

Mr. WALKER: That is due to the fact that the motion has to go over to another day. Notice of dissent has, therefore, to be given. An objection to that course is that it leads to controversy, trouble and disorder, as it is now doing in the Federal Parliament. As time goes on it will become more and more a source of disorder. In the Federal Parliament as the debate has to take place next day, notice has to be given in writing. Under the British rules a matter of dissent from Mr. Speaker's ruling is one of urgency that must be immediately settled. It is quite right that such a course should be followed.

Mr. Ware: A member has to put a point of order in writing, and he does it in three or four words. Why cannot the same course be adopted with regard to dissent?

Mr. WALKER: Cannot the hon. member make a distinction between a point of order and a dissent from Mr. Speaker's ruling? If he cannot see the distinction I am at a loss for words to reach his understanding. The alteration should not be made.

Mr. DAGLISH: The Leader of the Opposition seemed to imply that there was some difficulty in stating, in writing, objections reported in *Hansard* of last year in regard to two points of order and dissent by the member for Kanowna. I find that one of those points was taken on the 8th December, and it is dealt with in *Hansard* under the motion, "That this House dissents from Mr. Speaker's ruling." Those are the words of the motion, and the objection is obvious, relating as it does to the Speaker's words, "I rule that the Speaker has a right to say whether a motion is a matter of urgency or not." Those are his words, and, therefore, if this alteration were made, a member who desired to object to that ruling would say in his written notice that Mr. Speaker was not correct in saying he had the right to say whether a motion was a matter of urgency or not. There was a long discussion on that on the 8th December. On the 11th December the objection is stated by the hon. member himself when he moves, "That

this House disagrees with Mr. Speaker's ruling to the effect that on a point of order only the member who raised the point can speak, and he has no right of reply."

Mr. Walker: That was another point taken there and then.

Mr. DAGLISH: That does not affect the question of the length and the quantity of words required to state the objection. That is the point. The hon. member says it would take volumes to state the objection. There is his own objection stated in half a dozen lines.

Mr. Walker: It is a substantive motion.

Mr. DAGLISH: Exactly, but a motion can embody an objection. Both objections I have read are couched in the motion. The hon. member asked for concrete cases, and I have given him two, in which the hon. member himself gave his objections.

Mr. Walker: Were the motions written?

Mr. DAGLISH: I do not know whether they were written; they ought to have been written. The hon. member knows that every motion submitted should be written as required by the Standing Orders.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 11 14 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 28th September, 1909.

	PAGE
Papers presented	627
Questions: Fines and Penalties Appropriation Act	628
Bills: Licensed Surveyors, 3s.	628
Police (Consolidation), Report stage	628
Health, Recommittal	628
District Fire Brigades, 2s.	631
Abattoirs, 2s.	635
Opium Smoking Prohibition, 2s.	636

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration, 1902.—

Eighth Annual Report, for 1909. 2, State Children Department.—Report of, for 1909.

QUESTION—FINES AND PENALTIES APPROPRIATION ACT.

Hon. M. L. MOSS asked the Colonial Secretary: Will the Government, during this Session, introduce a Bill to amend the Fines and Penalties Appropriation Act, 1909, so that fines imposed—(a.) for breaches of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1894, may be paid to the Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia; (b.) for assaults, may be paid to the persons assaulted.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: (a) No. The Government are not disposed to depart from the provision made last session. (b.) No; the necessity for action has been met by instructions to all courts that where magistrates consider it right to do so, they may make a recommendation that portion of the fine be paid to the person assaulted, which recommendation will be carefully considered by the Government.

BILL—LICENSED SURVEYORS.

Read a third time and *passed*.

BILL—POLICE (CONSOLIDATION.)

Report of Committee adopted.

BILL—HEALTH.

Recommittal.

On motion by the Colonial Secretary Bill recommitted for amendment.

Clause 3—Interpretation:

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: The definition of boarding house, even as amended, was not satisfactory. He was afraid that it would include all tents and camps throughout the agricultural areas. In the case of men employed upon stations, their board and lodging was taken into consideration in the fixing of their wages; and it seemed that the definition would include all tents and camps in which such men were lodged.

If the definition were allowed to stand in its present form every one of these places would be a boarding house and would be dealt with as such. He thought some better understanding should be arrived at.

The CHAIRMAN: What do you suggest?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: That the subclause should be struck out. It would be impossible to put in drains and comply with all sorts of conditions laid down by the central board in respect to some tents where men would be lodging for, perhaps, a fortnight or three weeks.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member was seeing in the definition a danger which was apparent to nobody else. In the first place the definition exempted five persons boarded for hire or reward.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: In addition to the owner's family.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, in addition to the owner's family. The definition was as clear as it could be made. It would not apply to the case mentioned by the hon. member, if only for the reason that the districts of which he was thinking were not proclaimed health districts. If it were so desired there would be no objection to extending the number exempt from five to seven or eight. In any case why should persons lodging on a farm be lodged under insanitary conditions?

Hon. J. W. Hackett: It should be made to apply to the timber mills.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It did apply to the timber mills, because all such areas were health districts. All thickly populated centres were health districts.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: The remarks made by the Minister would lead members to suppose that the health districts were only within municipal districts.

The Colonial Secretary: I said nothing of the sort.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: However, it seemed that only thickly populated centres were health districts. Every conceivable area of land within a roads board district would be made a health district.

The Colonial Secretary: No.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: If it were not so he had misunderstood the measure. However, as to the definition under consideration he moved—

That in line 4 of the definition of boarding house, after the word "victualler" the words "or any house, tent, or edifice erected on any farm lands or lands held under pastoral lease" be inserted.

If these lands, being within a roads district were to be brought within a health district, it would result in great hardship to the owners, who would not be able to set up a camp without first submitting plans and specifications to the health board. They would be subject to great penalties if they committed breaches of the law.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The clause did not apply to farms or pastoral lands as suggested by the member, and there was no necessity for the amendment. Health boards existed first of all as municipalities, and secondly as roads boards, where there was a dense population. If the roads boards were large there might be three or four health boards in one. If the amendment were carried it would exempt from the operation of the Act many of the gold-fields districts. Especially in the northern part of the Eastern Goldfields most of the land on which the mines were worked were pastoral leases. An instance of this was the Mount Malcolm district. In the country about there, where there were a number of mines, every acre was in a pastoral lease. Connected with the mines there were naturally many boarding-houses, and there was certainly no reason why they should be exempted from the operation of the measure. There were no grounds for the member's fears with regard to farms and pastoral holdings.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: If members would look at the definition of "local authority" they would find that it meant a municipality, a roads board district, or a local board of health. In other words the health board was the municipal council in municipal districts, and a roads board in a roads board district; and it was

provided that where there was no roads board district the Government might specially create a health district. If what Mr. Hamersley said was correct, many of the farms came within the jurisdiction of a board of health.

The Colonial Secretary: None of them.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: Assuming, however, that what Mr. Hamersley said was correct, the position was this: if persons were employed by the farmers at so much per week and their food, then it was almost certain that the owner would be keeping a boarding-house, for reward or hire, the reward being the man's labour. The arguments used applied with even greater force to pastoral lands where shearers were employed for a certain time each year and where the owner of the pastoral lease really was a boarding-house keeper for the time being. It surely was not the intention of members that persons owning pastoral leases or farm properties should be put to all the trouble of complying with the provisions of the Bill, carrying out the hundred and one requirements necessitated by the various clauses. Reference had been made to the timber districts, and it was quite right that persons living in those districts and keeping boarding-houses there should come under the provisions of the Bill. The amendment, however, only referred to farm lands or pastoral leases. At the request of Mr. Hamersley he had drawn up the amendment, and although it possibly was not the best that could be moved, still it served the purpose and he would vote for it.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: The amendment would not do, inasmuch as if a farm or a pastoral lease abutted on a thickly populated district the owner of that farm or pastoral lease might build a row of boarding-houses along the boundary of his property, and defy the authorities.

Hon. W. PATRICK: The amendment would not work. In most of the gold-fields towns the health districts included the area half a mile beyond the limits of the municipality. If the amendment were carried, all the boarding-houses in those towns would be taken outside that area and the proprietors would not come

within the scope of the measure. There was not the least danger of the definition of a boarding-house, as it existed in the Bill, working harshly against the farmer or pastoralist, for no health board would include such persons in their operations.

Hon. E. M. CLARKE: Some such amendment as that suggested was necessary, for it frequently happened that a party of shearers or chaff-cutters travelled through the various farming districts, and were engaged for a week or more by the farmers or pastoralists, and the owners of those properties would certainly come under the clause relating to boarding-houses unless an amendment were made. It would not be right that such persons should be brought under the Bill; some saving clause should be inserted to obviate the difficulty, otherwise the farmers and pastoralists would be committing breaches of the law.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: It had come to his knowledge that certain men had already been penalised under the old Act. They were miles away from the centre of authority and yet had been brought within the health district. In several instances they had been ordered to pay a sanitary rate. He knew of one case where a man had to pay £6 a year sanitary rate, although he was twelve miles away from the centre that rated him, and he received no service whatever. That man lived along the Great Southern railway. A solution of the difficulty could surely be arrived at.

Hon. F. CONNOR: In the absence of any statement from the Minister that any particular district would not be brought under the Bill, he objected to the clause as it stood. Shearers might be employed on a farm for three or four weeks, and lodged there, and for the rest of the year that farm might come under the boarding-house provisions. Could the Minister give a promise that any particular place would not come under the Bill? Some provision should be inserted whereby farms and pastoral leases would be exempt.

Hon. W. PATRICK: Perhaps the Minister would agree to an amendment that the clause should not apply to tem-

porary hands employed on farms or sheep stations.

Hon. F. CONNOR: In the cases mentioned, where shearers had to be boarded, the definition would make the place a lodging house for the time being and for some future time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Already it had been explained several times that every roads board was not a board of health under the Bill. There were only two roads boards that were health boards as far as he knew; there might be three. According to Clause 25 a roads board was only a board of health when the boundaries of the two districts were coterminous. In a thickly populated area a roads board was a board of health, but there might be contained in a roads board district two or three boards of health. For instance, in the Murray roads board district there might be half a dozen local boards of health. The Government proclaimed the settled areas health boards, but the surrounding country would not be proclaimed in that district. Could Mr. Hamersley point out where a man paid £6 in health rates where he was 12 miles from a centre? It was extremely unlikely that any health board would attempt to ask a person, who had a few men working and paid 30s. a week and rations, to come under the boarding-house provisions of the Bill. It was impossible to cover any particular place. He had the greatest objection to the amendment. Timber stations, where there were thousands of persons within a radius of half a mile, a health district was naturally proclaimed, but the whole of the timber station might be within a pastoral lease. The same thing applied on the Murchison and Eastern goldfields, where the whole area was let for pastoral purposes. A number of local bodies were within those areas but they would not come within the provision of the Bill. Twenty miles South of Black Range there was a locality which came within a health district, but the whole countryside there was within a pastoral lease.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: This was an exceedingly difficult matter to deal with. He still held the opinion that there were

areas which were liable to be taxed, and he thought in the interest of the people in the country, and one or two who had already been penalised, that something should be done. This might become a serious tax on the farms and stations, and he did not see any great harm if we exempted licensed victuallers, why those who were on pastoral holdings and on farms should not be exempted also.

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. G. RANDELL: For the purpose of bringing the clause into harmony, he moved an amendment—

That in the definition of boarding house, the word "five" be struck out and "six" inserted in lieu.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There was no objection to the amendment.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: If there were half a dozen tents on a property and there were less than six in a tent, each tent would be a boarding house, and there might be hundreds of persons in this particular locality, and so long as there were not six in a tent they would be exempt. It made the Bill a farce.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 193—Purchaser may have articles analysed:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment—

That in line 2 of Subclause 1 the words "an analyst" be struck out and "any analyst except the Government analyst" inserted in lieu.

It was provided that a purchaser of any food or drug, on payment of the prescribed fee, could get it analysed, but it was not desirable that there should be this right to demand an analysis from the Government analyst, otherwise the power would be used for advertising purposes.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause (new) 254—Dispensing in private hospitals:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This was a clause moved by Hon. M. L. Moss, and added to the Bill. It provided for the dispensing of medicines in private hospitals by a medical practitioner, or a duly registered chemist. He had not opposed the addition of the clause to the

Bill, but after giving the matter further consideration, he now considered that it should not remain in the Bill. In Clause 253 power was given to the local authority to make by-laws for private hospitals, and "private hospital" was fully defined. Those who applied for registration of private hospitals would take care to see that proper provision was made for the dispensing of medicines; but the clause went too far, as it would practically prevent charitable institutions, such as the Home of Peace, from carrying on as they did now.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: It was an essentially proper clause. In fact the Minister practically admitted that applicants for registration would see that the practice of mixing up medicines indiscriminately was not resorted to, and that was all the clause asked. Unless there was some provision in this regard, there might be some fearful calamity. He was told that the most deadly poisons were mixed up for internal use of patients, and that more than the recognised quantity was frequently put in medicines given to patients, in these private hospitals. There was no difference between making up medicines for private hospitals and those for public hospitals. If it was desirable that there should be supervision for public hospitals there should certainly be supervision in this direction for private hospitals. The Pharmaceutical Society asked for the clause, no doubt they would directly benefit by it, but he was personally convinced that the clause was essentially proper.

Hon. G. RANDELL: The clause was altogether too sweeping. These private hospitals were estimable institutions, and care was certainly taken in regard to medicines. In every case the dispensing was done by chemists, but the clause would prevent the mixing of medicines in cases of emergency. Even if there had been mistakes made in these institutions, similar mistakes were not unheard of on the part of doctors and chemists. Probably the matrons of these establishments would be highly qualified, and they would probably supervise the making up of all medicines, so that the dangers to which

Mr. Moss referred were remote, while on the other hand the inconvenience the clause would occasion would be very present, and the usefulness of the institutions would be limited.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: There is far greater chance of mistakes being made by unqualified persons.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: Have not nurses to pass an examination in medicine?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There was a certain examination, but he could not say whether it could be defined as an examination in medicine. There was no danger if the clause were omitted. Clause 253 gave power to the local authority to make certain regulations regarding the qualification of any person or persons keeping, nursing, or assisting in any private hospital. That was sufficient protection. In several assisted hospitals the dispensers were qualified men who were not registered because their qualifications were taken out in another State and there was no reciprocity.

Hon. M. L. Moss: I believe there is complete reciprocity with the whole of the Commonwealth and New Zealand.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Then it must be lately. These men were as qualified as registered chemists.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: The last argument of the Minister did not appeal to him, There did not appear to be any power by which the local authority could demand that the nurses or keepers should have a knowledge of dispensing medicines. The clause, the deletion of which was proposed, was admitted to be very necessary. In any of the larger centres of the State where there was no dearth of medical men and registered chemists, to give a power to unqualified persons to dispense medicines was not the proper thing. It might turn out, however, that in some outlandish part of the State such a clause might inflict a hardship, but it was not in outlying parts of the State where these hospitals were registered. The clause was a proper one in every respect, and it was the bounden duty of the Committee to guard the public against permitting unqualified persons to mix

up medicines containing dangerous commodities.

Hon. C. SOMMERS: The clause as passed would receive his support. Certain qualifications were required when it came to handling dangerous drugs; but there were some private hospitals where the dispensing was carried on by unqualified persons, and he had yet to learn that there was no danger associated with that kind of thing.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: How many inmates were there in the Waifs' Home? Could the Colonial Secretary enlighten the Committee?

The Colonial Secretary: The total was eighty-seven.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: Then there were eighty-seven persons there who might have to be doctored up by some unqualified person.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Would hon. members throw upon those good people who were conducting an institution like the Waifs' Home the necessity for having to pay say half-a-crown or three shillings for a bottle of simple medicine which could be made up by themselves for a few pence?

Hon. M. L. MOSS: In an establishment like the Waifs' Home and in other institutions they never waited to get medicines dispensed for ordinary and trivial complaints. The medicine was kept in large jars and bottles, and it was to be presumed that it had been dispensed either under the supervision of a medical man or a properly registered chemist. There need be no fear about that. All that the inserted clause did was to prevent the various drugs on the shelves of a drug store from being mixed up and perhaps some deadly poison being used in mistake.

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

Ayes	4
Noes	9

Majority against	..	5
------------------	----	---

Ayes.

Hon. F. Connor		Hon. A. G. Jenkins
Hon. M. L. Moss		(Teller).
Hon. C. Sommers		

NOES.

Hon. E. M. Clarke	Hon. W. Oats
Hon. J. D. Connolly	Hon. B. C. O'Brien
Hon. J. W. Hackett	Hon. W. Patrick
Hon. J. W. Langford	Hon. G. Randell
Hon. E. McLarty	(Teller).

Clause thus negatived.

Bill again reported with further amendments.

BILL—DISTRICT FIRE BRIGADES.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading said: This is a measure which passed through the Legislature in 1907, and was reported on by a select committee of that House, and subsequently saw the light of day for a short time in this House. It will be remembered that after passing its various stages in the Assembly it reached this House at the end of the session, or a few days before the adjournment of Parliament when members had a good deal of business to dispose of, and this being an entirely new measure it did not succeed in passing. Whatever the merits of the Bill may have been there was not then sufficient time to consider it. That argument cannot be put forward now in the early part of the present session. The object of the Bill is to create an Act for the government of country fire brigades. At the present time hon. members are aware that there is a Fire Brigades Act in force, but it only applies to the municipalities of Perth and Fremantle. The measure before the House is for the better and more economical working of the country fire brigades, or more correctly speaking the volunteer fire brigades. In the past these brigades have been kept up mostly by a pound for pound subsidy from the Government, and also by public contributions and grants from municipal councils. In the year 1906-7 the amount on the Estimates for the upkeep of these brigades was £3,590, and in addition £820 was expended. For the financial year 1907-8 the total spent was £2,386, and in addition to that the Government granted £750

in connection with the demonstration at Boulder. Last year the total expended was £3,000. Outside Perth and Fremantle the insurance companies have not contributed anything to the upkeep of the brigades. Under the Fire Brigades Act 1898 it is set out that the Government shall contribute to the upkeep of the brigades one-ninth the cost, the municipalities four-ninths, and the fire insurance companies four-ninths. But, as already stated, there are only two brigades in the State under that Act. The Bill is to bring in a somewhat similar provision in regard to the country or volunteer brigades.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: What about Perth and Fremantle?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Power is given that if the municipalities of Perth and Fremantle make application they may come in under the Bill. If they elect to remain as they are they can do so; it is purely at their discretion.

Hon. A. G. Jenkins: If they come under this provision they will have no power to be represented on the board.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I will come to that later. The representation of the board is set out in the Bill. I presume the hon. member's contention is that they should have special representation. As I have already stated, the fire insurance companies have contributed nothing to the country brigades. I think it only reasonable that the companies should contribute something to these brigades. The total number of brigades affiliated under the association is 34, of which 11 are in the metropolitan area; they have a total membership of 555 men. In addition to the 34 brigades there are, I understand, eight in the course of formation, and these will become part of the country fire brigades' association. The total value of the plant held by the country fire brigades is estimated to be nearly £11,000.

Hon. A. G. Jenkins: When was that valued?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It has been valued at different times. This is the plant extending over 34 brigades; some of the individual plants are not of

great value, but on the other hand, Kalgoorlie, Boulder, and other places have very complete plants indeed. Now the insurance companies have not contributed to these plants at all. The brigades have land and buildings valued at £9,000.

Hon. G. Randell: The insurance companies have contributed to the plants in Perth and Fremantle.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes; I am quoting the value of the plants outside these municipalities. The insurance companies have contributed nothing to the cost of building up these plants as they have done in Perth and Fremantle. The entire cost has been borne, firstly, by Government grants, very often by municipal aid, and sometimes by public subscriptions. These brigades are purely volunteer organisations, and the men have given valuable time to their work without fee or reward. I mention this in justice to those men. The Government are to contribute one-fourth of the upkeep, the insurance companies three-eighths, and the municipalities three-eighths. Under the Act of 1898 the scale of contribution has been one-ninth by the Government, and four-ninths by the municipalities and the insurance companies respectively.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: How is it to be apportioned among the municipalities?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: You will see it set out in the clauses of the Bill. The board to be appointed will consist of nine members; three of these are to be appointed by the Government, one to be elected by the local authorities, in each fire district, two by the insurance companies operating in the fire districts, and one by the volunteer brigades in each fire district.

Hon. G. Randell: Why should the companies have two and the Government three.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: We can debate that when the Bill is in Committee. Local committees are also to be appointed in sub-districts. These local committees shall consist of three members. The board may receive fees to the total of £250 per annum. Clause 30 provides power for the board to take steps

in the formation of brigades, etcetera. The board shall also determine the number of volunteers necessary to the protection of any district, and shall establish schools of instruction, etcetera. Clause 3 provides that the Bill shall only apply to districts where the Fire Brigades Act of 1898 does not apply, and the clause further makes provision that, if necessary, at the wish of the municipalities, Perth and Fremantle can be brought under the operation of the Bill.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: They will get no special representation.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No; that is a point that can be debated in Committee.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: But they will bring in such an important apparatus.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes; on the other hand the municipalities would relieve themselves of the cost to a certain extent, because the Government only contribute one-ninth under the existing Act, while the municipality contributes four-ninths; whereas under the Bill the Government will contribute three-eighths. This Bill is practically a copy of the Country Fire Brigades Act of Victoria. It is largely copied from the Victorian measure, and there, I might state, they have the same system as is proposed here, namely, a Metropolitan Fire Brigades Act and a Country Fire Brigades Act.

Hon. F. Connor: The contributions are not the same.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: In Victoria the Government contribute one-third, the insurance companies one-third, and the municipalities one-third. In South Australia the Government contribute three-tenths, the municipalities three-tenths, and the insurance companies four-tenths. There you have the insurance companies contributing the larger portion, very nearly one-half the total.

Hon. G. Randell: They pay nearly half the total here.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, but not under the Bill. Under the Bill they will pay only three-eighths.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: This is a country Bill?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes. It does not interfere with the 1898 Act at all. These are the main features of the Bill. The other clauses are purely machinery. It is a Bill that has been asked for repeatedly by the volunteer brigades of the State. It will put them in a better position; they will have an Act to work under and it will put them in a sound position so far as their finances are concerned. Moreover, it will ask the insurance companies to contribute a portion of the upkeep of the brigades, which I think the companies admit they are entitled to do. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. A. G. Jenkins, debate adjourned.

BILL—ABATTOIRS.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading said: This is a very small measure indeed, but at the same time a very necessary measure. It is a Bill to control and regulate public abattoirs. No hon. member will deny the fact that public abattoirs confer a considerable benefit upon a country. In certain countries, for instance in New Zealand, they have public abattoirs in every settlement boasting of 2,000 inhabitants. In the past we have not gone in for public abattoirs at all, but during last year a public abattoir was erected at Kalgoorlie to serve Kalgoorlie and Boulder.

Hon. G. Randell: You forget the one established here about 55 years ago.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I stand corrected. I was not aware that a public abattoir had been erected here 55 years ago. All I can say is that it was a very good practice indeed which was instituted 55 years ago, and I regret it has not been continued. The only public abattoir we have in the State at the present time is that which I have mentioned, and which is not yet in use, and which has been built for the Eastern goldfields.

Hon. R. D. McKenzie: They say that that abattoir is absolutely unsuitable.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If the hon. member will make himself responsible for that statement, I will reply to it. This Bill is brought in for the governing of these abattoirs at Kalgoorlie. It will be necessary to proclaim an area around these abattoirs, and the Bill provides that within that area no meat can be slaughtered other than at the public abattoirs. The necessity for this is obvious. It would be foolish to erect public abattoirs and allow meat to be slaughtered in any but those public abattoirs. The public abattoirs afford the very best system we can have for the protection of the public in regard to the meat supply, and for the detection of disease. It also affords to the purchaser and the stock owner a great benefit which they do not possess to-day. For instance, when the Kalgoorlie abattoirs are opened, any person may bring his stock to the abattoirs, have them slaughtered there and sell them himself. They could if they liked slaughter their cattle there, then put the meat into cool storage, and sell as they chose; they would not be compelled to sell to any particular butcher. By these means they would ensure getting a much better price than at present.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: Can the Government take land under this Bill?

Hon. M. L. Moss: They can under the Public Works Act.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Public Works Act covers all works. Clause 5 gives power to the Governor to appoint officers, while Clause 6 gives the power to make regulations. This is the most important clause of the Bill. It provides for the making of regulations as to the qualification, appointment, powers, and duties of officers, the use, control, and management of abattoirs, and in fact, all matters pertaining to the plant.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: It appears to be the greater part of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes.

Hon. F. CONNOR: Subclause "g" says "prohibiting of blowing except by the mechanical means or other injurious treatment, or preparation of meat." What does that mean?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The member from his experience must know

well that there is a practice of blowing meat in order to make it look nice and fat and firm. This is very objectionable and is prohibited under the regulations. Clause 11 gives the Governor-in-Council power to confer upon any local authority or two or more local authorities, jointly, the powers conferred on the Governor by the Bill, or to place any abattoir under the control and management of any local authority. In the Eastern States the abattoirs are largely controlled by the local municipal councils. In some instances the council build abattoirs, while in others the plant is built by the Government and then handed over to the local authority. Under this Bill the local authority is given power to build and maintain abattoirs, if necessary. I beg to move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. E. McLarty, debate adjourned.

BILL—OPIUM SMOKING PROHIBITION.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading said : To put it in a few words the object of this Bill is to prevent the smoking of opium in Western Australia. Legislation of this kind is in force in some form in most of the Eastern States. This Bill is a copy of the Victorian Act which has also been adopted by Tasmania. Similar provisions are also found in the Police Acts of New South Wales and Queensland. The introduction of the Bill is almost entirely due to a request from the Commonwealth Government to assist them in putting down the improper use of opium. In a word, the Bill provides that no person shall import or have in his possession opium in any form suitable for smoking. It does not prevent a person having opium in his possession provided it is to be used for medicinal purposes.

Hon. J. W. Hackett : Some cigarettes have opium in them and persons are ordered by their medical advisers to

smoke them. Are the cigarettes to be exempt ?

Hon. W. Kingsmill : Every Egyptian cigarette is "chock full" of opium.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : The Bill only provides that no person shall have in his possession opium for smoking purposes or have it in any form in which it can be smoked.

Hon. J. W. Hackett : Look at Clause 2.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : That says, "No person shall smoke opium." Surely no member will argue that opium smoking should be allowed.

Hon. M. L. Moss : Under this Bill if a medical man orders opium to be smoked that will not be allowed.

Hon. J. W. Hackett : The smoking of opium cigarettes is most valuable in the cure of asthma.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : Clause 6 reads—

"No person shall have in his possession, order or disposition opium in any form which, though not suitable for smoking may yet be made suitable, unless he holds a permit so to do issued by the Colonial Secretary of Western Australia who may at any time cancel the permit."

Hon. M. L. Moss : That is a sweeping clause.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : It is necessary, so that opium shall not be used for the purposes of smoking. The Bill is one simply to assist the Commonwealth Government to put down the evil. I beg to move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. M. L. MOSS (West) : I have only a few observations to make because after the Bill gets through the second reading I intend to ask the House to agree to a select committee being appointed to report upon the measure. While I have no sympathy with opium smoking in the sense we understand it when it refers to the opium dens which Asiatics are accustomed to have in many parts of the State, for the evil in such cases is to be condemned, and more severely so when we find Europeans indulging

in it to the extent known to exist in many parts of Australia. While we condemn that evil we must be careful not to do at the same time a great deal of mischief. I am sure members will agree with me that a great danger might exist in the application of Clause 6. I am told that opium is a drug which is more frequently used in the dispensing of medicine than anything a chemist has in his store. It is used most extensively in every community and in very many well-known medicines. It may be said that if opium is in medicines it is not suitable for smoking, but we all know that any analyst can take a bottle of medicine having opium in it, separate it into component parts, extract the opium and make it suitable for smoking. The clause provides that no person shall have in his possession opium in any form which though not suitable for smoking may yet be made suitable unless he obtains a permit from the Colonial Secretary. It also gives power to the Colonial Secretary to cancel that permit. That means that every medical man and chemist in the State would have to apply for a permit from the Colonial Secretary. That permit might be revoked at any time. I believe there would have to be issued in Western Australia something like 500 permits, the cancellation of which would preclude a chemist from making up medicines prescribed by medical men. There is also the sweeping clause, "No person shall smoke opium," although the smoking of opium is ordered by medical men in certain circumstances.

The Colonial Secretary: That applies to pure opium.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: I do not profess to be able to express an opinion as to how wide the provisions of the Bill are. The measure should go to a select committee, so that the evidence of at least two medical men and two registered chemists might be procured. I intend to ask the House to adopt that course later on. I do not oppose the second reading.

On motion by Hon. J. W. Langsford, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.12 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 28th September, 1909.

	PAGE
Election return, Albany	637
Papers presented	637
Questions: Railway refreshment room, Crowther	637
Railway water supply, Fremantle	637
Leave of absence	638
Bills: Public Education Endowment, Recommendation	638
Fisheries Act Amendment, 2a.	638
Licensing, 2b.	639
Administration Act Amendment, Message	656
Annual Estimates	656
Financial Statement for 1909-10	656

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m. and read prayers.

ELECTION RETURN—ALBANY.

The Clerk announced the return of writ for the election of a member for Albany showing that Mr. William Price had been duly elected.

Mr. W. Price took the oath and subscribed the roll.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: (1.) "Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act" and "The Trade Unions Act, 1902"—Report of proceedings for 1908-1909. (2.) State Children Department—Report for 1908-1909.

By the Minister for Railways: Papers *re* appointment of medical examiner to Railway Department—Return ordered on motion by Mr. Brown.

QUESTION—RAILWAY REFRESHMENT ROOM, CROWTHER.

Mr. HEITMANN asked the Minister for Railways: When is it the intention of the Railway Department to carry out the promise to erect a refreshment room at Crowther Railway Station?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: It is expected that the rooms will be completed about the end of next month, and tenders for the leasing of same will be invited as from the 1st November.

QUESTION—RAILWAY WATER SUPPLY, FREMANTLE.

Mr. DAGLISH asked the Minister for Railways: What has been the cost of