

is not so. The Government will still have to take the responsibility of submitting or refusing to submit certain public works to the committee; the works which the committee investigate must first be submitted by the Government, with the result that the Government take the responsibility of this submission or refusal to submit. The Government will not be able to commence a public work exceeding in cost £20,000 unless the committee have first investigated the proposition and submitted their report to Parliament. When their report is submitted to Parliament the Legislative Assembly must then carry a resolution endorsing or rejecting the recommendation of the committee. Should it be endorsed the work is undertaken, but if the Assembly considers further enquiry should be made, they can refer the question back again to the committee. If the Assembly should reject the work it cannot be resubmitted within a period of 12 months. I do not know that there are any other features of the Bill to which I need draw attention. I have touched the salient points of the measure, and I may say it is largely a machinery measure requiring, I think, no further explanation. The Premier points out one matter which I have neglected to touch upon, namely, the fact that while the Government will be compelled to submit to the committee works estimated to cost £20,000 or more, at the same time the Government may submit any other work which they think should be investigated. The remaining clauses of the Bill deal with the election of the committee and outline the powers of the committee to enter and call evidence, etcetera. Then machinery is provided for the appointment of sectional committees, so as to avoid the necessity in certain works of the whole committee going out to investigate. The committee will be able to delegate certain powers to sectional committees to investigate and report to the main body. I need not take up any more time in submitting the Bill to the favourable consideration of members. We claim as a Government that the Bill will have the effect of protecting the public. In the first place it will have the effect of giving Parliament an opportu-

ity of clearly understanding the pros and cons of any public proposition, and any Bill which gives Parliament a greater say in the public works of the country, and a greater control over the public works, must, I feel sure, commend itself to the favourable consideration of members of the House.

On motion by Mr. Frank Wilson, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.41 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 22nd November, 1911.

	PAGE
Question: Sewerage connections, Perth ...	341
Bills: Deputy Governor's Powers, 2s. ...	342
Veterinary, 2s. ...	342
Appellate Jurisdiction, Com. ...	344
Game, 2s. ...	344

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

QUESTION—SEWERAGE CONNECTIONS, PERTH.

Hon. M. L. MOSS asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, What are the number and location of all private sewerage household connections which have been carried out departmentally in the city of Perth up to date? 2, Were tenders invited for all such works, and, if so, what was the lowest tender in each instance? 3, Where work has been carried out departmentally, the respective cost to the department and the amount of the lowest tender? 4, What are the items which enable the department to estimate its own costs under the departmental system?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, Six. 131 Kensington-street; 147 Kensington-street; 110-112 Brown-street; 118 Brown-street; 122 Brown-street. 2, Yes. 131 Kensington-street, £38 17s. 6d.; 147 Kensington-street, £49;

110-112 Brown-street, £69; 118 Brown-street, £40 14s.; 122 Brown-street, £45; total, £242 11s. 6d. 3, Departmental cost, without extras—131 Kensington-street, £26 19s. 2d.; 147 Kensington-street, £34 2s. 9d.; 110-112 Brown-street, £50 7s. 3d.; 118 Brown-street, £32 18s. 5d.; 122 Brown-street, £35 0s. 10d.; total, £179 8s. 5d., including £24 10s. supervision; lowest tenders, see (2). 4, The items requested are incidental with those supplied to the house connection contractors to the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department.

BILL—DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S POWERS.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew) in moving the second reading said: By certain Letters Patent passed under the British Seal on the 29th October, 1900, permanent provision was made for the office of Governor of Western Australia. Provision was also made that the powers vested in the Governor by the Letters Patent could, in certain circumstances, be conferred on the Lieutenant Governor of the State or some person appointed under the Royal Sign Manual. It was likewise provided in the Letters Patent that the Governor would appoint a deputy in the State to exercise and perform his duties during his absence from the State. Some doubt has arisen as to whether the whole of the powers of the Governor can be transferred. It has been admitted that the powers under the Letters Patent can be transferred, but very strong opinions are held as to whether the Governor's statutory powers can be transferred to his deputy. In South Australia similar Letters Patent exist. They were granted to the Governor of that State at the same time as they were granted to the State of Western Australia, but last year the Chief Justice of South Australia held that while the Governor of that State could transfer his powers under the Letters Patent he could not transfer his statutory authority. The matter was regarded as a very serious one by the Gov-

ernment of South Australia and they referred it to the Imperial authorities who secured the opinion of the Crown Law Department of England, that is the Crown Law officers attached to the British Government, and those officers confirmed the view held by the Chief Justice of South Australia. Hence it became necessary that there should be an amendment of the law in South Australia in order to enable the Governor to give complete powers to his deputy. In accordance with the position the Government of South Australia passed a law in that direction. The Bill before members is an exact copy of the Bill which has passed the Parliament of South Australia with one exception, and that exception is this, that for "South Australia" the words "Western Australia" have been substituted. Clause 3 of the Bill confers statutory powers on the Governor's deputy and Clause 4 enables the Lieutenant Governor or the Administrator to delegate all these powers to his deputy. Clause 5 makes the Bill retrospective, in order to leave no room for doubt as to the validity of acts already performed by Deputy Governors. This system has been in force for 30 years and it is necessary for the Government to bring in a Bill to take all possible precautions and make provision so that any acts already done may be validated. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BILL—VETERINARY.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew) in moving the second reading said: Composed as this House is of a large number of members who are in touch with the rural population of the State the necessity and urgency of this measure should be apparent to most of the hon. members and should meet with their recognition. Western Australia is advancing and with its advancement comes the pressing need for legislation which was not necessary in former days. This Bill

is to regulate the practice of veterinary surgery. Hitherto the State has taken no action in the direction of providing safeguards against an important section of the field of science being invaded by quacks who travel round the country falsely representing themselves as veterinary surgeons but who are not possessed of the qualifications. Not only personally do they represent themselves as such, but they have standing advertisements in various newspapers. Through the existence of this class the agricultural community and stock owners generally suffer to an extent it is scarcely possible to compute. This Bill will endeavour to put a stop to that sort of business. It has been framed for the purpose of registering all qualified veterinary surgeons and preventing unqualified persons from practising in any way whatsoever. Clause 3 provides that in order to carry out the working of the measure a veterinary board shall be constituted by the Governor under this clause. It is stated in the clause that the number of members of that board shall be five, but as the number of qualified veterinary surgeons in Western Australia is very small, I have decided to move an amendment in Committee, with the consent of the House, reducing the number to three. The same clause makes the board a body corporate with power to sue and be sued. Clause 4 restricts the period during which every member of the board shall hold office to three years from the date of his appointment unless he dies, resigns or is removed. Clause 5 enables the Governor to remove a member from the board at any time should there be a necessity. Clause 6 makes provision for the election of a chairman from among the members of the board, but with the approval of the Minister who is charged with the administration of the Act. He can be removed from the office of chairman only with the consent of the Minister.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom: Will he be the Minister's nominee?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: He is not the Minister's nominee, but if he is not suitable he will not get the appointment. Clauses 7, 8, and 9 deal with procedure at meetings of the board; Clause

10 provides for the appointment of the registrar, and for his removal from office should it be deemed necessary; Clauses 11 and 12 ensure that the acts of the board shall not be affected by irregularities in appointment, and give power to the board to examine witnesses on oath. Clause 13 deals with the establishment of a register, and Clause 14, being practically the imposition of taxation, is a clause that must remain for the prior consideration of another place. Clause 21 provides that every person shall be entitled to be registered under the Act, who proves to the satisfaction of the board that he has attained the age of 21 years, is a person of good fame and character, and holds a diploma of competency as a veterinary surgeon from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of Great Britain, or from some other college or institution recognised by the board, provided that until the first day of May, 1912, the board may register any person who had been continuously practising as a veterinary surgeon for seven years in Western Australia if he passes a prescribed examination. The fact that he has been practising for seven years will be no guarantee that he will be registered. He must pass a certain prescribed examination; I think all will agree that this is necessary. It will perhaps not be a very stiff examination, but it will be an essential examination. The fact that they have been practising for 10 or 12 years in Western Australia gives them no right to still continue to practise to the detriment of the agricultural community.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: It should disqualify some of them.

Hon. W. Patrick: Is the board to examine them?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes.

Hon. J. F. Cullen: Will it be an honorary board?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, purely honorary. If there are any other questions hon. members would ask I shall be pleased to answer them in Committee.

Hon. J. F. Cullen: From what Act have you taken this?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: From the Victorian Act.

Hon. J. F. Cullen: Have you departed from it very much?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Not to any extent; just simply to suit local conditions.

Hon. T. H. Wilding: Is the board to consist of veterinary surgeons only?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That is a matter that will rest entirely with the Government. It may be composed wholly of veterinary surgeons. If the board is to conduct the examinations a large proportion of the members of the board must be veterinary surgeons. If there is a desire that there should be representation on the board outside veterinary surgeons we can allow the number of members to remain at five, but if the amendment proposed to reduce the number to three is carried they will all have to be veterinary surgeons.

Hon. T. H. Wilding: It would be in their interests as a board not to pass some of the men.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I will be glad to hear the matter discussed. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. T. F. O. Brimage, debate adjourned.

BILL—APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

In Committee.

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

BILL—GAME.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM (North): This is a Bill which, I am sure, is very necessary for the preservation of indigenous game in Western Australia, but however wise it is to take these measures I hope they will not be pushed to extreme limits. There are many people living in cities with sentimental ideas in connection with these matters, when prob-

ably they are not aware how they will work practically in those parts of the State they do not see. Some of the birds and animals desired to be preserved are becoming almost pests. The difficulty is how to stop their being pests, and keep in view the necessity for maintaining a few of them as specimens of the indigenous birds and animals of the country. I suppose there are few people who realise the enormous numbers of emus there are in portions of the State. Take the Murchison, for instance. Only the other day I saw something like 50 emus come to one trough. They do incalculable harm to fences and water; and, worse than that, in a year like this, when drought is bad, they die lingering and suffering deaths from starvation. All these emus will be dead before Christmas, or a little after. Hitherto it was permissible to shoot the emu in the same way as a kangaroo—I believe the skin is worth something like 2s.—but at present no one is allowed to shoot them, or destroy them at all. Consequently these birds will die and no one will be any better off, and they will not be preserved.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: I do not think they ought to be.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: Some specimens should be preserved I agree, but I mention this to draw attention to the powers that are given to the Governor, if so advised, to preserve almost any kind of game he likes by proclamation. Before this became law I wanted to point out to the promoter of the Bill that emus in many cases are a nuisance. If they were like the ostrich, with feathers that are valuable, and if it were remunerative to farm them, it would be a different matter; but they are no use to anyone and they are simply to be preserved as indigenous birds of the State.

Hon. W. Marwick: I know a station that gives 2s. 6d. a head for the destruction of emus.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: It would pay any station owner to give that. They are there in hundreds. It is different with the kangaroo. The kangaroo skin is an article of commerce eagerly sought after, but it appears the more the kan-

garoos are shot the more plentiful they become. It would seem that the best way to destroy the emus would be to preserve them. I think some arrangement should be made to get rid of the emus; they should not be strictly preserved. Certainly something should be done to preserve our fishes and birds and flora and fauna of any State in any part of the Commonwealth, but it needs to be done judiciously and not all mixed up together. Any birds or animals becoming pests should be dealt with accordingly. I would not like to see the rabbit preserved. I do not know whether Mr. Kingsmill will include it among the indigenous animals. I hope, at all events, he will not allow the Governor to proclaim that it is an animal to be preserved. With these few remarks I have much pleasure in supporting the second reading.

On motion by Hon. V. Hamersley, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.0 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 22nd November, 1911.

	PAGE
Questions: Railway strikes at Geraldton	345
Water supplies in Yuna area	345
Conditional purchases, residence and improvements	345
Land policy	346
Railway contractors and Government Property	346
Perth Public Hospital, hours of staff	346
Bills: Local Courts Act Amendment, report	346
Health Act Amendment, 2a. Com.	348
Public Works Committee, 2a., Com.	362
Early Closing Act Amendment, 2a.	379
Resolution: Standing Orders, Lapsed Bills	386
Papers presented	385

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTION—RAILWAY STRIKES AT GERALDTON.

Mr. DOOLEY asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Whether he is aware that the Commissioner for Railways has let by contract a portion of the work on the new

station and marshalling yards at Geraldton for which he has refused to pay 10s. per day, viz., the unloading and stacking of rails; and that the contractor who has undertaken the work is paying 10s. per day of eight hours? 2, What efforts, if any, have been made to effect a settlement of the trouble in connection with this matter, and the procedure adopted *re* same?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, No. No such contract was made by the Commissioner of Railways. 2, Nothing further than that we are prepared to go on with the work, provided the men are willing to return at the reasonable rate, viz., 9s. 6d. per day, they were in receipt of when they went out.

QUESTION—WATER SUPPLIES IN YUNA AREA.

Mr. NANSON asked the Minister for Works: 1, Is the Minister aware that, owing to the exceptionally dry season, the settlers on the Yuna area are in serious straits for want of water? 2, How and when does the Minister propose to meet the difficulty?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Works) replied: 1, Yes. 2, An officer is at present in the district investigating possible supplies of water, and on receipt of his report, a boring party will be at once despatched to prospect for water.

QUESTION — CONDITIONAL PURCHASES, RESIDENCE AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Mr. MONGER asked the Minister for Lands: Whether the residential conditions on conditional purchase block No. 13454/55 were complied with by the lessee prior to transfer on 14th April, 1908?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: No inspection was made of this holding prior to December, 1907, when the inspector pointed out that the residence condition was not being complied with, but, prior to that, an application had been lodged to convert the block into a non-residence holding.