

the Provisional Order would hold good as against the original Act.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at seven minutes past 6 o'clock, until the next Tuesday.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 26th November, 1907.

	Page
Questions: Railway Haulage for Repairs, Midland Co.	976
Advertising in Newspapers	976
Railways Inquiry, when	977
Goldfields Water Supply, Extensions	977
Motions: Plantations in North-West, Tropical Experiments	977
Broome Waterworks Control	980
Bills: State Children, 3a.	983
Public Health Amendment, 3a.	983
Roads and Streets Closure, 2a.	984
Brands Act Amendment, 2a.	985
Agricultural Bank Amendment, 2a. moved	987

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: By-laws of the Williams Roads Board.

QUESTION—RAILWAY HAULAGE FOR REPAIRS, MIDLAND CO.

Hon. G. BELLINGHAM, for Hon. J. M. Drew, asked the Colonial Secretary: What is the cost to the Government for the haulage or otherwise of its locomotives and rolling-stock for repairs return or transfer over the Midland Railway for the financial years 1905-6 and 1906-7?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: The amounts paid were as follow: Year ended 30th June, 1906, £574 5s. 0d.; Year ended 30th June, 1907, £334 9s. 0d.

QUESTION—ADVERTISING IN NEWSPAPERS.

Hon. J. W. WRIGHT asked the Colonial Secretary: What amounts are due or have been paid to the proprietors of the various daily and weekly newspapers (separately) for advertising purposes, etc., during the 12 months ending 31st October, 1907?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: Return showing amounts due or paid to the proprietors of the metropolitan daily and weekly newspapers during the 16 months ended on 31st October, 1907:—*West Australian*, £916 10s. 6d.; *Morning Herald*, £588 4s. 6d.; *Daily News*, £350 8s.; *Evening Mail*, £93 6s.; *Sunday Times*, £80 4s. 9d.; *Mirror*, £59 17s.; *Truth*, £59 17s.; *Western Mail*, £72 1s.; *W.A. Mining Journal*, £161 1s.; *Swan Express*, £23 5s. 3d.—Total, £2,404 15s. Amounts paid by Railway Department for advertising in newspapers during 12 months ending 31st October, 1907:—*West Australian*, Perth, £275 7s. 6d.; *Morning Herald*, Perth, £150 0s. 6d.; *Daily News*, Perth, £123 13s.; *Sunday Times*, Perth, £5 3s. 3d.; *Sporting Life*, Perth, £1 0s. 6d.; *Evening Mail*, Fremantle, £102 11s. 9d.; *Empire*, Fremantle, £2 18s. 6d.; *Guardian*, Subiaco, £8 10s.; *Express*, Subiaco, £6 7s. 6d.; *Swan Express*, Midland Junction, £5 15s. 6d.; *Newcastle Herald*, Newcastle, £8 12s. 6d.; *Northam Advertiser*, Northam, £25 18s.; *Eastern Districts Chronicle*, York, £13s. 11s. 3d.; *Beverley Times*, Beverley, £12 3s.; *Pingelly Leader*, Pingelly, 12s.; *Narrogin Observer*, Narrogin, £12 19s. 6d.; *Southern Argus*, Wagin, £10 10s.; *Great Southern Herald*, Katanning, £8 2s.; *Albany Advertiser*, Albany, £12 17s.; *Southern Cross Times*, Southern Cross, £11 0s. 6d.; *Coolgardie Miner*, Coolgardie, £55 4s.; *Kalgoorlie Miner*, Kalgoorlie, £82 15s.; *Boulder Star*, Boulder City, £60 2s. 6d.; *North Coolgardie Herald*, Menzies, £17 7s. 6d.; *Kookynie*

Press, Kookynie, £15 15s.; *Leonora Miner*, Leonora, £13 12s. 6d.; *Morgans Courier*, Morgans, £17 5s.; *Morgans Mercury*, Morgans, £11 2s. 6d.; *Morgans and Laverton Mercury*, Laverton, £15 12s. 6d.; *Collie Miner*, Collie, £14 3s.; *Bunbury Herald*, Bunbury, £35 9s. 6d.; *Southern Times*, Bunbury, £38 10s.; *South-Western News*, Busselton, £5 11s.; *Blackwood Times*, Greenbushes, £10 3s.; *Blackwood Chronicle*, Greenbushes, £5 5s.; *Geraldton Express*, Geraldton, £20 8s. 6d.; *Geraldton Guardian*, Geraldton, £6 16s. 1d.; *Mt. Magnet Miner*, Mt. Magnet, £4 8s.; *Day Dawn Chronicle*, Day Dawn, £5 8s.; *Murchison Times*, Cue, £5 12s.; *Murchison Advocate*, Cue, £4.—Total, £1,241 14s. 4d.

QUESTION—RAILWAYS INQUIRY.

Hon. J. W. WRIGHT asked the Colonial Secretary: Have the Government yet advised his Excellency the Governor to appoint the Royal Commission to inquire into the working of the railways, in accordance with the resolution of this House passed on the 28th August last; and when will the decision of the Government, which on the 17th September last was promised to be given without undue delay, be announced?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: The Government consider the present time is most inopportune for the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the railway system of this State, as the officers of the department are now busily engaged in a comprehensive scheme of reorganisation, and are farther of opinion that the result would be misleading during the period of transition.

Hon. J. W. WRIGHT: should I be out of order in asking whether the time is inopportune for inquiring into the construction of the agricultural railways—the former part of the resolution; or should I be in order in framing a fresh motion?

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member is now asking a question without notice; and the Colonial Secretary may require that notice be given.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I prefer that the hon. member should give notice of the question.

Hon. J. W. WRIGHT: I will frame a question for the next sitting of the House.

QUESTIONS (2)—GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

Papers as to Extension.

Hon. G. BELLINGHAM asked the Colonial Secretary: Will he lay on the table all papers in connection with the proposed extension of the Coolgardie Water Scheme to Newcastle, York, and Beverley?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: Yes.

Cost of Extensions.

Hon. G. BELLINGHAM asked the Colonial Secretary: What amount has been expended to date on the extension of the Goldfields Water Scheme to Newcastle, York, and Beverley, and what is the estimated cost of this extension?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: The amount expended to date on this extension is—Newcastle, £330; York and Beverley, £42,000. The estimated total cost at completion is—Newcastle, £6,000; York and Beverley, £59,000.

MOTION—PLANTATIONS IN NORTH-WEST.

Tropical Experiments.

Hon. R. W. PENNEFATHER (North) moved—

That the Agricultural Department should take steps at an early date to establish experimental plantations in the North-West of this State.

He said: During last session I gave notice of a motion to the same effect; but before the day for moving it arrived, Parliament was prorogued. My object in moving is to enable this State to take an early opportunity of participating in the advantages that the Federal Government are about to confer on the tropical and sub-tropical parts of this continent. Members are doubtless aware that a measure called

the Bounties Bill is now passing through the Federal Parliament, one of the main objects being to stimulate, by monetary assistance, the growth of tropical and sub-tropical products. There is no doubt whatever that if this State is to take advantage of that measure, which will in a short time become the law of the Commonwealth, our Agricultural Department ought to be keenly on the alert to stimulate and to foster the efforts of private people. It is well known to every member of this House that parts of the North-West are eminently adapted to the growth of tropical and sub-tropical products, and it only requires the initiative to be taken by the Agricultural Department to show how money can be made by those engaging in various occupations to which I refer. For instance, according to the latest returns, Queensland produced last year 100,000 lbs. of arrowroot. That production will become the subject of a bounty under the Act. Coffee is largely cultivated in Queensland, though it is doubtful whether coffee is a profitable commodity, seeing that it is grown so cheaply elsewhere, principally in Brazil, where one of the best qualities of coffee is, I believe, produced at a minimum cost. But there is no reason whatever why the North-West of this State should not produce tobacco of good quality, if the necessary energy is forthcoming. Then there is rubber. One species of rubber-tree is indigenous to the North-West; but from what I learn that rubber will have to be much improved in quality if it is to compete with the Para rubber grown in South America. Para of course is in exactly the same latitude as portion of our North-West territory. We are told that cotton also can be grown to perfection in the North-West, and for its cultivation aboriginal labour can be utilised. Although I am informed it will be a disqualification under the Bounties Act to employ black labour, surely it can never be rightly contended that the black labour to be excluded by the Bill is the labour of blacks indigenous to Australia. However, if the language is so wide as to cover the aboriginal labour of our North-West territory, I am sure our Federal representatives will make strong efforts to have that disquali-

fication removed. Then there is the sugar industry. The Commonwealth is paying a large sum annually to the sugar-growers of Queensland and the northern parts of New South Wales, to help them to cultivate the sugar-cane. Why should not the North-West of this country participate in that bounty? All that is needed is to make a start in suitable country.

The Colonial Secretary: Where are we to get the labour?

Hon. R. W. PENNEFATHER: Where are the growers on the other side to get the labour? In that respect they have no advantage over us, for the Kanaka labour is abolished. On the other side the growers started with Kanakas. Then there is the banana, that very useful fruit which ought to be extensively cultivated in this State. I am told that it grows wonderfully well in the North-West. The olive, another sub-tropical product, can be produced in abundance, as well as the date palm, and that other tropical fruit, the pineapple. These are only some of the products to which I refer; but the object of the motion is to arouse the Agricultural Department to the responsibility that now rests upon it of coping with the new conditions to be brought about by the Bounties Bill. I do not wish to say anything but what is highly complimentary to our Agricultural Department. The Minister at the head of the Department, Mr. Mitchell, I am glad to take this opportunity of observing, displays an enthusiasm in the administration of the department, that works great good for the State. I also speak in the same degree of respect and laudation of the efforts of the experts of the department from Mr. Despeissis downwards. They want their hands strengthened by the motion now before the House, and I feel sure that an expression of opinion, such as I hope to obtain, will have the desired effect, and that the Government will take the earliest opportunity of assisting to bring about the initiation of an experiment of the nature to which I have referred.

Hon. W. MALEY (South-East): I do not purpose to throw cold water on the

proposal for plantations in the North-West, to show, I presume, not to the local residents but rather to the outside world, what can be done on Western Australian soil in the Northern part. Before embarking on any such enterprise, however, the Government will have to count the cost; not only to consider where the labour is to come from, but also to ascertain what the cost will be, especially when it is proposed to grow fruits such as bananas, pineapples, etc. I know it is difficult to look after an orchard which is even a mile away from one's house and I cannot imagine that any such work undertaken by the Government will be of a reproductive character. It will be experimental, and will put some burden upon the State. I hope that some practical outline will be drawn in order to show a reasonable prospect of success within a reasonable time of any experimental work carried on by the Government in this direction. We have a great territory in the North-West, with great potentialities, and I believe the time will come when it will be populated to a degree not perhaps realised at the present, but we must hasten slowly. I hope the Government will see their way clear to initiate some such scheme as that outlined by the Hon. Mr. Pennefather, and no doubt the ingenuity of the Minister of Agriculture and his staff will be brought to bear upon the question. I hope the matter will be taken in hand seriously, for I think more good can be done in this direction than by importing, as we are now doing, dairy cattle and sheep from the Eastern States, while at the same time we are exporting lambs for the English market. There is something wrong in the administration of the Agricultural Department, but I hope that in this matter they will be equal to the occasion and show what can be done with a small outlay and with as little risk as possible. I hope the motion will have the success which its mover anticipates.

Hon. R. F. SHOLL (North): I do not wish to oppose the motion strongly, but I do not think instruction to the Government should go out in this form. In

producing tropical products, such as cotton, coffee, and tea, in the North-West part of this State, cheap labour is required and that is not obtainable. Native labour is practically useless, and it is no use expecting that it can be obtained for this purpose. You would never know when the native labourer would depart without giving notice, or where new hands could be obtained from. The Northern part of Australia is different from the Eastern part, for the latter is more humid; we are growing wool hundreds of miles farther North than they possibly can in East Australia. I think that probably in places we could grow sugarcane, but that also requires cheap labour. We all know that when the Government take a thing in hand a considerable cost is necessitated, and if experimental farms are started, so very far removed as they would be from head-quarters, the expense would be very great. If the Government intend to experiment in this direction it would be better for them to subsidise individuals, and then we could see what tropical products could be produced, and whether the results would be such that private people could be induced to enter into the work. There are plenty of people who will take up this work if there is money to be made out of it. I do not think we should commit the Government by this motion, and I think it would be wise for the member, now that he has drawn attention to the question, to withdraw the motion. I am afraid it will be difficult in the North to get a humid enough climate to produce the products mentioned, and which are obtained in the Northern parts of Queensland. This remark especially applies to sugar cane, tea, and coffee. We should be very careful before deciding upon this question, and the conditions of the climate should be taken into consideration. It would be better if individuals residing in the North-West were subsidised to make experiments in order to ascertain what it would cost to produce these products. It would be a great thing for the Kimberleys if this land were put under cultivation; but the great trouble is that it is necessary to have

cheaper labour, which, as I said before, is unobtainable.

Hon. C. A. PIESSE (South-East) : I have much pleasure in supporting the motion. I would point out that in connection with the growth of sugar we would no doubt have the same privileges accorded to us by the Federal Government as are now granted to the Queensland growers, to benefit in the same way by the employment of white labour. That would do away to a great extent with the objection raised by the Hon. Mr. Sholl. It is about time we utilised in a proper manner our great Northern possessions, which everyone knows well are capable of producing tropical fruits equal to those from any other tropical country we know of. It is only a question of encouraging expenditure, to prove that payable results can be obtained and to build up large industries in the North-West. The best thanks of the country are due to the Hon. Mr. Pennefather for bringing the matter up, and I hope that his motion will be carried unanimously.

On motion by the *Colonial Secretary*, debate adjourned.

MOTION—BROOME WATER- WORKS CONTROL.

Hon. R. W. PENNEFATHER (North) moved—

That in the opinion of this House the Government should, at an early date, transfer the administration of the Waterworks at Broome to the municipality of that town.

It would be in the memory of members that some two months ago he called for papers in connection with the Broome water supply. These papers had since been tabled, and he had perused them. On that occasion he pointed out that the Broome municipality had so successfully managed its finances that it was one of the best managed municipalities in the whole of the State. According to the returns he then read, it was shown that during the last two years the municipality had collected within £10 of the whole of its available revenue, which

amounted to £3,600, and had a credit balance of over £300 in the health board administration. It was evident therefore that this municipality could be trusted with the management of its water supply. In October, 1903, the then Minister for Works, Mr. Rason, in moving the second reading of the Water Supply Bill, said:—

“I should like to point out—and I may as well state it here, as this is a proper opportunity—that this Bill is not intended to deal with very large towns; and it must not be confounded with the Perth and Metropolitan Water Supply Bill, which is now in print and will shortly be introduced. The Bill before us is to meet the requirements of places such as Cue and Broome, in some of which there is already a water supply which there is no proper machinery for managing. In the case of Cue, a scheme has already been devised by the Minister for Mines and his officers for the supply of the town and district with water; the local people are quite willing to assume the financial burden of the work; but without this Bill there is no power to make proper regulations for the conduct of the scheme and the raising of the rates. In the case of Broome also very similar conditions obtain. The Government have a water supply there, which can, with great advantage to the local residents and the State as a whole, be transferred to a local authority. Many similar instances now exist, and many will hereafter arise.”

It would be seen by this extract that the Minister in introducing the Bill, which had since become an Act, had in his mind's eye the very municipality of Broome, and desired to give them the power which had been sought for during the last 12 or 15 months. Since 1904 the municipality had been working in this matter and had been urging, in and out of season, that the Government should transfer to them the management of the local waterworks; but for various reasons the Minister had not been agreeable to that course. When at the beginning of the year a request was made by the municipality through the mayor that the Minister should recom-

mend to the Government the transfer of the power, he said he might do so towards the end of the year. The end of the year was fast approaching and he (Mr. Pennefather) had approached the Minister with a view to getting an expression of opinion from him that he would at the end of the year recommend to Cabinet that this power be granted, but the Minister did not seem to see his way to do that. All the Minister had said was that at the expiration of this year he would see what he could do, but he would not make any promise. That was the kind of thing that exasperated the people at the other end of the State. They looked on it that they were being treated as aliens. Their requests which were reasonable were not granted and it was this treatment that was creating a feeling of intense disloyalty, if he might use the term, against the administration of the Government because the requests made by these people did not receive the attention they should. He failed to see why this reasonable request that this water supply, that should be managed locally, could not be placed in the hands of the local people. He had received several telegrams from the people at Broome, the mayor in particular, and communications also asking him, and urging him, to seek the assistance of Parliament as they could not get the assistance of the Minister direct. He regretted to have to use the language but the circumstances of the case required it. Was there any reasonable cause why the people should not have the control of their own water supply? This water was supplied by a bore; it gave a very large supply of water at a minimum of cost. The total amount of expenditure in connection with the water supply generally to the town amounted to £10,000 if it did not exceed that. The municipality had pointed out to the Minister the economies which they could effect in administering that department. They could get rid of £150, paid to the local officer; they could get rid of £52 a year rent for the premises in which the business was carried on, and what was more important they could take very good care that those indebted for water supplied to them should pay for it. It had

been pointed out to him that every year the amount of arrears became greater and greater; and with a view to relieving themselves of the responsibility of collecting the arrears the department rubbed them off the slate and put them on to the capital cost, so that the capital cost mounted up higher and higher every year. The case he had made out on behalf of the municipality was a strong one. These people wished to be treated with that consideration which others received. They were a responsible body of people and had shown a lively interest in the administration of their own affairs; and why they should not be allowed to administer their own waterworks was a problem to him and no doubt to other members of the Chamber. He was informed by the municipality the economy they could have effected last year with the administration placed in their hands; that they would see the water rates paid and they would have saved in the 12 months no less a sum than £700, and £700 each year as a sinking fund to wipe off the £10,000 would run to about ten years. He asked members to support him in this matter. He did not take it up lightly, for justice was on the side of these people. They were quite willing to take over the capital cost and guarantee it and there was every power to protect the Government. If the Government found that these people were not administering the water supply properly they could revoke the authority.

Hon. M. L. MOSS (West) seconded the motion. When the member moved for the papers dealing with this question he (Mr. Moss) then drew attention to the fact that under the Water Boards Act of 1904 it was competent for the Government to create the municipal council of Broome a water board for the purposes of the Act. The Government could charge them with the full cost of the work, see that that water board provided the necessary interest and sinking fund for the purpose of paying interest on the capital employed in it to date, and in producing the necessary sinking fund, thus paying for the work ultimately. He did not want unduly to interfere with the administration of the Works Department

or any other department as a private member of the House, but he recognised that the motion of the member was one purely of administration and he thought the Government could unburden themselves of a great deal of the details in connection with this and other works of the State by doing what the member suggested. So far as he could see there was no reason why the people in the locality should not have possession of the work, particularly as the motion did not entail any public expenditure or grant of money to the people. The legislation on the statute book cast on the Government the responsibility of providing all the necessary staff, paying for them, providing interest and sinking fund as well, and the member had correctly stated that with the staff the council employed they could carry out the functions necessary and work the water board without additional cost. As far as he could see, the Government were apparently employing people to carry out the work at the present time and incurring expense which they ought not to incur. In the interests of economical working he thought the Government ought to embrace the opportunity of getting rid of the administration of a work of this kind. The motion had everything to recommend it and he hoped the Government would readily agree to the proposal that was made.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) was surprised, not so much that the member had moved the motion because he desired to fall in with the wishes of a certain section of the people of Broome, but was surprised that the mover had repeated remarks made last session which he (the Minister) then replied to. The same remarks were repeated by Mr. Moss. He (the Minister) had stated that the capital cost of the first scheme—there were several trial schemes, though an efficient supply was not obtained until the present bore was put down, but previous to that there had been several abortive attempts to obtain a supply of water, and the capital cost of all the work was not to be charged to the water scheme but only the cost of the efficient supply. Therefore it was

not right for the member to state that the capital cost of the work and the failure to collect the rates under the old system were being saddled on the people of Broome. The same remarks also applied to the working of the scheme. The whole cost of the public works staff at Broome was not charged to the working of the scheme, only a portion of it, such portion as it was thought fair to place to the working of the scheme. The bore had only been completed a few months, and it was not the desire of the Public Works Department to continue to administer the scheme; but they intended to work it for 12 months, first of all to see if everything was in good working order, and secondly to satisfy themselves as to what the cost ought to be and what the people had reasonably to charge or rate themselves at. The department would then be in a position to know whether the council were charging reasonable rates or whether they should not raise the rate. If they did not do so the Government could take the scheme from the council again. The water supply could not be worked cheaper, he ventured to say by the municipal council, than now, because the whole cost of the engineers there was not placed to the administration. [*Hon. R. W. Pennefather* : There was a salary of £150 charged.] That was stated on the word of one man who was not infallible. He (the Minister) had stated last session that if the municipal council would make application at the end of the year for the administration of the scheme the request would be favourably considered and dealt with. He understood that the end of the 12 months was about up, therefore the request would be taken into consideration. It was not as members might suppose that this had been going on for years, that the Government had been working the scheme departmentally for years and refused to give it over to the board; for the scheme had only just been completed by the department and it was desired to see if it was in order and what the scheme ought to be asked to pay. He thought he had made this clear to the member last session. That was the position the Government intended to take up.

Hon. R. W. PENNEFATHER (in reply as mover) : The motion had been moved to bring pointedly before the Government, particularly the Works Department, that this matter should not be allowed to lag behind again for another six months or twelve months until Parliament was again in session. The file of papers spoke for themselves. This correspondence had been going on for years; but the people of Broome became additionally active when they found that a fine body of water had been struck. The municipality saw at once that if they could get the control of the water they could very speedily wipe off the cost. The Colonial Secretary had pointed out with a view to extenuating the department that the department did not intend to charge the scheme with the whole of the cost; but he had not said anything about arrears. He was informed that the arrears were considerable during the last four years, and all these arrears were being added to the capital cost, so much so that a letter from one of the officials of the Water Supply of the municipality pointed out that the utmost reduction that could be made left the amount at, speaking from memory, £10,300. However, at a very early date the Government should accede to the request. Had it not been that he felt the municipality of Broome had suffered a grievance and an injustice, he would not have been so persistent, nor would he have put the case again so fully. The people of Broome had a right to administer their local affairs. They were the people who had to pay for the water supply. They had been rated at 1s. 6d. in the pound, and in addition had been charged 2s. 6d. a thousand gallons, though recently the department had reduced the charge to 1s. The municipality, however, pointed out that even at 1s. it would bring in such a revenue that there would be no necessity for putting on the general rate of 1s. 6d., because those who used the water would be able to pay not only for the expenditure incurred, but also for wiping out capital cost. The people of Broome felt very sore upon the matter. They felt that they had been bled and that the department had shown them no consider-

ation. It was to be hoped that at the end of the year the department would carry out their promise. If the promise had been given without qualification, the House would not have been wearied with this subject again; but the promise had been so clouded, and it appeared that nothing would be done unless pressure was brought to bear.

Question put and passed.

BILL—STATE CHILDREN.

Third Reading.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Assembly.

BILL—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Third Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Hon. M. L. MOSS moved an amendment—

That the Bill be recommitted for the purpose of farther considering Clause 199.

It was pointed out by the Pharmaceutical Society that this clause would be too far-reaching in its effect. This was the clause dealing with the prohibition of the sale of patent and proprietary medicines, which in the opinion of the Central Board appeared to be deleterious to health. It was pointed out that in some cases it was absolutely necessary for some of these medicines to be prescribed by duly qualified medical practitioners. The sale of the articles in these circumstances should not be prohibited.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There appeared to be nothing objectionable in the amendment, though its necessity was not so apparent. However, owing to the lateness of the session, if the amendment were now inserted in the Bill it would mean several days' delay, because the Bill would have to be reprinted. He urged the hon. member to have the amendment inserted in another place.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: The suggestion was acceptable. It was to be hoped the

Government would have the amendment moved in another place, because the clause as it stood might affect drugs made up by firms like Burroughs, Wellcome, & Co. The proprietary medicines of these firms were largely used by medical men in their prescriptions, and it was not quite certain that if they were so used they could be sold by a chemist without offending against the measure.

Amendment withdrawn; question put and passed.

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

BILL—ROADS AND STREETS CLOSURE.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading said: This Bill, which may be designated a hardy annual because it comes up year after year, is to deal with time it is found necessary to alter and the closure of certain roads and streets throughout the State. From time to time certain streets in Perth and in the different towns, and it is invariably done at the request of the local authorities concerned. If hon. members will turn to the schedule of the Bill they will see in what localities it is proposed to close the streets. The localities are Boulder, Geraldton, Guildford, Kookynie, Leonora, Wagin, and Perth. I have lithographs of the towns I have named with the proposed closures coloured on them, and members representing the districts in which these towns are situated can inspect these plans to see whether there are any objections to the closures. In the case of Boulder it is proposed to grant a special lease of the area bounded by Clancy, Keegan, Auburn, and Kingsmill streets to Mr. Shea for the formation of an artificial lake for the purpose of holding aquatic sports. This is at the request of the Boulder municipal council and is endorsed by the Minister for Lands. In Geraldton the Works Department wish to use the area bounded by Shenton, Back, and Holland streets and Greenough road as a reserve in connection with the town water

supply, and it is proposed to close the streets passing through this area. This is also being done at the request of the council and is approved by the department. The next closure is at Guildford. An area has already been resumed for railway purposes, but it is shown on the plan as a public street. It has been fenced in for many years and there are buildings on it. The closure has the approval of the local council. In regard to the Kookynie closure the Commissioner of Railways has requested that the adjacent lots and rights of way should be reserved for railway purposes. The council has concurred in that proposal. The next is at Leonora, where it is sought to close portion of the old main road. In order that uniform sections may be designed, it is necessary this road be closed; and the local council and the Minister concerned have approved of that course. At Wagin a portion of the road to be closed is to be reserved for water and park purposes, and will be gazetted as a Class A reserve; the council and the Minister approving in this instance also of the proposed action. In the city of Perth, the first street proposed to be closed is a small area of land at the top of Malcolm Street along Bellevue Terrace; and the proposal is that a small area be closed in order that all streets in this vicinity may be made of the uniform width of one chain and a half. Members will have noticed that the streets leading from Parliament House are a chain and a half in width; but at the top of Malcolm Street is a sort of no-mans-land with a half-chain street, and this it is proposed to close and include in the Perth Park. The Park Board have consented that if the Bill is passed this small portion shall be taken in, so as to convert what is at present an unsightly strip into a beauty spot. The next portion to be closed is also in Perth; a small strip adjoining the Esplanade on Bazaar Terrace. This has been fenced by the council during some nine years past, thus reducing the width of the street to 75 links. This strip having been closed some years past, it is now included in the Bill really to legalise the previous action of the council in reducing the width of the street. The next is a small area

in Small Street, East Perth; a blind street which serves only as an approach to the rubbish destructor site. Those are the streets proposed to be dealt with in the Bill. I will lay the plans on the table so that members interested may have an opportunity of examining the proposed closures. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question passed; Bill read a second time.

BILL—BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY in moving the second reading said: This is a short Bill to amend the Brands Act 1904. Clause 2 amends Section 5 of the Act by abolishing brands registered under the existing Act prior and up to January 1909, but reserves to the Minister the right to make such brands transferable. I presume it has been found, consequent on amendments made, that the Act has become complicated in its working, and in order to secure better control, it is now proposed to abolish all brands registered before 1909, except such as the Minister may transfer. Clause 3 of the Bill amends Section 6, Subsection 1, of the principal Act by permitting the Governor to substitute a broad arrow for a numeral; and it also provides for earmarking cattle belonging to the Government. The Bill provides, for the first time in this State, for the registration of earmarks for cattle. In Queensland this has been in force for many years. Clause 4 amends Section 7 consequentially on the amendment provided in the previous clause. Clause 5 repeals Section 12, substituting a clause for reducing the provision of age-marks from seven to six years. Clause 6 amends Section 17 so as to allow the registrar to recognise any brand to be used on a run situated partly in Western Australia and partly in South Australia, provided the registrar is satisfied that such brand is not likely to be misleading. This provision is necessary in such portions of the State as East Kimberley, where runs are partly in Western Australia and partly

in South Australia. Clause 7 is consequential on the preceding clause; and Clause 8 is consequential on the clause providing earmarks for cattle. Clause 10 amends Section 50 of the principal Act by making provision for the imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for six months of persons convicted of offences against this Act. The remaining clauses are merely amendments consequential on those already alluded to. Those briefly are the reasons for the introduction of this small amending Bill. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. R. F. SHOLL (North): I have gone through this Bill, and consider the amendments contained therein are a distinct improvement on the existing Act. I was however struck by Clause 8, dealing with earmarks. The clause reads:—

“All earmarks shall be made by a punch or pliers only, and not otherwise; and no ear or any part thereof shall be removed, cropped, cut, sliced, or split by means of any other instrument than a punch or pliers used to make a registered earmark or a cull-mark or an age-mark.”

Pliers might be used to crop off an ear entirely; and a cropped ear is the thief's earmark, as he thus obliterates all brands of the person to whom the beast belongs. I would ask the Minister whether a cropped ear or an ear cut off altogether, which would obliterate all earmarks, would be registered by the registrar as a brand or mark; and if not, what is the penalty provided in case a person is found in possession of sheep with cropped ears, which could be done with pliers as well as with a knife?

The Colonial Secretary: The clause provides that no ear or part thereof shall be removed.

Hon. R. F. SHOLL: But cropping the ears could be done with pliers equally as well as with the knife. The only apparent safeguard is in the fact that probably the registrar would not register a cropped ear as an earmark. But what penalty is provided? There should be some penalty, because anyone who stole

sheep and wished to obliterate the marks of the legitimate owner would cut off the ear. That appears to be a weak point in the Bill, and I should like to have it explained so as to be sure, now we are amending the Act, that a matter of this kind shall be safeguarded.

Hon. W. MALEY (South-East): I was about to speak to the same clause; and I should like the Minister to explain whether a cull-mark is to be registered; if not, what does a cull-mark or age-mark denote? I have carefully read the Bill, and can discover no clause providing for the compulsory registration of a cull-mark; nor do I know that such registration is compulsory. I have seen sheep earmarked for age, since the present Act has been in force, pliers being used as provided by the Act; but so far as I can see there is no provision for the registration of an earmark or cull-mark in this Bill. In earmarking sheep it frequently happens that a man may tear the ear. I know of one station where it was customary to crop one ear, while on the adjoining station the practice was to crop both ears; and instances occurred where sheep found their way back to the first station with both ears cropped. Ear-cropping is not always done with an instrument, for I have found sheep in paddocks with their ears cropped by dogs; hence if, as suggested, a penalty were provided, a man might be punished unjustly for having in his possession a sheep with its ears cropped. I do not think this is likely to happen, though it is possible. With that single exception, I do not know that this Bill could be much improved. It is certainly an advance on present legislation, and I have much pleasure in supporting the second reading.

Hon. C. A. PIESSE (South-East): The Government are to be congratulated on bringing in this amending Bill. Although I do not intend to give all the clauses my full support, in the main I agree with the Bill. I desire to point out to the Colonial Secretary that Clause 2 makes no provision for the re-registration of brands on the expiry of the year 1908, as laid down in that clause. Brands

registered prior to that date should be re-registered free of cost to persons who have already paid the required fee for registering a brand. Take a brand registered years ago; that registration will expire at the end of 1908, and though the owner of the brand has already paid the fee required for registration, he will be in the position of having again to register, not from any desire of his, but because of an order by the State. It is obviously unfair that a man in such circumstances should be called on to pay a second registration fee. I therefore propose when the Bill is in Committee moving an amendment to add to the particular clause a proviso similar to that attached to clause 7, namely—

“No fee shall be charged on such cancellation, or on the application to register a new brand in place of the brand cancelled under this section.”

These people are content with their own brands; yet we propose to make them pay the cost of registering new brands. They will have quite enough trouble in rebranding their stock without being taxed as proposed in the clause. Before I leave this clause I would express the hope that the Government will insist on all stockowners registering their brands. It is generally known throughout the district in which I reside that many sheepowners, and many stockowners too, have not registered their brands, and there is certainly need for reform. A man does not like to “give away” his neighbour; but very often people will adopt brands or earmarks to which they have no right, and the registered brands or earmarks are thus rendered practically useless by the action of the small owner who puts on his stock whatever mark he chooses, without registration. Of course he does not know to what he thus makes himself liable. This morning I read the Brands Act, 1904, and noticed the penal section. If the Press drew attention to this matter many people would probably be awakened to the fact that this practice renders them liable to heavy fines, if not to imprisonment. When in Committee I will seek to amend Clause 5 by striking out all the words after “repealed,” in line 1. I consider this age-mark takes away

the very best portion of the sheep's ear, and such a mark is altogether unnecessary when we still have the natural age-marks which existed and were probably utilised in the time of Abraham and Jacob. Any man or boy can learn to know the age of a sheep by simply opening its mouth, therefore it is a pity to give up so much of the ear of the animal to the age-mark provided for in the Bill. Moreover, we know that buyers of sheep will not accept the station earmark, but will look at the mouth. That is the age-mark by which they judge. There is nothing so clear as the two teeth signifying one year old, the four teeth signifying two years, the six teeth signifying three years, and the eight teeth signifying four years. The lamb's teeth are all so even that there is no difficulty in telling its age. Nature herself has fixed an age-mark, and I say it is simply a loss of time to fix another by legislation.

Hon. W. T. Loton: The artificial earmark saves labour in drafting.

Hon. C. A. PIESSE: It saves some labour, but it is so seldom taken advantage of that it is a pity to give up the best portion of the ear, the front portion, for an age-mark, when we can do without that mark. I think we should have a simple tag to denote the age, and that could without compulsory legislation be put in the ears, instead of cutting the ears to pieces.

Hon. R. F. Sholl: Could a man put tags in the ears of 20,000 or 30,000 sheep?

Hon. C. A. PIESSE: It would not take very long. I possess 10,000 sheep, and I will guarantee it would not take more than two or three days to tag the whole of them. I am inclined to make it possible to register the tag, which I think would be much better than cutting away the ears.

Hon. W. T. Loton: The tag would not give you the age.

Hon. C. A. PIESSE: Anyhow, the fact remains it is absurd to mutilate the ears of a sheep to denote the age. No buyer of sheep will accept the station earmarks.

Hon. R. F. Sholl: How would you draft them—open their mouths?

Hon. C. A. PIESSE: As a rule we draft the ewes from the wethers, and always register the difference in number. I shall certainly oppose Clause 10, which seeks to make certain actions punishable by imprisonment. If a sheep or calf appears with a torn ear, or not bearing a brand in accordance with the Act, the owner will be liable to imprisonment. I say there is no need for so drastic a penalty. Section 51 of the principal Act gives all the power that is needed, by providing that if the justices before whom the defendant is brought are of opinion that there ought to be a prosecution for an indictable offence, they may abstain from dealing summarily with the case, and may commit the defendant to take his trial. That is quite sufficient. To allow them to imprison a man, with or without hard labour, for six months, because a punch-hole earmark is accidentally torn away, is ridiculous. In earmarking, if the animal is of a troublesome disposition, as some of the lambs are, it is apt to tear the ears away from the pliers. Again and again we find a piece torn out. The penalty in the clause is altogether too severe. In country places there is often great ill-feeling; and to give such power to local justices is unwise, when we know that stock, cattle particularly, again and again cause their own disfigurement. I have noticed a young beast get a horn into a punch-hole and tear the ear away. That is often done in fun; yet the owner is made liable to six months' imprisonment. I think the other amendments proposed by the Government are all that we can desire; but I trust the Minister will not lose sight of my statement that registration has not been effected as it should be, and I trust that the department will insist on stock-owners registering their brands, so as to save confusion.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BILL—AGRICULTURAL BANK AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading said: This is a short but very

important amendment of the Agricultural Bank Act. Almost every year an amendment of this Act has been made to increase the capital of the bank; and the object of the present Bill is to increase the capital from £1,000,000 to £1,500,000. The funds used by the Agricultural Bank are taken from the Government Savings Bank, and the Treasury issues mortgage bonds to the Savings Bank for the advances. Loans which are repaid to the Agricultural Bank go towards the redemption of these mortgage bonds. The capital of the Agricultural Bank is not utilised like the capital of a private bank. When repayments come in the money does not go out again, but goes to pay off the amount due on these bonds; so it does not follow that when we increase the capital of the bank the institution can ever have outstanding at the debit of borrowers any sum approaching the amount of the nominal capital. The first Agricultural Bank Act was assented to in 1894, and came into operation in 1895. The bank started with a capital of £100,000, increased in December 1899 by another £100,000, bringing it up to £200,000. There was a farther increase in 1902 of £100,000, making a total of £300,000; in January 1904 the capital was made £400,000; in 1905 it was increased to £600,000; and in February 1906 it was increased to £1,000,000. Thus the increases during the past nine years have been from £100,000 to £1,000,000; and the benefits afforded to land settlement speak for themselves. The results show that if the capital of the bank is increased, settlement on the land must increase proportionately. Under the old Act, replaced by the new Act of last February, the loans approved totalled £640,025. Since the last amendment came into force, the loans approved have amounted to £247,075, making the total £887,100. Deducting this from the present capital of £1,000,000 leaves only £112,900 standing to the credit of capital. But applications for more than this sum have been already dealt with, hence the necessity for increasing the capital. The number of accounts in the bank is 3,970. Since the 1st February last, 1,989 applications for loans have been received;

that is, since the capital was increased from £600,000 to £1,000,000. Out of these, 116 applications, representing £15,925, were refused. The repayments since that date amount to £116,020 11s. 10d. There is now owing to the bank £495,339 16s. 5d., and the total sum actually paid out is £611,360 8s. 3d. It was not sought to make a profit out of the bank as a trading concern, but to make advances in order to enable the people to settle on the land. The Bank, however, has made a profit, and especially so during the last year. The net accumulated profit for the thirteen years ended the 30th June 1907 was £13,557 5s. 10d. The total profit for the last financial year was £4,375 11s. 2d. I do not think any bad debts have been made since the Bank started operations. The work done by the Bank up to the 30th June, 1907—that is the work represented by the money advances by the Bank—is as follows:—Clearing, 275,249 acres; fencing, 162,597 chains; ring-barking, 280,249 acres. The work authorised during the financial year ended 30th June, 1907, and now completed or in progress, is as follows:—Clearing, 130,892 acres; fencing, 148,833 chains; ring-barking, 136,765 acres. That shows members how the Bank has been operating since its initiation, and the fact that it is being operated on by settlers more and more each year will be realised. There was a decided improvement last year in applications for advances. Members will remember that the last amendment to the Act was different in its scope from the ordinary amending Bill, owing to the fact that in addition to asking for an increase in the capital, there was an alteration in the administration by the provision for two trustees to be appointed together with the manager to take control of advances. These two trustees have been appointed and are working well. To-day the Bank is going on better than ever before, and is proving a greater boon to the State than probably was expected when the Bill was first introduced.

Hon. G. THROSSELL (East): I support the second reading of the Bill with

great pleasure, for it is most gratifying to me to recognise the great good that has been accomplished during the thirteen years of the Bank's existence. One result of the operations of the measure has been to enable the Government to place hundreds of poor men successfully on the land. The objects for which the Bank was created have been realised, and has been proved by the demand which has been made upon its funds, and the success which has resulted from the advances made to settlers. No other State has a similar institution to the Agricultural Bank, although in Victoria a credit foncier system has been established. Under our laws special provision is made to assist the poor man, for a man who has spent £12 10s. or £25, and has no money of his own, is able to get an advance from the bank so as to start him in the agricultural industry. The results have been marvellous. We practically give our land away, for it only costs a settler 10s. an acre, and he has 20 years in which to pay the sum and has no interest to find. All that is insisted upon from him is that he shall carry out certain improvement conditions. The easy terms under which land can be obtained and the advances of money gained emphasise the necessity for careful inspection of the improvements made by the conditional purchase holder. The success of the institution is not only due to the good management of the manager of the Bank, but also to the principle which rules the institution, for it is clear that before a man can have any money he must place certain improvements on the land and thus provide a good security for the sum advanced. In other words the value of the money advanced must first be placed upon the holding. Good as the institution is I think it is capable of improvement, and I will enumerate one or two directions in which I think these improvements might be effected. Under the present conditions of land settlement there are very many men, I am glad to say, who have themselves been able to obtain holdings and improve them as the Act requires, without seeking external assistance. Subsequently to obtaining the title to their land these men come on hard times, and then

they find they are surrounded by men who have successfully appealed to the Agricultural Bank for assistance, while they are cut off from the Bank and are unable to avail themselves of its advantages. I know that at present if a man is in debt to any institution or private individual, he is able to borrow £225 in order to pay off the mortgage, but if he has no such mortgage and has the title deeds of the land in his possession, he is forbidden by the conditions of the Bank to go to the manager for any assistance. Reflection will show this is wrong. We have arrived at a stage in our history when the small men find it necessary to stock up their holdings, and recognise that lambs mean money; for the production of lambs will be the foremost question of the day in the future of agriculture in this State. The man who has paid his way and has a valuable holding is cut off from the operations of the Bank, for what reason I know not, and if he wants advances has to seek them from other financial institutions. I see no reason why a man in such a position should not be able to go to the Agricultural Bank, lodge his title deeds as a security, borrow £300 and thus be enabled to purchase stock. Surely this is the type of man who should be encouraged. English people who come here are frequently faced with great difficulties in connection with their efforts to settle on the land. Numerous complaints have been received as to lengthy periods being wasted before they can obtain their holdings. We know that the Government are adopting the wise policy of survey before selection, which will minimise many of the existing difficulties. It would be well to anticipate the requirements of the English settler by making selections of say a thousand acres here and there, and by obtaining advances from the Bank on those selections and improving them before they are really taken up. In such instances the new settler, who would be unacquainted with the peculiar conditions of Australian farm life, would have the benefit of the experience and knowledge of departmental officers, and on coming here to settle would be able either to obtain land which is unimproved, but upon which he would be

able to borrow from the Bank, or else a partially improved estate with a mortgage upon it up to the limits allowed by the Bank. I believe that by the adoption of such a plan we should at once meet many of the objections now existing. It is to be regretted that in the past we did not secure the Midland Company's lands and railway, for now we are faced with the growing difficulty of having a rival railway and lands policy in opposition to the Government. The position of the settlers on the Midland lands is, however, different from that of the holder of Government conditional purchase lands. Compare the conditions of the two men. The Midland holder has to pay 20s., 25s., or 30s. an acre for his land as compared with 10s. an acre, and he has to pay interest during the time the money is outstanding, whereas the settler on Government lands has none to pay. Great dissatisfaction will arise through the difference between the two classes of settlers. What is the remedy? I would suggest that, if possible, a system should be adopted to extend the privileges of the Agricultural Bank to those new selectors of Midland lands. I know that I shall be met with the objection that the Government must have the first mortgage on the lands, and that this would not be the case where a settler had taken up land from the Midland Company. I agree that the Government should have the first mortgage, but is it not possible to make an arrangement, which can be done very easily, that the first vendors should hand over the title deeds to the purchaser—although the purchase money has not all been paid—on the sole condition that he should go to the Government for assistance? The vendors would then content themselves with a second mortgage. I have practised this system which I now preach myself in connection with the subdivision of private estates which I have acquired. In such cases I have handed over men their titles and, if I wanted it, accepted a second mortgage. I then sent the man to the bank and placed him in the happy position of being able to discharge his liabilities. The scheme can easily be satisfactorily carried out. Another point I would urge is that the in-

stitution should be placed entirely outside political influence. I have good reason for saying that I believe it is not altogether outside of political influence now, and that political influences are brought to bear upon the Agricultural Bank. When I had charge of the department I absolutely refused to see a member of Parliament on the question of obtaining advances from the Bank, but I believe from what I have heard recently, especially at election time, influence is brought to bear. The manager of the Bank should be placed in a similar position to the manager of other banking institutions, and the Bank itself should be conducted wholly on business lines. I quite approve of the extension of the capital, and hope and believe that ultimately it will have increased to many millions of pounds. The credit foncier system obtains in Victoria, and by that considerable advances are granted to men who are given 31½ years to pay back at 4½ per cent. An old cry in this State was that the settler on the land could not obtain money; but now we have banking institutions, insurance and other companies who are all absolutely contesting for the privilege to lend our farmers money. An advance obtained on the understanding that there are 31½ years in which to pay it off becomes really a small matter to a man. In the Eastern States, Savings Bank money is used for these agricultural advances, and I see no reason why later on we should not adopt a similar system to the credit foncier one established in Victoria. We have nothing to fear. There is no safer investment of money than to place it on the land, so long as we see that the conditional improvements are carried out. By making these advances we are doing good for the man settling on the land. We are helping the manufacturers and we are bringing people and prosperity to the country. During the past few years much has been said of the existence of a depression, but one cannot better appreciate the different state of affairs that exists now than by going into the wholesale warehouses of the State, where it will be found that the staff is busy and everyone is full of hope. There you will be told

at once that a good season is now being experienced and that the prosperity of the farmers is bringing greatly increased business. I have very much pleasure in supporting the second reading of the Bill.

On motion by *the Hon. C. A. Piesse*, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 6.16 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 26th November, 1907.

	PAGE
Questions: Printing by Prison Labour ...	991
Co-operative Bakery, alleged Boycott ...	991
"Hansard" Report of All-Night Sitting, Division Lists ...	991
Bills: Pinjarra-Marrinup Railway, 1s. ...	991
Police Act Amendment (Pearl Stealing), 2s., Com. reported ...	992
Land Tax Assessment, Com. resumed to Clause 31 (sitting extended), progress ...	994
State Children, 1s. ...	1036
Public Health, 1s. ...	1036

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

Prayers.

QUESTION—PRINTING BY PRISON LABOUR.

Mr. ANGWIN asked the Treasurer: 1, Is the Minister aware that a ruling machine has been sent from the Government Printing Office to the Gaol printing establishment during this week, making the second ruling machine sent from the Printing Office to the Prison, which is equal to the number of machines now being worked at the Government Printing Office? 2, If so, is this not contrary to the promise made to a deputation

which waited on him representing the printing trades, that the system of having this class of work done by prison labour would not be extended? 3, Would the Minister take steps towards compelling his officers to carry out his promise made to the deputation?

The TREASURER replied: 1, The Government Printer has arranged with the Comptroller General of Prisons to exchange an old ruling machine (for which he has no further use) for a quantity of old lead. 2, No. 3, I have already done so.

QUESTION—CO-OPERATIVE BAKERY, ALLEGED BOYCOTT.

Mr. BATH asked the Treasurer: 1, Have any inquiries been instituted into the alleged boycott of the Perth Co-operative Distribution Society (Co-operative Bakery) by the Flour Millers' and Master Bakers' Association? 2, If so, with what result?

The TREASURER replied: The Crown Law Department is now making inquiries into the matter.

BILL—PINJARRA-MARRINUP RAILWAY.

Introduced by the Premier, and read a first time.

"HANSARD" REPORT OF ALL-NIGHT SITTING.

Division Lists.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before proceeding with the Orders of the Day I desire to say I have been in communication with the Chief Hansard Reporter as to the complaint in regard to the omission of certain division lists from the last Hansard, and I can assure members it will not occur again. I have taken the necessary steps to prevent a recurrence, and the only excuse I have to offer to the House is that, in order to have the issue out on the day directed, that is Tuesday, the editor omitted the lists, under the circumstances, to shorten the work; but I promise the House it shall not occur