEAKE: I, too, shall support the resolution. In doing so, one reason that impels me to support it is this: neither the resolution nor the observations of the hon. member who moved it complains in the slightest degree about the expenditure incurred by the Government in the past; it merely sounds a note of warning against possible reckless expenditure in the future. No one can deny that enormous sums of money have been spent in the development of this particular goldfield—more than any other goldfield; and I cannot help thinking that the Government have overstepped all reasonable and proper bounds, by being influenced by what may be nothing but the noisy clamours of a particular centre of population. Everything seems to be Coolgardie. Nothing will do but Coolgardie, particularly according to the views of one hon. member in this House. If any part of the colony crops up in debate, no matter where it may be, we are bound to hear something about Coolgardie. Coolgardie is bound to be dragged in somehow or other. It is Coolgardie here, and Coolgardie there, and Coolgardie everywhere. I hope the Government will remember that there are some other places in the colony besides Coolgardie. With regard to the objection of the hon. members for South Fremantle and West Perth, as I understand the resolution it will not have the effect, or need not have the effect, of stopping the boring operations at Coolgardie, as it is necessary that the Government should find a permanent supply of water for railway purposes. The hon. member has very properly excepted water supply for railway purposes from the scope of the resolution; and it may be necessary, for that purpose, to go on with these boring operations.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: That ought to come out of the railway vote.

MR. LEAKE: I merely say that members need not be frightened that the resolution will necessarily have the effect of stopping boring operations. But it will have this effect, I hope: it will

restrain the Government from going too far with this expenditure, and, if it does that, I take it that the object of the hon. member for Beverley will be met. In the abstract the resolution is admittedly a good one, and I hope members generally will support it. I think we may safely leave this water question on the fields in the hands of private enterprise. So long as people gather together in large numbers, in any spot, you may depend upon it that, if water has to be sold and will fetch money, men of enterprise will find it. It has happened before, and it is happening now, and there is no reason to suppose it will not happen in the future. We do not want all our spare cash and all we can borrow spent in one particular locality, and in one particular direction.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: I desire to make one remark in reference to this question of boring at Coolgardie. I would just like to intimate to the Government, if they are not aware of it, that a company is now in course of creation—I may say, at any rate, steps have been taken to form a company—to bring into this country the most perfect boring apparatus that the world possesses—a machine that has been used most successfully in America for boring for oil and also for water; and the gentleman who represents this company is now in Perth. If it is proposed to give facilities to private enterprise, a company like this will do it more quickly and do it at their own cost, and will test the country as we desire to have it tested, without falling back upon the limited funds of the State. A good deal was said on a former occasion upon the question of water rights in connection with these goldfields, but I believe the department which has charge of this question of water supply has never yet comprehended what is desired by those people who want water rights. A good deal was said about their wanting hundreds and thousands of acres, but I think that is a mistake. I have had a conversation with gentlemen who particularly desire, at their own cost and with the most effective machinery, to test this question of an artesian water supply, and what they want is this, and I desire the Government to take particular notice of it: they expect to tap artesian water, and that if they do so

the supply will be of such a volume that they won't be able to shut it off, and the water will necessarily run away and find its own level, and take its own course, as in other parts of the world; and what is required is that when this water is found, whether it be at 1,000 ft. or 3,000 ft. they shall have the right to charge for it, over a considerable area or distance from the bore. They do not require a pre-emptive right over a large area of country; they simply require the right to charge for this water in any direction in which it may travel from the bore.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): They have never put that forward.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: I put it before the Government now.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): They all want a large area—a thousand acres some of them.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: That is not what they mean. They just want what I have said. If a man is disposed to go down 2,000ft. or 3,000ft. to find water, he wants to be sure that the Government will not be so unjust as to give another man the right to dispose of the water, or to put down another bore, within a reasonable area from where he has found it. What is wanted is that when this water is found, they shall have the right to charge for it, and have some control over it as it flows away. Members will see at a glance that no company will go to the expense of obtaining the necessary machinery and spending a couple of thousand pounds in testing for water, if when the water is discovered and it runs about in all directions they have no power to charge for it. That is what this particular company requires, and that is what was required by a company that made application to the Government for water rights before.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): They wanted a thousand acres; so I understood.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Then they did not make themselves rightly understood. What they required is what I have stated. If the Government will only make some provision giving them certain water rights which will give them absolute control over the water which comes out of the bore, when it is running about in all directions, they will have no difficulty whatever in finding companies prepared

to test the question at their own expense. I ask the House seriously to consider is it wise that we should continue to spend public money in putting down bores at Coolgardie when there are plenty of companies, with more efficient machinery than the Government can provide, prepared to go on the ground and do the work at their own cost?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): They won't do it.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: It is all very well to say that. That is the difficulty with the Government; the moment a suggestion is made, up gets the Premier and says "They won't do it," or "They want thousands of acres reserved." They want nothing of the sort. I say so distinctly. The Government must have misunderstood their application.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Surely to goodness, I ought to know better than you.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: They want the right to the surface water, that's all.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Who are they? The hon. member is making a statement which is not correct. I do not know of any case where an applicant offered to sink for water unless he had a large area reserved as well. Who is the hon. member referring to?

MR. ILLINGWORTH: You have not got the application yet. I said a company was in process of formation, and the Government will receive their application.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I understood you to say they had made an application.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: I said the company was being formed.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Let them put forward their application.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: That is exactly what they intend doing, and I hope their application will receive proper consideration from the Government, which has not been the case hitherto. There are hundreds of men at Coolgardie who know that proper consideration has not been given to this water question by the Government.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): That is only a general statement.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: If I make a definite statement, you will call for proof, and we shall want another week to settle the matter. I ask this House to consider—if what I have stated is correct, that an

efficient company with efficient machinery is prepared at their own expense to put down a bore at Coolgardie—whether this House desires the Government to prevent that company from doing it, by putting down a bore at public expense? I think not. So much for Coolgardie. I do not want to be personal and to refer to my own district, but I may say that there is great cause for complaint because nearly all the money voted for the development of goldfields has been spent, to a very large extent, in one direction. Of course we know we have at last got the telegraph, which we ought to have had two years ago; but, according to the return laid on the table, it appears that while there has been £35,000 spent in connection with water supply for Coolgardie, only £547 was spent in connection with the water supply for the Murchison goldfields.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): You know that is wrong. One well alone cost £2,000.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: I am taking the figures in the return. Happily we do not want such a large expenditure upon water supply as the Eastern goldfields, but there is an enormous difference in the expenditure in the two districts. Not only that, the Government have taken possession of three wells belonging to one squatter, who has made application for compensation, but the Government have not even had the courtesy to reply to his application. The Premier says the figures I have quoted are wrong. I say they are the figures given in the official return laid on the table the other evening, and I cannot accept from the Premier or anyone else a contradiction by word of mouth of a return laid on the table of the House only a few evenings ago. According to that return the expenditure at the Murchison has been £547, as against £35,000 at Coolgardie.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I know that very much more than that has been spent at the Murchison.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: They are your own figures, in the return laid on the table.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The Cue well alone cost £2,000.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: That was before the dates embraced in these figures. You don't know what your figures refer to. When I make a statement in this

House, I know what I am talking about.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Your statement is very misleading.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: I am not going to accept a statement from the Treasury bench to contradict their own figures. However, this is not the point. I say the House is not justified in continuing this expenditure in connection with the water supply on our Eastern goldfields. The only adverse feeling to the motion is simply in regard to the question of boring. I am most anxious myself that the bore should go down, but there is no necessity for the Government to do it, because in a very short time they will receive applications from other sources to do the work. If they don't, of course they will have to do it themselves. But I am informed that they will shortly receive an application from an efficient company, with an efficient plant, who are prepared to do the work at their own expense; and for that reason I must support the motion before the House.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The return laid on the table relates to the £160,000 voted for the development of goldfields out of the three Loans, of 1891, 1893, and 1894; and for the hon. member to say that only £547 was spent on the Murchison goldfields out of those three votes must be wrong. It cannot but be so, for the Cue well alone cost £2,000.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: That is not what I said.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): What did you say, then? You said that only £547 had been spent on water supply at the Murchison.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: That is according to your return.

MR. HARPER: With regard to the question raised as to whether the resolution intended to cover boring, I may say that I made the resolution as elastic as possible, so that it might not interfere with what I may call legitimate expenditure. As to whether the boring operations should be continued, I know there is a large section of the community who desire that a bore should be put down; and, under this resolution, as worded, if that bore is put down in connection with the discovery of water for railway purposes, this resolution will not interfere

with it. At the same time, if offers to procure water are made by private persons, it will put the Government in a position to avail themselves of these offers by paying a bonus to those who undertake to bore, or something of that kind. Therefore I do not think that any objection need be taken to the resolution on that score. But what I do wish it to cover is not the putting down of one bore, but of a dozen bores, in all directions. The public may not be satisfied with one or two bores, and pressure may be brought upon the Government to continue spending money in this way; and that is why I wish this resolution passed. Considering the enormous cost of these water works, I think the Government should have some expression of opinion from this House that will enable them to resist outside pressure that may be brought to bear upon them in this direction. I do not think the resolution would hamper the Government in any way, but it would be an indication to the mining public that this House does not consider the Government should continue to expend the public funds in providing water for them, when private enterprise is capable of overcoming the difficulty.

MR. COOKWORTHY: After what has fallen from the hon. member for Beverley, I think the motion will strengthen the hands of the Government rather than hamper them. I should say it will be of great use to them in resisting any pressure that may be brought to bear upon them in this direction. The Government will still be at liberty to spend money in securing water for keeping open the roads and for railway purposes; and I think the House is perfectly willing that a certain amount of money should be spent in testing for artesian water on the goldfields, but they would like the work to be done by contract.

Motion put and passed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

CONCURRENCE IN EXPENDITURE OF £50,000 UPON GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

The following Message was received from the Legislative Council:—

Mr. Speaker,

"The Legislative Council acquaints the Legislative Assembly that it has this

"day agreed to the Resolution *re* the expenditure of £50,000 for increasing and extending the water supply on the goldfields, as set forth in the Legislative Assembly's Message No. 49.

"GEO. SHENTON,

"President.

"Legislative Council Chamber, Perth,
"28th November, 1894."

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

AMENDMENT IN THE MEDICAL BILL.

The following Message was received from the Legislative Council:—

Mr. Speaker,

"The Legislative Council acquaints the Legislative Assembly that it has agreed to the amendment made by the Legislative Assembly upon the Legislative Council's amendment in 'The Medical Bill,' and set forth in the Schedule to the Legislative Assembly's Message No. 48.

"GEO. SHENTON,

"President.

"Legislative Council Chamber, Perth,
"28th November, 1894."

PROROGATION.

The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod:—

Mr. Speaker,

"His Excellency the Governor desires the immediate attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Chamber of the Legislative Council."

Accordingly Mr. Speaker, with members of the House, went to attend His Excellency the Governor, when His Excellency was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the following Bills:—

29. "An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue to the Service of the Year ending the last day of June, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament."

30. "An Act to amend the Law relating to Public Elementary Education."

31. "An Act to authorise the closing of portions of certain Streets and Thoroughfares in the Town of Bunbury."

32. "An Act for the Prevention and Cure of Diseases in Vines, Fruit Trees, and other Vegetation."

33. "An Act to authorise the acquisition of Land for certain Public Purposes."

34. "An Act to regulate the Drovers of Travelling Stock."

35. "An Act to establish a Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia; to repeal 'The Poisons Sale Act, 1879,' and to enact other provisions in lieu thereof."

36. "An Act to consolidate the Law relating to Medical Practitioners."

After which His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, as follows:—

"MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE
"GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE
"COUNCIL,—

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
"LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"I have pleasure in releasing you from your labours, which have been prolonged owing to the many important matters you have had to deal with.

"Your approval of the extension of the railway system to the goldfields, and of the policy of the Government with regard to the development of the mineral resources generally, coupled with the encouragement which you have given to the further occupation and settlement of the land, must result in promoting the best interests of the colony.

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
"LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"The Financial position of the colony is satisfactory. The revenue continues to increase, and the expenditure is being kept within reasonable limits.

"I thank you for the liberal supplies you have granted for the use of the Public Service, and I trust the large amount which you have provided for works and other services will result in much benefit.

"MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE
"GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE
"COUNCIL,—

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
"LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"The Loan Bill which you have passed, and which has already been assented to, will enable the Government to proceed with the important railway lines to the chief centres on the Coolgardie and Murchison goldfields, and also with many other works of pressing importance.

"The future of the colony as a large gold-producing country seems to be absolutely assured. The export of gold continues to increase; much attention is being given to the erection of mining machinery; a large amount of foreign capital is being introduced; and there is ample evidence to prove that the development and progress of the goldfields are largely assisting the advancement and general prosperity of the people.

"I now prorogue this Parliament till Wednesday, 27th March next."