

Legislative Assembly,

Monday, 7th December, 1903.

	PAGE
Questions: Railway Servants' Benefit Fund	2476
William Street Bridge	2476
Agricultural Bank Loans	2476
Railways, Chief Mechanical Engineer	2477
Cottesloe Railway Bridge	2477
Railway Refreshment Rooms, Wages	2477
Immigration Arrangements	2477
Rabbit Fence, Materials	2478
Post Office, Cannington	2478
Goldfields Water Supply, Reports Monthly	2478
Bonded Store Site, Kalgoorlie	2478
Railway Labourers' Wages, Eastern Goldfields	2478
Deputy Chairman, Appointment	2479
Motion—The late Speaker, Appreciation and Condolence	2479
Papers ordered: Mr. W. Wilkinson, Greenbills	2479
Bills: Kalgoorlie Roads Board License Validation, second reading, etc.	2479
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs, third reading	2479
University Endowment, third reading	2479
Audit, Council's suggestions and procedure	2480
Roads Act Amendment, Recommittal, third reading	2480
Land Act Amendment (private), third reading	2481
Metropolitan Water and Sewerage, second reading moved	2482
Adjournment of House, division	2483

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

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the MINISTER FOR WORKS: By-laws of Yilgarn and Cue Roads Board Districts.

Ordered, to lie on the table.

QUESTION—RAILWAY SERVANTS' BENEFIT FUND.

MR. DAGLISH asked the Minister for Railways: 1, When was the Railway Servants' Benefit Fund instituted. 2, What amount is now standing to the credit of this fund. 3, What is the qualification for a benefit from the fund. 4, By whom is the fund administered.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, I understand that a Railway Servants' Benefit Society existed in 1887, but that it was dissolved the same year, and the funds in hand divided between the members. So far as the records of the department show, the present Railway Servants' Benefit Fund was started in 1896. 2, £1,387 1s. 3d. 3, 51 Vict., No. 1, section 4, directs that all fines shall be paid to the Railway Servants' Benefit Society. There is, however, no such society in existence at the present time, but negotiations are proceeding with the object of forming a self-supporting

society, fed by contributions from the employees, subsidised by the working railways, and to which the funds accumulated will be handed as a nucleus. Provision will be made for the fund to be controlled by three officers appointed by the Commissioner and nine elected by the men. 4, Pending the formation of the society referred to in No. 3, the Commissioner alone has power to operate on the account. No money has, however, been paid away from the fund since its inception, save in a few cases where fines levied have been afterwards remitted.

QUESTION—WILLIAM STREET BRIDGE.

MR. ATKINS asked the Minister for Railways: 1, If it is intended to allow the present footbridge over the railway at William Street to remain after the completion of the new bridge, as it will be a great benefit to the inhabitants of West and North Perth. If not, why not. 2, If convenient arrangements are to be made for the inhabitants of North and West Perth to get to and from the North side of William Street to the railway platform, and to procure tickets, without going up on the new bridge or round by Wellington Street.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, The question is under consideration, but the removal of the present footbridge is considered necessary to enable suitable platform accommodation to be made and to allow for the rearrangement of the railway lines and sidings to meet the increasing traffic. 2, Provision is made for access from the new bridge to the Railway Station and for tickets to be issued and collected on the bridge. This, it is considered, will be satisfactory to the travelling public; but, if it should be found necessary, every consideration will be given in reference to additional means of access and egress.

QUESTION—AGRICULTURAL BANK LOANS.

MR. PIGOTT (for Hon. F. H. Piesse) asked the Minister for Lands: What balance is available from the moneys set apart for the purpose of providing loans under the Agricultural Bank Act, after making provision for all existing obligations.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: The balance available after providing for existing obligations is approximately £40,713.

QUESTION--RAILWAYS, CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER.

MR. HASTIE asked the Minister for Railways: 1, If the position of Chief Mechanical Engineer has been filled yet. 2, If not, when he expects the appointment to be made. 3, What steps have been taken to get a suitable man for the position.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: No. Arrangements for carrying on the work have been made by means of acting appointments, which are working satisfactorily. The question of appointing a permanent head will receive serious consideration, and, if necessary, applications will be invited throughout the railway world.

QUESTION--COTTESLOE RAILWAY BRIDGE.

MR. HASTIE asked the Minister for Railways: 1, The original cost of the overhead bridge at the Cottesloe railway station. 2, Who was responsible for its erection. 3, Why it was pulled down. 4, The estimated cost of pulling it down and re-erecting it on the new site.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Total cost of bridge and approaches, £1,999 9s. 11d. 2, The Government of the day, on the urgent representation of residents at Cottesloe. 3, Because there was no local authority which would become responsible for the up-keep, and the bridge was considered to be unsafe. 4, (a) £115; (b) As only a portion of it will be used at present it is impossible to give the cost of re-erection. The material will be used as opportunity arises for different work in connection with the railways.

QUESTION--RAILWAY REFRESHMENT ROOMS, WAGES.

MR. HASTIE asked the Minister for Railways: 1, If he is aware that the women who attend to the waiting rooms on the Perth Railway Station have had their wages reduced from 30s. per week to 20s., and that although they have to

work 14 hours on alternate Sundays, the department now refuses to pay them for working on Sundays. 2, If he will lay on the table of the House the papers in connection with this matter.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, The Industrial Agreement provides for varying rates of pay for the work in question, and the amount of remuneration is fixed by the head of the branch. It is considered that the rate of pay, namely, 20s. per week, is ample for the slight duties which have to be performed. The rate formerly paid was more of a compassionate allowance, having regard to the employees, who were usually widows of former employees. Other arrangements are under consideration at the present time to deal with the charitable aspect of any case. 2, Yes.

QUESTION--IMMIGRATION ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. HASTIE asked the Minister for Lands: 1, If he has entered into any arrangements with the Salvation Army or with any other organisation in Great Britain, for the purpose of assisting immigrants to come into this State. 2, If so, what are the conditions. 3, If the House will be given an opportunity of discussing the matter before definite arrangements are completed.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, No. 2, The proposal thrown out for public criticism is as follows, viz.:—To pay a commission to any approved organisation securing suitable immigrants with farming experience and funds sufficient to enable them to select land on their arrival whereon actual personal residence is obligatory for a period of six months before the commission stipulated is due and payable. A person is not eligible unless possessed of adequate funds to insure his own unaided and successful settlement on the land. The proposed commissions payable on fulfilment of the contract are:—Single men, £2 per head; married men, £3; married men with three children, £5. It has always been the custom to pay half the passage money of immigrants nominated at the office of the Agent General, London. 3, Publicity has been given in order that members of the House and the Press may express their opinions.

**QUESTION—RABBIT FENCE,
MATERIALS.**

MR. WALLACE asked the Minister for Lands: 1, If he is aware that Afghan or other alien labour is employed in carrying the material from Mt. Magnet Railway Station for the erection of the rabbit-proof fence. 2, If not, will he make inquiries to ascertain if such is correct, and, if it be so, will he take prompt action to stop the practice of employing these aliens on public works. 3, If he is aware that there are numbers of white carriers in that locality idle who would undertake this work.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, No. The Agricultural Department delivers netting at railway stations as required by contractors. Its removal to line of fence is not controlled by the department. 2, Answered by No. 1. 3, No; but if such is the case, I will bring same under the notice of the contractor interested.

QUESTION—POST OFFICE, CANNINGTON.

MR. HIGHAM (for Mr. Gordon) asked the Minister for Works: 1, If the contractor for the post office at Cannington has completed the work. 2, If not, by what date is it to be completed. 3, When the Government propose to hand same over to the Commonwealth.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, 2, 3, This is a matter which concerns the Commonwealth alone; but, as a matter of fact, the building is completed.

**QUESTION—GOLDFIELDS WATER
SUPPLY, REPORTS MONTHLY.**

MR. JOHNSON asked the Minister for Works: 1, The quantity of water consumed from the goldfields Water Scheme per month since its completion. 2, The value of same. 3, If he will in future cause a monthly statement to be published, giving the consumption and value.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, The whole of the supplementary works are only now reaching completion, but from 1st July, the period at which I was in a position to strike a rate on portion of the goldfields, the sales have been as follows:—July, 11,936,000 gal-

lons; August, 14,287,000; September, 17,148,000; October, 26,498,000; November, 32,686,000. 2, With this output the following revenue was earned:—July, £3,145; August, £7,517; September, £5,917; October, £8,718; November, £8,263. Total to November 30th, £33,560. 3, Will have consideration. With regard to No. 3, I may explain that these figures seem rather contradictory; but hon. members will understand that it is revenue actually received during the month I am giving, though some portion of it may have been earned in the previous month.

**QUESTION—BONDED STORE SITE,
KALGOORLIE.**

MR. JOHNSON asked the Minister for Works: 1, If the Government will agree to the resumption of half of Forrest street, Kalgoorlie, in return for a site for a Bonded Store in the railway yard. 2, If so, when the land will be available for building operations.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: The matter would be reconsidered by the Government in the form indicated in the question, and probably some mutually satisfactory arrangement would be arrived at.

**QUESTION—RAILWAY LABOURERS'
WAGES, EASTERN GOLDFIELDS.**

MR. JOHNSON asked the Minister for Works: 1, If the Railway Department has any recognised minimum wage which is to be paid to casual labourers on the Eastern Goldfields. 2, If not, will he instruct his officers to pay the wages which the Arbitration Court decided should be paid to this class of labour by the mining companies, namely, 10s. per day. 3, If he is aware that the locomotive foreman in Kalgoorlie, taking advantage of the number of unemployed, has paid men as low as 7s. per day.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Yes; 7s. per day for the first four weeks, and 8s. per day thereafter if work is satisfactory. 2, These wages are in accordance with the Industrial Agreement registered on the 22nd August, 1903. 3, Men have been paid 7s. per day, but there has been no advantage taken of the men, who knew the rate of pay before engaging.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, APPOINTMENT.

THE SPEAKER: In consequence of a vacancy having occurred in the Deputy Chairmanship of Committees, I have found it necessary to nominate another member to fill the position. Therefore I have nominated the member for Claremont (Mr. Foulkes), who has consented to act.

MOTION—THE LATE SPEAKER, APPRECIATION AND CONDOLENCE.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Walter James) moved:

That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the long and distinguished public services rendered to this State by the late Speaker, the Hon. Sir James Lee Steere, K.C.M.G., and to express its deepest sympathy with Lady Lee Steere in the irreparable loss which she and her family have sustained by his decease. That Mr. Speaker be requested to forward the foregoing resolution to Lady Lee Steere.

He said: When the Clerk Assistant last week announced the death of our late Speaker, I endeavoured to express the estimation in which members of this House held our late Speaker, and the estimation in which I believe the State held him. I do not propose to add to those words now, but content myself in simply moving this motion, because I am satisfied that every member will agree with the motion, and agree with the desirability of placing on record an expression of our sympathy with Lady Lee Steere and the family of our late Speaker in the loss they have sustained by the death of Sir James Lee Steere.

MR. S. C. PIGOTT (West Kimberley): I second the motion.

Question passed.

PAPERS—MR. W. WILKINSON, GREENHILLS.

On motion by **MR. BURGESS**, ordered: That the correspondence that has passed between William Wilkinson, of Greenhills, York, and the Hon. the Premier, be laid upon the table of the House.

KALGOORLIE ROADS BOARD LICENSE VALIDATION BILL.

SECOND READING.

MR. W. B. JOHNSON (Kalgoorlie) said: In the absence of the member for

Hannans (Mr. Bath), who is away on urgent private business, I move the second reading of this Bill. The Bill is simply one to validate some agreement entered into by the roads board with the Electric Power Company in Kalgoorlie. I do not think it is necessary to go into details. A select committee considered the Bill, and I think reported favourably on it.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Walter James): As members no doubt are aware, there is an electric power company in Kalgoorlie, and to be enabled to distribute this power the company had to erect poles for the purpose of carrying wires. The company made an arrangement with the Kalgoorlie Roads Board to obtain a concession from the board, and erected the poles and wires; but it subsequently transpired that the roads board had no power to grant that right, and this is a Bill introduced to validate the agreement. The measure has been before a committee, and members have the report of that committee before them, which is in favour of the Bill without amendment.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE, ETC.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

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

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS BILL.

THE PREMIER moved that the Bill be read a third time.

MR. J. J. HIGHAM (Fremantle): This Bill was introduced for the benefit of agriculturists, and he did not think that Clause 8 should apply to such an infinitesimal quantity of fertilisers as half a hundredweight. The minimum should be two hundredweight, if not a quarter of a ton.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time, and returned to the Legislative Council with amendments.

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT BILL.

Read a third time, and returned to the Legislative Council with amendments.

AUDIT BILL.

COUNCIL'S SUGGESTIONS AND PROCEDURE.

THE PREMIER brought up reasons, prepared by a committee, for not agreeing to the second set of amendments suggested by the Legislative Council.

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

ROADS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

RECOMMITTAL.

On motion by MR. JACOBY, Bill recommended for amendment.

MR. ILLINGWORTH in the Chair; the Minister for Works in charge.

Clause 4—Amendment of Section 25:

MR. JACOBY moved as an amendment

That all the words after "arises," in line 37, be struck out, and "are paid" be inserted in lieu. All rates had to be paid before the 30th November, but there was no reason why an elector should be deprived of his vote if he paid his rates a day before the election. Unless a man paid his rates a considerable time before the date of election, he would not be allowed to vote, and one of the greatest levers roads boards had at the present time, when there was a contest, in getting in a large number of small rates, was the desire of ratepayers to vote. It had been found by experience that just before election time a considerable number of small amounts were paid up so as to entitle the ratepayers to vote. As the present system was found to be satisfactory, there could be no objection on the part of the Minister to agree to the amendment.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: The effect of the amendment would be to render it capable for a person to pay his rates up to the day of election. The Bill provided that on or before the 1st day of January in every year the board should make out a list of all persons entitled to vote, and after the year 1903 the elections were to be held on the third Thursday in March in every year. That being so, November was a fair margin of time to allow. If ratepayers were qualified to vote by paying their rates on the day of election, their names would not be on the roll, and how could it be ascertained at the various polling booths whether a man had paid his rates or not?

MR. STONE: He would have a receipt.

THE MINISTER: There would not be the name on the roll in the first place,

and it was probable a man would claim his vote although not having a receipt with him.

MR. JACOBY: Then he could not get his vote.

THE MINISTER: The fact of a man having paid his rates would entitle him to vote if the amendment were passed. There was nothing about the production of a receipt, and if a man had paid his rates and was refused a vote, he would think he had been hardly dealt with. Such an amendment would disturb the whole Bill. A man's name must be on the voters' list to entitle him to vote, and the list had to be made out in the first week in January; therefore the last day of November was a fair time to allow. It was to be hoped the hon. member would not press his amendment. The matter had been looked into carefully, and had been found to be impracticable.

MR. STONE: When an owner's name was on the rate-book, whether or not the rates were paid he should be qualified to vote, as the property was ample security for the rates and cost of recovery.

THE PREMIER: Why should he not pay his rates?

MR. STONE: He might not have the money at the time.

MR. BURGESS: Why the difference between the Roads Act and the Municipalities Act? By the latter the ratepayer could not be struck off at the end of the year if he had paid rates till September; but by the former he could be struck off if he had not paid up to November, though the elections were not held till March. "November" should be altered, as it was evidently an error.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	15
Noes	...	...	...	15
				—
A tie	...	...	...	0

AYES.

Mr. Atkins
Mr. Connor
Mr. Daglish
Mr. Hastie
Mr. Jacoby
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Moran
Mr. Nanson
Mr. Pigott
Mr. Purkiss
Mr. Stone
Mr. Taylor
Mr. Thomas
Mr. Wallace
Mr. Burgess (Teller).

NOES.

Mr. Diamond
Mr. Ewing
Mr. Ferguson
Mr. Foulkes
Mr. Gregory
Mr. Hastie
Mr. Hayward
Mr. Holmes
Mr. Hopkins
Mr. Hutchinson
Mr. Isdell
Mr. James
Mr. Quinlan
Mr. Rason
Mr. Higham (Teller).

THE CHAIRMAN gave his casting vote with the Noes.

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause 16—Liability for rates after sale until notice given:

MR. JACOBY moved as an amendment:—

That the words, "But nothing herein contained shall waive the right of the board to recover such arrears as provided by Section 154 of the principal Act," be added to the clause.

The clause provided that any person selling rateable land must furnish to the board a description of the land, and the name and address of the purchaser. Failing such notice, the vendor would continue liable for unpaid rates. The amendment would make it clear that the board had still a remedy against the land in default of recovering from the vendor, who, if he became a permanent absentee, could not be made personally responsible.

THE PREMIER: The amendment was unnecessary. By Section 154 of the principal Act, if the rates were not paid and no sufficient distress could be found, the board had power to sell the property. The principal Act gave two remedies—the personal remedy against the person who was owner or occupier when the rate was struck, and a charge against the land. Difficulty had arisen because on the strength of a certain person's name on the rate book as owner arrears had been allowed to accumulate, though the *prima facie* owner might have sold the property, and left to the local authority the right to recover on the land merely. Notwithstanding what the member for Greenough (Mr. Stone) said, local authorities did not care to exercise that right, for the process was far too cumbersome and expensive. They preferred to sue the individual. Clause 16 was intended not to limit the rights of the boards, but to give them more extensive powers. The amendment was unnecessary and probably unwise; because by saving the existing right it suggested that by the clause that right was limited, whereas it was extended against the original owner, who, notwithstanding that he transferred the land, remained liable until he gave the required notice.

MR. STONE: Why should a man be held responsible for rates after he had sold his property? If he sold it and left the State, what remedy had the board

against him? The clause was impracticable.

MR. WALLACE: At a previous stage, speaking as representative of the Yalgoo Roads Board, he had pointed out that if the vendor became a permanent absentee the board had no chance of recovering arrears from him, and that the clause was therefore unworkable. The Minister for Works then promised to consider certain amendments which he (Mr. Wallace) submitted. As there seemed to be some necessity for an additional clause, an opportunity should be given for debating the question.

THE PREMIER: The hon. member could withdraw the amendment. If there was any doubt about the matter it could be set right in another place.

MR. JACOBY: The amendment should be carried. If there was anything wrong in it, the matter could be set right in another place.

Amendment put, and (after explanations) a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	14
Noes	...	...	...	14
				—
A tie	...	...	...	0

AYES.		NOES.	
Mr. Atkins		Mr. Burges	
Mr. Connor		Mr. Ewing	
Mr. Daghish		Mr. Ferguson	
Mr. Foulkes		Mr. Hayward	
Mr. Hastie		Mr. Holmes	
Mr. Johnson		Mr. Hopkins	
Mr. Moran		Mr. Hutchinson	
Mr. Nanson		Mr. Isdell	
Mr. Pigott		Mr. James	
Mr. Stone		Mr. McDonald	
Mr. Taylor		Mr. Purkiss	
Mr. Thomas		Mr. Quinlan	
Mr. Wallace		Mr. Rason	
Mr. Jacoby (Teller).		Mr. Higham (Teller).	

THE CHAIRMAN gave his casting vote with the Noes.

Amendment thus negatived.

Bill reported without farther amendment, and the report adopted.

THIRD READING.

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

LAND ACT AMENDMENT BILL (PRIVATE).

SALVATION ARMY SETTLEMENT.

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

METROPOLITAN WATER AND SEWERAGE BILL.

SECOND READING (MOVED).

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. C. H. Rason), in moving the second reading, said: I do not intend at this stage to discuss the clauses of the Bill at length, because, as hon. members will see, this is purely a measure providing the machinery by which any water supply and sewerage scheme must of necessity be carried out, for machinery is necessary no matter how such works may be carried on. I propose at this stage rather to intimate what is the intention of the Government in regard to the sewerage of the metropolitan area, also in regard to the water supply of the metropolitan area. It will be remembered that for many years past the necessity of providing a satisfactory scheme of sewerage for Perth and Fremantle and the towns comprised in what is known as the metropolitan area, has been occupying the public mind. The fact which most strikes the visitor to Western Australia coming from other civilised portions of the world, is the great drawback that undoubtedly exists in our not having a satisfactory scheme of sewage disposal. It weighs very considerably in the balance against us, and to a great extent counteracts the good influence and the marvellous progress we have made in other directions. It is no figure of speech to say that the present primitive method of dealing with sewage is a menace to public health and—there is no other word for it—repugnant to one's senses. It is a wholly unsatisfactory method, and may at any time lead to most serious consequences should there be a serious outbreak of typhoid for instance. In years past the necessity of bringing about a better condition of affairs has been talked about, written about, and discussed in all manner of ways. Various proposals have from time to time been submitted and discussed and allowed to drop, and so the matter has rested until now. I wish to be fair to my predecessors, and perhaps one reason why no active step has so far been taken in this direction is that, according to the knowledge of the people dealing with this matter, or rather according to the knowledge which those in authority then possessed as to the methods

of dealing with sewage, the cost appeared to be so very great as almost to be prohibitive. However, science has advanced in this direction, and not only has scientific knowledge been increased, but the public mind has been educated more and the public have realised more the benefit of scientific knowledge in this respect, until at last it is generally admitted that we have right to our hands and that Nature has itself provided active and willing agents ready to deal effectively with sewage. I of course refer to bacteria. There is one comforting feature and one ray of consolation in dealing with this matter. A scheme was recommended to the Perth City Council in 1899 as being the best, and I have an interesting minute in regard to it which I should like to read to the House. At a special meeting of the Perth City Council re drainage on the 21st November, 1899, a committee consisting of Councillors Molloy (chairman), Draper, Hurst, and Woodward reported:—

Deep Drainage.—A consultation has been held with Mr. C. Y. O'Connor (Engineer-in-Chief) and Mr. T. C. Hodgson (Engineer for Sewerage), with regard to the schemes which have been put forward for the drainage of the city. Mr. O'Connor proposes that the sewage be pumped to the North Beach and discharged into the ocean in say 30 feet of water. He estimates that the drainage of Perth proper, excluding Subiaco, Leederville and some isolated portions of North Perth, could be carried out for £250,000, with an annual expenditure of £13,000. The inclusion of the suburbs at a later date would probably mean an extra expenditure of £120,000. These estimates do not include house connections, and no provision is made for storm waters. It is recommended that the scheme be adopted by the council, provided satisfactory financial arrangements could be made.

I think members will see that this scheme, which was recommended to be adopted, and which dealt with the sewage of Perth only, involved an estimated cost of £250,000. Having gone somewhat carefully into this matter, and having made something approaching a study of it, I find that the figures dealing with other portions of the metropolitan area according to this approved scheme were as follow. You have £250,000 for Perth only; for Fremantle it was estimated the cost would be £105,462; for North Fremantle £18,269, and for the suburbs £120,000, bringing the total cost to £493,731; roughly half

a million of money. If the scheme which the Government advocate now is adopted, dealing with sewage by the bacterial process, the estimated cost of the scheme which is submitted, and which would deal not only with Perth but also portions of North Perth, Subiaco, Leederville, all Fremantle, and portions of East and North Fremantle and Claremont, is £201,520, or, allowing for a large increase of the area comprised within the next, say ten years, and also including Guildford and Midland Junction, an additional provision of £86,250, or a total of, say, £290,000, in round numbers £300,000 as the maximum provision for the large area I have mentioned and to meet the farther requirements of the next ten years. There we have a direct saving of at least £200,000 in the initial outlay alone, and if we were to compare the cost of upkeep the comparison would be even more striking. I would like to mention here that the figures I have given are contained in a report by the Engineer-in-Chief and by Mr. Davies, an engineer the Government obtained from New South Wales. It was in October of 1901 that the present Engineer-in-Chief, who was then Engineer for the Metropolitan Sewerage and Water Supply, drew attention to the bacterial system of treating sewage, and urged that an experiment might be made in Perth. He was very anxious to demonstrate the suitability of this scheme to the climate and conditions of Western Australia, and at last it was decided to instal a septic tank to deal with the sewage of Government House. That installation was commenced in February of 1902, soon after I took office, and was completed in April. The record of that experiment proves conclusively that this system of treating the sewage is eminently adapted to the requirements of Western Australia. There is a report of analyses made by Dr. Black of the effluent and filtrate of the Government House installation. It will be found on page 30 of that report placed before members. Dr. Black says:—

The sewage is of an exceptionally high strength, far higher than would usually be found in a town sewage. It would seem, therefore, that a very strong sewage is not unfavourable to a high percentage of purification. A high percentage may still, however, give an undesirably large residuum,

such as might be sufficient to give rise to decomposition in the filtrates. The residue here left, however, has been compared with the results obtained in large installations in England, and is distinctly better, while the filtrates after keeping for nine days show no sign of decomposition, and have none but a slight earthy smell. And it is certain, therefore, that the filtrates can be turned into storm water drains or the Swan River without detriment.

Possibly I cannot demonstrate this fact better to the House than by displaying here this bottle with its contents. This is effluent from the septic tank at Government House, and it has been in the bottle now for 18 months. [MR. NANSON: Would you drink it?] I should not care to do so, but one might do so without bad result. Members will see it is perfectly clear and quite odourless, and will agree with me that we need have no hesitation in turning an effluent from a septic tank such as that into the Swan River or into the drains in the city. One peculiar fact worth mentioning in regard to this effluent is that not only is it absolutely nonputrescent itself, but it has this striking feature, that if it be turned into water likely to be putrescent, it will render that water nonputrescent also; so that if this system of sewage disposal be adopted the result will be, in the summer time for instance, that this effluent can be used for flushing the drains of the city, and if there be any putrefying matter in those drains this will render it nonputrescent also. I have demonstrated, not perhaps at great length, for the subject is not a very pleasant one, that it is possible to deal with the sewage of Perth by the bacterial process, and to do so effectively far better than by any other known means, and at far less cost than that which would be entailed by any other system. I have shown that, compared with all previously recommended systems, we should save at least an initial outlay of £200,000, and I shall demonstrate, I hope as we proceed, that as it would have cost half a million to drain the metropolitan area before, under the then known scheme, it will now be possible for the same sum of money to effectively drain the whole of the area and give it a thoroughly good water supply as well for the same money. [Interjection by Mr. JACOBY.] The

effluent would practically destroy everything. The residuum would be a mere trifle, and the tank would not require cleaning out more than once in a few years; then the residuum would be merely a powder, and perfectly odourless and unobjectionable.

MR. HAYWARD: Would not solid matter be there?

THE MINISTER: Only a very small portion indeed. It will therefore be seen that the Government propose to recommend the adoption of the septic tank system, or rather the bacterial system of treating sewage, for dealing with the sewage of the metropolitan area. As to the water supply, that question, although important no doubt, has not pressed itself so much upon the attention of people, because there is a water supply of a sort existing already, whereas there is no sort of system of dealing with sewage. The water supply has not been regarded as wholly satisfactory, and no doubt it is capable of improvement. The first necessity to my mind, at all events in regard to Perth, is to augment the supply and to reduce the cost, and I have no hesitation in saying that if the scheme recommended be adopted the cost can be reduced by at least one-third, and the quantity of water available can be very considerably augmented.

MR. STONE: Who is to bear the cost, the town or the city?

THE MINISTER: I will tell you directly, if you will allow me. In regard both to the question of sewerage and that of water supply the Government had information at their hands with which they were quite satisfied in the report and recommendations of the Engineer-in-Chief, who is an admitted authority on questions of this nature; but the matter was so important and there was such a large issue at stake that it was thought advisable to have that opinion confirmed if possible by another engineer of repute; so we borrowed from the New South Wales Government the services of Mr. Davies, himself an engineer of considerable standing and an authority upon water supply and sewerage. I am very glad indeed to be able to say in regard to both these questions that Mr. Davies confirms on all matters of principle the recommendations of the Engineer-in-Chief. That being so, when we

have the opinion of two well-qualified professional men, it is somewhat idle to set against them the opinions of less qualified men. Members will agree with me that there are probably more engineers to the square inch in Western Australia than in any other country of the world. We meet them at every opportunity, and on every occasion. I submit with regard to this particular matter that it is advisable to carry out the recommendations of two engineers such as those I have referred to, who are well qualified to give an opinion. Their recommendation is that for the present the water supply of Perth shall be augmented from artesian sources, and that as time goes on, if that is not satisfactory or not sufficient, then the supply may be increased by an additional reservoir at the Canning. There is a great amount of prejudice existing against artesian water, but that prejudice is, I submit with all respect, wholly unfounded, and is not borne out by the opinion of modern scientists. In every other country people are going to very great expense and trouble to endeavour to obtain artesian water. It is recognised that water from artesian sources, all other things being equal, is far preferable to any water from a surface catchment. It is sometimes said that the water from the existing bores is not satisfactory. Here is a peculiar fact that I will ask members to take seriously into consideration. Analyses of different waters from various bores and from the Victoria Reservoir were submitted to Mr. Avery, analyst to the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works, who was asked on those analyses to place the different waters in their order of merit. He says:—

No. 1, Leoderville.—This water is the best; it is soft, shows the smallest amount of calcium and magnesium salts, and iron is present only in small amount.

There you have a bore water placed in front of surface catchment water in its appearance and chemical analysis alone, having no regard to contamination or bacteriological analysis. I wish if possible to impress on the House that this prejudice against artesian water is ill-founded, and really has no justification. I want, if members will permit me, to give an instance of what is done at Kiel, and Keil, as members know, is a German

naval station. In 1893—I have not been able to get the figures later than that, and this report I am quoting from is dated 1893—the population of Keil was 69,000, so it is a fairly large town. I am quoting now from minutes of the proceedings of the civil engineers which contain a paper by Professor Bernhard Fischer, and speaking of Keil he says:—

The author points out that the prevalence of the recent cholera epidemic has emphasised the importance of obtaining a water supply which shall be in all cases absolutely free from disease germs. He shows the nature of the attempts made in the past to attain these results, and he maintains that the failure, in certain named instances, of careful sand-filtration to remove cholera-bacilli has proved that artificial filtration cannot compete with the process as carried out by Nature herself in the case of water passing through the soil. The difficulty of obtaining an adequate supply of water from the subsoil has been successfully overcome in recent times in the works for several of the larger cities, and now that the possibility of freeing such water from iron has been demonstrated, the objections hitherto urged against supplies of this character cease to have any weight. A short account of the water service of Kiel, which furnishes a case in point, may be of use at the present time, partly because it presents also a series of careful experiments extending over a considerable period, and partly because it illustrates the behaviour of the iron in the water and its successful elimination by artificial treatment. Kiel, situated at the southern extremity of a land-locked bay, and having a population of about 70,000 persons, is supplied with subsoil water conveyed in two separate services; the one having works situated at Gaarden, and has been in operation since 1880, and derives its water from 17 shallow wells, stoned round and sunk to a depth of from 19'6 to 26'2 feet. These wells vary in diameter from 5ft. to 6ft. 6in., and they are situated in a district not under cultivation, and to which the public have no access. They are all covered over at the top, and the stoning, which is carried up some 3ft. above the level of the ground, is rendered as respects the upper portion as far as possible impervious to percolation.

This is a point which I wish to impress on members, an abundant supply of fresh surface water three miles from the town.

The second supply is taken from the neighbourhood of the Schulensee, a fresh-water lake.

This is interesting, because the water so obtained from that artesian source compares very strongly with the water obtained here, containing small quantities of iron. That is the case of a large town where they have an abundant supply of fresh water but they prefer the bore

water, and the bore actually passes through that surface supply to obtain the artesian water, and they prefer to use it, although it contains a quantity of iron, in preference to the surface catchment water. I have no wish whatever to figure as an alarmist; I do not want members to think that they are running any considerable danger in drinking surface water, but I should like to give them the opinion of a German professor, Dr. Max Gruber. He says:—

It is true that in many cases it is extremely easy to arrive at such an opinion, as for instance when the water is procured from rivers, lakes, or open wells, which are all of them exposed to possible pollution, and thus cannot be preserved from contamination. Such water should, therefore, never be employed without special cleansing, even if the chemical and other tests indicate its absolute purity for the time being.

Members may not be aware that it has been urged over and over again by professional gentlemen in this State, Dr. Blackburne and Mr. Mann, that water from the Canning reservoir should not be used without first being filtered; and the filtration in the meaning of these gentlemen certainly does not consist of the filtration which goes on to-day, when they say that the water from the Victoria reservoir should not be used without being filtered. Dr. Blackburne in his report of the 29th October—

MR. STONE: Is that the doctor who reported on swine fever?

THE MINISTER: I am not sure, but I expect it is.

MR. STONE: He was not much of an authority on that.

THE MINISTER: I am quoting him as an analyst. Dr. Blackburne says:—

The water from these bores corresponds to the artesian waters from the London Basin, which "contain much ammonia and chlorine," and are wholesome, and yield little albuminoid ammonia, and consume little oxygen from permanganate."

This is from the English Rivers Pollution Commission, which says:—

Preference should always be given to a spring and deep well-water for purely domestic purposes—

By deep well-water they mean what we mean here as bore water. They only speak of bore water in England as deep well-water—

even over upland surface waters, not only on account of the much greater intrinsic chemical

purity and palatability of these waters, but also because their physical properties render them peculiarly valuable for domestic supply. What I want to impress on members is that, given an artesian water, you have at the commencement a water which is sterile; it is absolutely free from any bacteria or any organic germs. What members have to ask, and what the public have to put to themselves in every case is this, whether they would prefer to drink water that has just a few grains of salt, far less salt than one takes of one's own free will at every meal; whether they prefer to take water with a few grains of salt in it, or water which contains sufficient bacteria under ordinary circumstances to destroy a whole regiment. One of the objections to bore water amounts to this, that people speak of it as containing an excessive quantity of chloride of sodium. If one said it had a little "salt" in it, people would think nothing of that. There has been a bacteriological examination of the water from the Victoria reservoir, the water from the hills, and Dr. Blackburne says:

The bacteriological examination last year gave an average for this water of about 50 bacteria per CC, of which about 14 per cent. were liquifying.

Members know there are two kinds of bacteria, one harmless, and one class of bacteria of decomposition liquified. It is the bacteria of decomposition liquified he refers to. The water contains 50 per cent. of bacteria per centimetre. Continuing he says:—

Comparing this with the above-mentioned standard would give "pure" water, especially as I was unable to isolate any organism which might have relation to putrefactive process or sewerage. . . . Investigations this year give about 35 and 18. As I am only just now engaged in examining for special bacteria, I am not in a position to pronounce on that point for this year. . . . In my opinion it is rather more than probable that a typhoid or cholera bacillus would survive the journey from the head of the catchment area to any service pipe here. . . . From all these considerations I think the questions can now be answered as follow:—1, (a.) The artesian water available is suitable both for drinking and town purposes; (b) water from catchment area is only quite suitable after treatment. 2, Comparing the two, I am of opinion that the artesian water is of higher value than the surface water for drinking purposes, though there does not seem to be much difference for town purposes.

MR. MORAN: They are always mixed.

THE MINISTER: They are mixed at present.

MR. MORAN: I suppose this shandygaff contains all the virtues and vices of both.

THE MINISTER: Some bore water is being used with the surface catchment water. Let us take the experience of Fremantle. There is an artesian supply there. At first it was not satisfactory: there was no complaint as to quality, but a great deal of complaint as to the appearance of it. It contains that iron which is present in the water at Kiel, but the discoloration has been got rid of and there have been no complaints from Fremantle for a long time past, and undoubtedly both from a chemical analysis and bacteriological analysis the Fremantle water is one of the best waters in Australia to-day.

MR. WALLACE: What about the shipping, do they use it?

THE MINISTER: All the shipping, except I think the P. & O. Co., use this water. We know the P. & O. Co. are a most conservative institution, and probably they are not aware that good water is obtainable at Fremantle. One of these days they will find it out, and I have no hesitation in saying they will gladly avail themselves of it. Therefore what is proposed, and recommended, and supported on the very best authority is that it would be advisable to increase the present supply for Perth by means of artesian water, by putting down another bore or two. I am confident, and I have no hesitation in saying that by these means a good supply of water can be obtained in Perth; and if it can be supplied at one-third less than the present cost, at least it will be much more satisfactory from every standpoint than the water supplied to-day. The existing supply at Fremantle is quite sufficient to provide for the needs of Fremantle for some time to come. There is a bore at Claremont giving a very satisfactory supply for Claremont, Peppermint Grove, Cottesloe, and Cottesloe Beach. Another bore will have to be put down at Midland Junction, and by these means we shall supply all the requirements in the metropolitan area for some considerable time, and supply the increased quantity for Perth more expeditiously than by any other means; it will be perfectly sufficient and the result more satisfactory also. The cost of providing a sewerage scheme,

a water supply, and a storm-water drainage scheme will for the present approximate as follows: for sewerage, £212,000; for storm-water drainage, £102,000; and for water supply, £130,000—a total of £444,000. Let us say £500,000; and that sum is exactly what would have been the cost a few years ago of a drainage system alone.

MR. JACOBY: What area is covered by these estimates?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: The sewerage estimate is £212,000 for the whole metropolitan area except Guildford and Midland Junction; and to meet all requirements for the next five years we shall have to add to that about £85,000, inclusive of Guildford and Midland Junction. The total of £444,000 is for present requirements in respect of sewerage, storm-water drainage, and water supply for the whole metropolitan area except Guildford and Midland Junction; and for the next ten years all requirements of that area, inclusive of Guildford and Midland Junction, will be met by an additional expenditure of £244,000, or a rough total of ultimately three-quarters of a million of money. In that sum may be included additional surface catchment. No doubt members will agree that it is better for me to state the intentions of the Government with regard to the three matters of sewerage, water supply, and storm-water drainage, rather than at this stage to discuss the mere details of the Bill itself. The machinery clauses are taken from other Acts, not without much care and trouble. I have sought information from all the other States and New Zealand. They have very kindly given me whatever information was in their power; and I have had long letters from all the Ministers concerned, with copies of their Acts. They have given me sound recommendations and good advice, which in many instances have been availed of and are embodied in the Bill. The main features of the measure are that it will come into force on a day to be fixed by proclamation. When it does come into force, members will perceive that by Clause 5, on the commencement of the Act and the appointment of the board the Metropolitan Water Works Board shall cease to exist; and the water works described in the second schedule—that is, all the existing water works

of whatever description within the metropolitan area—will be vested in a new board to be appointed. By Clause 8 the Governor may, from time to time, appoint three persons who shall constitute a board by the name of the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, which board shall be the authority empowered to carry the Act into execution. It may be thought that even at the outset it would be preferable to have an elected board; but that is not so, as is proved by actual experience. I find that in the vast majority of cases, at all events at the outset, such boards are nominated; and I should like to point out that the work of sewerage, at all events, must of necessity be carried out in the first instance by the Public Works Department, until we can demonstrate how the work should be done. It is most important that work of that kind shall not be skimmed; that it shall be truly and faithfully done, rather than skimmed over with a desire to make a profit; so until it has been demonstrated how the work should be done, it will have to be carried out by Government officers, therefore it is just as well that at first the board should be nominated, and afterwards it may perhaps be found desirable to have a board partly nominated and partly elected. The constitution of such a board from the outset was the first idea of the Government; but, after mature consideration, Ministers determined that the plan would not work well, so in the initial stages, if not permanently, there will be a nominated board, which will take over from the existing Metropolitan Water Works Board all its assets and all its liabilities. The new board will have power to issue debentures. All the property, debts, and liabilities of the Metropolitan Water Works Board shall on the constitution of the board under this Bill, by force of the Bill alone be transferred to and become the property, debts, and liabilities of the new board. The board will have power to issue debentures, which must carry a sinking fund. By Clause 136—

Before raising any loan, the board shall make provision for the repayment thereof by the creation of a sinking fund; and for such purposes may, with the approval of the Governor, permanently appropriate any part of the revenues of the board.

The interests of the debenture-holders

are in every way safeguarded; and members will perceive as the Bill goes through Committee how carefully it has been drafted. I do not know that at this stage I can say more. If the Bill passes, as I hope it will, the first step will be to appoint a board under the Act; and the board will then have power to issue debentures for the purpose of raising money to construct these very necessary works.

MR. MORAN: Do you not propose first to carry out the works as a Government scheme, and then to issue debentures?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: As the work proceeds, the board will pay to the Government the cost of the work. The Government should not have to go to the market to borrow money for what is after all a purely municipal undertaking.

MR. MORAN: I suppose the Government will guarantee the loans.

THE MINISTER: The proposal in the Bill is practically the same thing. Still, it is much preferable that the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, rather than the Government, should go to the market. As I say, we shall first appoint a board; the board to raise whatever money is required for the new work, on debentures, and to give debentures to the Treasurer also for the work already carried out. By that system work can be immediately proceeded with, especially the work of sewerage; and I can assure the House that although the sewerage of Melbourne was commenced in 1896, yet if this Bill passes and the Public Works Department are given liberty to go on with the work, the sewerage of our metropolitan area will be completed before the Melbourne scheme is completed. I believe and can say with confidence, that within twelve months from the date on which we are instructed to proceed with the work, we can have the greater portion of the metropolitan area well and efficiently sewered. I beg leave to move the second reading.

On motion by **MR. MORAN**, debate adjourned until the next Wednesday.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Walter James): In moving on Thursday last that the House should for the remainder of the session

meet on Mondays and Fridays, including to-day, he had overlooked a function at which he believed the great majority of members, if not members and their wives, desired to attend this evening. Had he borne that in mind he would not have asked the House to sit to-day. He understood that many members desired to adjourn now; and he shared the feeling, particularly as we had never had an opportunity of meeting in our own premises the Federal Judges. He threw himself on the indulgence of the House; and if any members objected to adjourning till 2:30 to-morrow, he would accept the full responsibility. He moved that the House do now adjourn.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	16
Noes	...	...	...	12
				—
Majority for ...				4

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Atkins	Mr. Burgess
Mr. Diamond	Mr. Daghish
Mr. Ewing	Mr. Hastie
Mr. Ferguson	Mr. Holman
Mr. Foulkes	Mr. Holmes
Mr. Hayward	Mr. Jacoby
Mr. Hopkins	Mr. Johnson
Mr. Illingworth	Mr. Nanson
Mr. Isdell	Mr. Stone
Mr. James	Mr. Taylor
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Wallace
Mr. Moran	Mr. Thomas (Teller).
Mr. Pigott	
Mr. Purkiss	
Mr. Rason	
Mr. Higham (Teller).	

Question thus passed.

The House adjourned accordingly at 6:32 o'clock until the next day.