

mier said, the Government have to find out his address.

Mr. ALLEN: We are imagining difficulties which are not likely to arise. No one who has a property of value will go out of the State leaving himself unre-presented, or unprotected by an agent. To forward a notice to the address on a certificate of title would frequently lead to the notice never reaching the owner. Land might be sold on terms, and the purchaser would not be registered until the purchase was completed. Thus the notice would go to the original owner, who would simply put it in the waste-paper basket as of no interest to him.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause as previously amended, put and passed.

Clause 5—agreed to.

Clause 6—Effect of amendments:

Mr. CARPENTER: This clause makes parts of this Bill retrospective. There is always a certain amount of risk in inserting such a clause, but I suppose the Premier has some reason for asking us to pass it. It may be that he desires to validate something that has been done since the original Act was passed.

The PREMIER: We have put down a ring main around Perth from which the local authorities and the Government will take a supply of current in bulk, and in doing that we had in some cases to pass through unoccupied premises. In other directions work has been performed where the owner has been absent from the State and we have not been able to give notice. That is why we had to make the clause retrospective; it was to legalise these actions.

Clause put and passed.

New clause:

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: I move—

That the following be added to stand as Clause 4:—Section 7 of the principal Act is amended by adding to Subsection 2 thereof a paragraph as follows:—"If an agreement is not arrived at between the Commissioner and the local authority upon any of the following matters; namely, the placing of electric lines over, under, or through any land, or the route to be traversed by any elec-

tric line through or across any thoroughfare or other public place, or the plans of buildings to be constructed within the district of such local authority, any such matter in difference shall be referred by the Commissioner to the Minister as sole arbitrator and the decision of such Minister shall be binding on the parties and final."

New clause—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

BILL—BREAD ACT AMENDMENT.

Report of Committee adopted.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The PREMIER: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn to Tuesday, 24th August.

Question passed.

House adjourned at 8.6 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 24th August, 1915.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Boya Quarry; trading account, profit and loss account and balance sheet of, as at 30th

June, 1915, together with Auditor General's report. 2, Perth City Markets: audit of accounts, to 30th June, 1914, and 30th June, 1915. 3, Land Clearing: audit of accounts. 4, Abattoirs Act, 1909, Regulations. 5, Albany Cold Stores, audit of accounts. 6, Government Refrigerating Works, audit of accounts. 7, North Fremantle Saleyards, audit of accounts. 8, Plant Diseases Act, 1914, Regulations. 9, Mines Regulation Act, 1906, prevention of dust in mines; repeal of General Rule 19 and amendment thereto and substitution of new rule in lieu thereof. 10, Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912, Section 25, return showing the number of members in each industrial union registered under the Act as on 31st December, 1914. 11, North Fremantle Abattoirs: audit of accounts. 12, Audit Act, 1904. (a) Amendment of Regulation 36 and approval of Form 11a. (b) Amendment of Regulation 44.

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE, HORSE-RACING CONTROL.

To adjourn from place to place.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.33]: I move—

That in addition to the powers already conferred by the House, the Joint Select Committee to inquire into the control of horse-racing be given power to adjourn from place to place.

It is the desire of the committee to travel in order to obtain evidence, and I understand the expenses incurred by this will be much lighter than if the witnesses were summoned to Perth.

Question passed.

QUESTION — STATE IMPLEMENT WORKS.

Commission of Inquiry.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN (without notice) asked the Colonial Secretary: Will he inform the House whether the Government have yet appointed a judge of the Supreme Court to inquire into the management of the State Implement Works, and

if not, what progress has been made towards such appointment.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: I am advised that a judge of the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Northmore, will be appointed at to-morrow's Executive Council meeting.

QUESTION — ARTESIAN BORING OPERATIONS, MOORA.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN (for Hon. C. F. Baxter) asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, What is the depth and cost of the artesian bore at Moora? 2, Were the indications favourable to the striking of a supply of water when operations ceased? 3, Is it a fact that the plant was obsolete and had to be scrapped? 4, Why were boring operations discontinued? 5, What is the intention of the Government as regards a water supply for Moora?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, Depth, 2,230 feet. Cost £3,677. 2, Bore was still in shale but there were no indications. 3, No. 4, The bore was put down partly for exploratory purposes for the district, and it was considered that proof had been obtained that water did not exist at depths which could be practically exploited by private enterprise. It was also considered that the chances of obtaining potable water suitable for a town supply at greater depth than 2,230 feet were not sufficiently good to warrant further expenditure in this direction. 5, It is proposed to continue investigations with the object of obtaining a suitable supply from either surface or shallow subterranean sources.

QUESTION—MAIZE AND BRAN, GRAIN SHED, FREMANTLE.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN (for Hon. C. F. Baxter) asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, What is the total amount of maize and bran left out of the quantities purchased by the Government to assist industries? 2, Is it a fact that a large quantity is stored in the grain shed at Fremantle? 3, In view of the fact that in all probability we shall be compelled to store a

large quantity of grain in this shed through the coming year, is it not advisable and in the best interests of the State to have all produce so stored in the grain shed removed at once and the shed thoroughly cleansed of weevil and other pests? 4, Will this be done immediately? If not, why not?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, Maize (whole and crushed), 1,911 tons; bran, 3,039 tons. These figures embrace stocks of these commodities at Fremantle, Geraldton, and Northam. 2, Yes. 3, Yes. 4, Yes.

QUESTION — EXPEDITIONARY FORCES, ELECTORAL QUALIFICATIONS.

Hon. H. P. COLEBATCH asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is it a fact that members of the Expeditionary Forces after three months' absence from the State are struck off the electoral rolls? 2, What steps do the Government propose to take to protect the electoral rights and privileges of members of the Expeditionary Forces?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, No. 2, Everything possible is being done by the Electoral Department to protect the electoral privileges of members of the Expeditionary Forces. Electoral registrars have been strictly instructed not to remove such names from the roll. Should, through insufficient particulars, the name of any member of the Expeditionary Forces be removed, it would be reinstated on the roll on receipt of proof by the Electoral Registrar or by the Electoral Department.

MOTION—RETIREMENT OF PUBLIC SERVANT, TO INQUIRE.

Case of C. F. Gale.

Debate resumed from the 17th August on the motion by Hon. W. Kingsmill, "That a select committee of this House be appointed to inquire into the circumstances attending the retirement of Mr. C. F. Gale from the position of Chief Protector of Aborigines."

Hon. F. CONNOR (North) [4.40]: I support the motion for several reasons, the most important of which is that it deals with a very vital question, namely, the discharge of public servants whose capabilities are unquestioned, and whose usefulness is required by the State. The motion deals with the discharge of one public servant only, namely, Mr. Gale. If we were to go back into the history of the discharging of public servants, I could mention a good many names of gentlemen who, in my humble opinion, were fit to serve the State for a much longer time than they were permitted by those in power. For instance, there was Mr. Roe, who has certainly shown since his discharge that such discharge was a mistake, inasmuch as he has demonstrated that he knows more about the business which it was his prerogative to carry out for the State than anybody else who has since been appointed. By that I do not mean anything derogatory to the present occupant of the office. This discharge of Mr. Gale brings a very big question before the representatives of the people in Parliament assembled, namely, as to whether or not political "pull" shall be the means of deciding whether a man is to stay in the position to which he has attained by, perhaps, 20 years of hard work. That is what this motion means. It is to decide whether or not this is to continue. In my opinion this system of discharge is a bad thing for the State, for the people, and for the public servants, because it will not encourage public servants to do their best for the State. What is going to be the effect if this unwarranted interference with the public service is to continue? We cannot expect public servants to take an interest in their work if, for reasons not given, they are to be abruptly discharged. Mr. Gale's services were of such value to the State and his experience was so wide that it was certainly against the interest of the department and of the State to retire that gentleman. To the question whether Mr. Gale was mentally or physically unfit for service, I say unhesitatingly that he was not. He was a fit and proper person to carry out the duties of

the position he was in, duties which require precisely a man of his capacity and capabilities and experience to carry out successfully. I may go back to the retirement of Mr. James Cowan, and ask was he unfit for the position he held? I say no. That man was in a position to give good service to the State for a great many more years, but in Mr. Roe's case and in Mr. Cowan's case there was an excuse for the Government. They retired these gentlemen because they had attained the allotted age, not the age at which it is compulsory that they should resign, but the age at which the Public Service Commissioner could recommend that they should retire, that was the age of 60. Mr. Gale, however, was not 60 years of age, he was 54. I should like to ask the leader of the House whether Mr. Gale was retired because of his age, which was 54, or because the Public Service Commissioner recommended that he should be retired. I will quote, directly, from the Public Service Commissioner's report on the file to show that he did not want Mr. Gale to be retired. Why, therefore, was he retired? The Public Service Commissioner is the man who is supposed to recommend retirements when civil servants reach the age of 60, but this was not a question of where a man had attained the age of 60. The Public Service Commissioner practically recommended that this man should be kept on, and yet he is retired. We want to know why it is possible for these things ever to occur. We want to know whether a civil servant is to be allowed to carry on the work which is given to him, and given a fair chance of continuing up to the time at which he can claim that he has a right to the highest possible pension he can get for his services. Mr. Gale was 54 years of age and put in 21 years of service in the State. Mr. Gale, believing and thinking, almost in his heart knowing, that this position was his because he had done nothing which would cause the Government to retire him—except that he got married at this particular time—thought he had nine more years of service to look forward to, but instead of that he is taken away from it and a man

who is not qualified to fill his place is put into it. Mr. Gale's salary, at the time he was retired, was £528 per annum. At 60 years of age, six years from now, he would have received six years' more salary. That is his misfortune. My object in discussing this question is to try and point out to the Government that it is only fair that they should give Mr. Gale the advantage of the work he has done for the country. Under the Superannuation Act the Government, I believe, have a right to add ten years on to the service of anybody who is discharged, provided there is no reason why he should be discharged. I ask the leader of the House to take that into consideration when Mr. Gale's pension is being fixed. He has a right under the Superannuation Act, provided there is nothing against his character, to this ten years being added to his time of service for the purpose of fixing his pension. I hope that, at least so far as a number of years which he was not allowed to serve up to the age of 60 is concerned, this will be put on to his service so that it will affect his pension to that amount. I think I can go back, except for those people who were born in the State, in the history of Western Australia to-day further than perhaps anyone else here. I know that even in 1880 Mr. Gale was a pioneer in the northern portions of the State. In 1880 Mr. Gale pioneered the Gascoyne and was one of the first squatters there. Mr. Gale knew more about the opening up of that country and the habits and customs and temperament of the natives than almost anyone else. He also knew how to handle them possibly better than any other man. It was a proper thing that he should be in a position in which he was, and in which he did such credit to himself and the State. He knew all about the natives in their wild state, and therefore he was particularly useful in the position of protector of aborigines, and I think he did his work remarkably well. Not only has he done his work well in connection with that particular department, but to my own knowledge he has been of great assistance to other departments of this State. In the case of the Stock Depart-

ment, for instance, he had been a stock inspector himself for some time and was able by his advice to give very valuable information to the Government in connection with stock. Up to his retirement I know instances in which he had saved the State a great amount of money. How could a man who has no knowledge of the North and knows nothing whatever about the natives, and who has never in his life lived beyond the outskirts of civilisation, satisfactorily take up the field work which has been done by Mr. Gale? He is not capable, I do not care how good a man he is. I am not saying anything against him personally. Even in this great undertaking that the Government have brought about, namely the purchase of the cattle station at Moola-boola, he was a man who organised the thing and bought it. The credit of it is due to Mr. Gale and no one else. I am pleased to be told that the station is a huge success. The protector of aborigines ought to be a man who understands everything about the handling of aborigines. I do not know whether Mr. Neville has ever seen a wild aboriginal. I am satisfied, however, that Mr. Gale was the right man in the right position. When it comes to handling a huge department, which extends from one end of the State to the other to a man with a knowledge of a lifetime, with the practice of a lifetime and with the information he has gained, the Government could not have a better man than Mr. Gale, and yet for all that, without any reason, they told him he must retire and he had to retire. If the man had been incapable, or if there had been anything against his character the step that was taken need not have occasioned so much surprise, but there was nothing set out against Mr. Gale as a reason why he should be retired. In handling this native question there is a lot of things to be thought about. I venture to say that Mr. Gale was quite conversant with them all. He knew the country well, and particularly in the far north in which the missionary stations are. There is the Drysdale River Station, the Hanover Bay Station and the

Forrest River Station. There has been serious trouble in at least two of these missions, and there have been attacks by the natives and the people's lives have been threatened. In my humble opinion there will be lives lost at the Forrest River if more precautions are not taken. How can a man who has never been there, who knows nothing at all about the natives or their habits, handle a position of this sort? I am not saying anything against Mr. Neville. He may be a heaven-born administrator for all I know, but he does not know sufficient about this question. We want a man with knowledge; we had him and there was no reason why he should be retired, but retired he was. Again, the Government are having a station established at Kataning where they are going to keep natives and handle them. Surely the necessity arises for a man who knows something about the position to have charge of it. Yet we find the man who knew all about it has been retired from the service without any reason. How can Mr. Neville know anything about the natives proper? How can he understand how to handle them and, above all, how to educate them? A more difficult proposition still is how will he handle the half-breed? I do not know, and I am sure he does not know, and yet I do think that Mr. Gale did know. Now about this Moola-boola Station, it is here that Mr. Gale's advice and knowledge came in. He it was who gave such valuable advice in regard to handling the station, the handling of the cattle, horse and store accounts. I do not know how all these things, which were handled so well by Mr. Gale, are being handled now. In connection with this department, there were some 51 police reports which came in last year. Surely we want a man who knows something about the handling of these things. We are told that his retirement was due to retrenchment. I think the only excuse was that there was no further use for the Immigration department. That is very sad. Are we never going to have any more immigrants coming to Western Australia? Is the department to go by the board? Are we never to have any more

people come out to Western Australia to open up the country and settle on the land? It is very hard indeed to keep from saying more than one wants to say. Independently of the field work which Mr. Gale did and which he was capable of doing, and which required capable experience on the part of the man who did it, I want to point out the expenses of the department of which he was in charge. The expenditure of the department was £32,010 2s. 8d., and it was spent in different style. On salaries, for instance, the sum of £2,380 17s. 10d. was spent. I am taking the figures from the aborigines report. On the relief of natives, blankets, clothing, provisions, etc., there was spent £11,432. With reference to that, when Mr. Gale was away on his holidays seven or eight months ago, a very bad state of affairs existed here as a result of the drought, and the natives suffered a good deal in consequence. They had to come in in order to get their food supplies, and Mr. Gale set to work and brought about the formation of committees on the goldfields and he arranged to send up all that was necessary to satisfy the wants of the natives. That must have involved a considerable expenditure, although we must not forget that under the Constitution Act we are bound to spend a certain sum of money on the care of the natives. Mr. Gale went away on his holidays, and shortly afterwards the drought broke, and when he returned there was no necessity for the continuation of the expenditure on the provisions he had arranged to secure before his departure. But everything had been allowed to go on as if the same difficult conditions had continued to exist. Of course Mr. Gale saw that money was being unnecessarily expended, and he stopped that at once, and so saved the State some thousands of pounds. Mr. Gale had the control of the expenditure of over £32,000, of which amount £4,730 was in connection with lock hospitals, £8,070 on the Moala Bulla station—I presume that money was spent in improvements—and generally on the natives £2,219, and he discharged his duties with

satisfaction to the State. This was to be expected, because Mr. Gale knew his work thoroughly from beginning to end. The position of Protector of Aborigines requires the attention of a man of the experience of Mr. Gale. I do not intend to talk at any great length on this question, but I cannot help making one or two quotations from the file. Mr. Gale was not retired at the age of 54 years on the recommendation of the Public Service Commissioner. I might be permitted to read this letter from the Honorary Minister—who had charge of the department—to the Premier, with reference to this question, and the Honorary Minister, in his letter, quotes the notes of Mr. Jull—

I have perused the Public Service Commissioner's minute in regard to the amalgamation of the Aborigines and Charities Departments, and desire to comment on the following paragraphs: Para. 7: If the proposed retrenchment is on the grounds of financial necessity it becomes a question whether instead of saving £316, or may be less, at the expense of the management, it would not be better to restrict expenditure in other directions.

And the Honorary Minister goes on to show that there were other means of retrenchment which might have been of more use. He wrote further—

This will mean that we continue to pay what is, in my opinion, excessive salary to the Chief Protector of Aborigines, and make up the deficiency by deducting food or clothing supplied to the natives. I am opposed to such a course being adopted.

So would I if I were the Honorary Minister. Then the Honorary Minister goes on to quote para. 9, which says—

Mr. Longmore, whilst capable of dealing through his office with relief to aborigines, has no knowledge whatever of the habits and customs or the history of administration of native matters and in the case of native troubles developing into a public or legal question, his opinion would carry no weight with the public or in a court of law.

That is from the Commissioner, who did not recommend the retirement of Mr. Gale. I will not prolong my remarks on this question, but if any hon. members care to look at the file they will find paragraph after paragraph by the Commissioner which shows that the Government had no right to take the step they did in regard to Mr. Gale. If this kind of thing is going to continue, I want to warn the Government that Nemesis will overtake them. In the future they must certainly exercise more care in dealing with capable and useful officers. If for political reasons they continue this policy of theirs of discharging servants who have carried out their duties satisfactorily from every point of view, then it will be a bad state of affairs for everyone in the State.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW (Metropolitan-Suburban) [5.50]: May I express my thanks to the hon. members who have spoken for the kindly words they have uttered with regard to myself, and also for the kind welcome which has been accorded me from all quarters. I would also like to pay my tribute of respect to the memory of my predecessor, the late Hon. D. G. Gawler. In supporting the motion moved by Mr. Kingsmill, I desire to discuss the question from two points of view. The first is, how does it affect the aborigines? I am not one of those who, because the Chief Protector of Aborigines controls a department that only spends £30,000 annually, consider that the office is an unimportant one. We owe a duty to the aborigines whom we have dispossessed. The aborigines in the long run are bound to disappear before the advance of the white man, who carries with him the two deadly weapons, alcohol and disease. But it is our duty to see that the welfare of the aborigines is promoted, that their lot is ameliorated, and if they are doomed to extinction—as I think they are—then the process should be one of euthanasia. There are, I think, three characteristics which the Protector of Aborigines should possess—the first is that he should have sympathy with the natives, the second, he should

understand their habits, customs, and character, and the third that he should be a man of firmness and strength of will, in order that, if necessary, he may protect his charges and see that their interests are not neglected. I am only slightly acquainted with Mr. Gale, but I believe he did possess these characteristics to an eminent degree. The Chief Protector of Aborigines should not be an office man, he should not be tied to an office stool, but he should pay periodical visits to various parts of this vast State in order that he might see for himself the conditions under which the aborigines are living, and the treatment which is being meted out to them. How does this retirement affect the civil service? There can be no doubt that, if the civil servants can see no adequate reason for arbitrary retirements of this description, considerable discontent and a feeling of insecurity must follow. In some of the retirements which have been made the civil servants may possibly think they see political motives. So far as this particular retirement is concerned, I do not suggest that there are any political motives. I do not know what the political opinions of Mr. Gale are, and I trust that they are of no concern whatever to the Honorary Minister, but in some of the retirements which have been made, the civil servants thought that they could see political motives. I would like to illustrate that point by mentioning a little incident which happened to me during the course of my election. Some years ago in my professional capacity, I was able to render considerable service to a baby, and the parents of that baby were extremely grateful. When I started my political campaign, the mother of the baby came to my house and showed me a circular which she had got from a rival candidate, asking her to go on his committee. She said to me that she would not dream of doing that, but if I would not think it presumption on her part, she would be glad to canvass for me in her neighbourhood. I told her that I wished more people would be guilty of such presumption, and I added that I

could stand many such insults. She went away pledged to do what she could, but on the following morning she came back to my house looking rather distressed, and she informed me that while her husband, who is a civil servant, was going to vote for me, she had told him about her offer to canvass for me, and his reply to her was, "You can do it, but if it is known in the office in which I occupy a subordinate position, that you are canvassing for a Liberal candidate, I shall get a black mark." I hope and trust that his fears were entirely groundless. I do not think any Government would condescend to put a black mark against a man for such a reason, but I just mention this to show that a feeling such as that to which I have referred does prevail in the service. Mr. Connor has quoted from the file, and he read to the House a memorandum which Mr. Jull wrote, in which it was suggested that Mr. Longmore should take over the duties of Chief Protector of Aborigines. This is what he wrote—

Mr. Longmore, whilst capable of dealing through his office with relief to the aborigines, has no knowledge whatever of the habits and customs or the history of administration of native matters.

He goes on to say further—

Under these circumstances it seems to me that we should be discounting the whole situation if we retired a man who is acquainted with the aborigines question for the sake of saving £316 per annum (possibly less) out of a total expenditure of over £30,000, and place the department under a man who knows nothing of it and has no time nor opportunity to acquire knowledge.

Must we not be surprised to find in the next reference on the file that Mr. Jull recommended the retirement? The remarks I propose to make have no reference to Mr. Jull personally, but to the functions of the Public Service Commissioner. I do not think that the Commissioner could have acted in any other way than he did. There is, I believe, a very erroneous im-

pression that the office of the Public Service Commissioner is to act as a buffer between the Minister and the civil servant. That impression widely prevails, but it is entirely erroneous. The office of Public Service Commissioner is not a buffer between the Minister and the public servant. I should rather say it is clay in the hands of the potter, and we have no need to ask, with old Omar, which is the potter and which the clay. In describing it as clay, I have perhaps used a word which expresses too great firmness. I think, perhaps it would be better to represent it by the word *plastieine*, that material which the child uses over and over again to mould its lay figures and then picks up, rolls in its hands and throws on the floor—a shapeless mass. I am not speaking of the man, but of the office. On referring to the Act it will be found that the powers which people think are conferred on the Commissioner do not really belong to him. On looking through the file perhaps the most interesting part of it is contained in the pencil marks in the margin. Hon. members will notice when Mr. Jull points out that under an agreement with the Imperial authorities it is the duty of this State to spend £10,000 on the aborigines, the Premier characteristically comments, "Don't worry!" I think I almost hear the voice at Fremantle, "Defeat a million; don't worry! Make it two millions; no one will be a penny the worse; don't worry!" To me it suggested the story of a commercial traveller in one of our country towns. He was staying at the hotel and his slumbers were disturbed by a man who ceaselessly paced the room above him. The traveller, unable to sleep, finally went up to the room, knocked at the door, and when he went in he saw a man pacing restlessly up and down. He said—"Why don't you go to bed and sleep and let other people sleep?" The unfortunate man replied—"I cannot: I owe a thousand pounds, and to-morrow I have to meet that sum, and I cannot do it." The traveller, who was a very worldly-wise man, said—"Haven't you got a thousand pounds?" and the man

replied—"I haven't got a thousand shillings." The traveller asked—"Have you tried your friends?" and the reply was—"Yes, I have, but they will lend me nothing. I have come to the end of my borrowing." "Then," said the commercial traveller, "that being the case, if I were you I would go to sleep and let the other fellow do the worrying." That seems to me to be the meaning of this comment—"Don't worry!" Now we come to some of the comments by the Honorary Minister, who contends that this skipper possesses a pilot's exemption certificate. I would like to know what he means. Does he mean that he intends to administer the department according to his own sweet will without regard to right or equity?

Hon. C. F. Baxter: He is doing it.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: Then that is what he means. One searches the file to find out what motive there is underlying this retirement. The only one which appears on the surface is the problematical saving of £316, but that is too thin. What becomes of that saving of £316 if Mr. Neville applies to be put on the salary which has been allotted to this office by the Appeal Board? The salary which is allotted is £504 to £636 or thereabouts. What happens to the classification of the Appeal Board? Can the Honorary Minister override the classifications of the Appeal Board? Can he overcome an axiom of Euclid that the greater includes the less?

Hon. W. Kingsmill: He can do anything like that easily; you do not know him.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: I am quite young in politics and do not know these things. I am asking for information.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom: Q.E.D.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: Supposing Mr. Neville applied to be put on to this salary, would he be victimised by the Honorary Minister or retired? Take another point: Is there any real economy in pensioning off an officer and paying him a pension of £220 per annum? The expectation of life of a man of Mr. Gale's age is 18 years, and we are to pay him

£220 times 18, or roughly, £4,000. Is there any real economy in paying a man £4,000 to do nothing, rather than pay him £520 or thereabouts as salary to perform the duties of the office which he is so competent to do? Is this a caprice, a mere whim on the part of the Honorary Minister? I have two suggestions to make to find out the motive. The first is that I believe the Honorary Minister is wishing to achieve the impossible. He wants to square the circle, or in other words, to show how easy it is to put a square man into a round hole, because I fancy that is what he has succeeded in doing. If this is not correct, perhaps there is another reason. We all know that when the Kaiser came to the throne he signalled his advent to power by dismissing Prince Bismarck, thus dropping the pilot. In a similar way the Honorary Minister is signalling his authority by claiming that he holds a pilot's exemption certificate and he proceeds forthwith to drop the pilot. Then, again, under what section of the Public Service Act has this retirement been made? It has nothing to do with Mr. Gale having arrived at the age at which a civil servant may be retired, nor is he an officer in excess in his department, nor has his office been done away with. If any office has been done away with, I presume it is the immigration office, which is practically defunct. What will be the position after this war? We all hope that, when the war is over, there will be a stream of immigration into Australia to fill up our vast, empty spaces. Any thoughtful man must realise the perils of the next 50 years for Australia, and how necessary it is that we should take steps towards filling up our waste spaces and increasing our population. We hope that, after the war is over, there may be some scheme of immigration which will attain that end, and if immigration is revived what is to be the position of Mr. Neville? Is he still to carry on in the dual capacity of immigration officer and Chief Protector of Aborigines? The two, to my mind, are incongruous. Why combine these two offices? What was the underlying mean-

ing with the Honorary Minister? Was he intending to draw a distinction between the white and black Australia, or was he indulging in a little gentle satire? We know the immigrant comes here flushed with hope. He imagines he is the possessor of vast herds or that he already owns thousands of acres of land gleaming with golden grain, or possibly he looks to the countless wealth to be dug out of the earth—he is full of hope; the future is for him. But what of the aborigine? To him there is nothing but the memory of tribal fights or possibly some achievement of one of his ancestors, and beyond that the only recollection of his is of some feast which he has shared with his gins, perhaps of the delicacies of the chase, perhaps, as the hon. Mr. Connor might think, of a feast derived from some slaughtered cattle belonging to the squatter—what the aborigine might call a most almighty blow-out. For him there is only the tradition of the past. There is no hope in the future—only the prospect of the gradual decay and extinction of his race.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [5.26]: The attitude of some of the hon. members of this House in connection with public questions is at times very bewildering; it appears to be guided by no fixed principles. Seldom a session passes without some exhibition of inconsistency in this Chamber. During the last three years the Government have endeavoured to secure additional taxation, and the greatest objection was shown to their proposals by members of this House. When we have said we wanted more revenue to reduce the deficit, which is increasing in great volume, hon. members of this House have refused to grant us additional taxation. What have they told us? They have told us to economise, to cease extravagant expenditure, and to endeavour to balance our income with our expenditure. And directly we attempt to do this, the fat is in the fire.

Hon. J. F. Cullen: Is this economy?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Select committees are asked for, and one

who had no experience in this Chamber would come to the conclusion that the Government had committed some crime.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: So they have.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This House has told the Government to economise and, when we start to do so, we are subjected to the most strenuous criticism, and no one has more strongly criticised the Government in this respect than Mr. Kingsmill.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: Hear, hear.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If any has done so, then it is the hon. Mr. Connor.

Hon. F. Connor: I have never said a word.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The saving of Mr. Gale's salary is not the only saving that will be effected under this retrenchment scheme.

Hon. J. F. Cullen: But it is not a saving.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is only a small part of the scheme of economy. The Honorary Minister, Mr. Underwood, is at present doing much of the work which was formerly done by Mr. Gale.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was never expected when Mr. Neville was appointed that he could do all this work, or that he had the necessary qualifications. Mr. Underwood has a very thorough knowledge of the requirements of the aborigines, gained after a long period of residence in the North-West, and he expects, by reason of the fact that he will have a fair amount of leisure, to save thousands of pounds to the department. However, I shall refer to this aspect of the question later on. Mr. Gale will receive a pension certainly, and what hon. members say is a somewhat large pension, but he would receive that in any case after the expiration of, say, six years, when he reached the age of 60, and probably would be retired. If he is now retired in accordance with the scheme of retrenchment, the pension will be smaller than it would be if his retirement took place six years hence. It has been said by Mr. Kingsmill, and also I think by Dr. Saw, that Mr. Neville can claim Mr.

Gale's salary. He certainly could if he were now doing the work which Mr. Gale has done in the past. But Mr. Neville will not be expected to give expert advice in connection with the native question. If such advice is required, it can be secured in a similar manner to that in which legal advice is obtained when required by the various departments. Any department requiring legal advice must consult the Crown Law Department; there is not a solicitor employed in every department. It follows, in the case of the Aborigines Department, that if they require assistance in the form of advice they will consult some other branch of the public service, such as the Police Department, which will be well fitted to give the necessary counsel. Mr. Kingsmill stated that Mr. Neville was receiving £312 for his services as Chief Protector of Aborigines. That is not a fact. Mr. Neville will continue to have a considerable amount of work to do in connection with the Immigration Office, which has not been disbanded, as stated by Mr. Kingsmill.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: As stated by Mr. Underwood.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Immigration Office is not being disbanded. It is still in existence. In the course of his speech Mr. Kingsmill gave Mr. Gale credit for many reforms effected in the Aborigines Department. He told us that Mr. Gale had ended a system which facilitated the conviction of aboriginal offenders; also that through Mr. Gale's genius the gaols were emptied. In addition to that, Mr. Kingsmill stated that on Mr. Gale's initiative a cattle station was purchased by the previous Government. The hon. member said that this station had a double significance, in that it reduced the cost of keeping decrepit natives and also reduced the gaols expenditure. Further, he said that Mr. Gale was responsible for the establishment of lock hospitals. All the credit for these various measures is given by Mr. Kingsmill to Mr. Gale. But there is another claimant to the credit for these feats of administration. What about the Hon. J. D. Connolly, M.L.A., late Col-

onial Secretary? Mr. Kingsmill must be aware that Mr. Connolly in this House claimed the full credit for all these reforms and improvements in connection with the Aborigines Department. On the 10th July, 1912, in this Chamber Mr. Connolly stated—

For a number of years the administration in the Police and Gaols Department in the North-West of this State had cost enormous sums of money, principally through the aborigines. There was a system in force which allowed the police to supply indigent natives, and also prisoners, and charge the department for them. That system I put an end to. I also came to the conclusion that it was a farce to imprison these natives for spearing cattle. Instead of that I proposed, and it was endorsed by the Government, to buy a station, not for the purpose of trading, but for the purpose of feeding the aborigines; instead of buying one beast at a time we purchased the station. . . We purchased the station for the dual purpose of feeding them and for the betterment of the aborigines. After several years' experience I became convinced that crowding the gaols in the North-West was not reducing crime in the way of cattle spearing on the part of the natives one iota, and I put a stop to the wholesale imprisonment of natives. It occurred to me that if they were given their own home, allowed plenty of meat, allowed to come and go when they liked, they would not then spear the cattle belonging to owners up there. It had this result, that it reduced the gaols vote—I am speaking from memory—by about £4,000 a year. Mr. Kingsmill says the reduction is about £8,000 a year. These are the words of Mr. Connolly. He takes full credit for all these reforms.

Hon. F. Connor: He did not retire Mr. Gale.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am saying that there is another claimant in respect of those wonderful feats attributed by Mr. Kingsmill to the late Chief Protector of Aborigines. Again, with regard to lock hospitals, Mr. Connolly

took credit, some weeks later, for the establishment of those hospitals also. Then, Mr. Kingsmill referred to the weight of responsibility that Mr. Gale had to carry; and in support of that contention the hon. member quoted the expenditure of the Aborigines Department, £30,000 a year. Against this I may point out that the Superintendent of Public Charities expends no less than £80,000 per annum, to a large extent under his personal supervision; and that officer receives a much smaller salary than that which was paid to Mr. Gale. With regard to the mustering of natives for lock hospitals, the police are doing that work now, and have been doing it for some considerable time past. The Aborigines Department is entirely relieved of the responsibility of the collection of natives for transmission to the lock hospitals. The cattle station is in very competent hands—those of the manager, Mr. Haly—and it would be impossible either for Mr. Gale, or for anyone else in Perth, to manage that station from his office chair. Mr. Kingsmill stated that he was unable to follow Mr. Jull's trend of thought in pointing out some possible disadvantages in retiring Mr. Gale, and then recommending his retirement. The explanation is that the matter developed into one of policy and economy. The Government decided to do without the services of a permanently employed native adviser, and either Mr. Gale or Mr. Neville had to go—one or the other. After the matter had been given full consideration it was thought better to retain the services of Mr. Neville. Surely this House does not wish to place any obstacle in the way of the Government in bringing about the amalgamation of departments. If Parliament intervened in a matter of that kind, there would be a very unhappy time indeed for any Government in power desirous of aiming at economy in the administration of the public service.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: You have made an unhappy time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Mr. Neville, we are told, has taken to the Aborigines Department some of his clerks.

The fact is that he took two only—Mr. Long, temporarily to relieve Mr. Stevens, who was absent from Perth on leave, and a female typist to assist temporarily. The House has been informed, further, that Mr. Gale had no opportunity of defending himself; that he sought an interview with Mr. Underwood, and that Mr. Underwood said he had no time to see Mr. Gale. I am assured by Mr. Underwood that that is not correct; that he did grant an interview to Mr. Gale.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: The select committee will find that out.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Again, Mr. Kingsmill stated that Mr. Gale was removed by the Honorary Minister, Mr. Underwood, who had not gone before his constituents; but it must be remembered that the Honorary Minister's recommendation was endorsed by Cabinet. During the last general election, and all through last session, the cry of the Opposition was for economy; and, as I have already indicated, as soon as the Government attempt to economise, every possible objection is raised. The position is this: if the Government cannot rearrange positions and retire unnecessary officers, then Ministers had better hand the whole business over to the Public Service Commissioner and revert to the rubber-stamp era of administration. The importance of the position of Chief Protector of Aborigines has been exaggerated all over Australia. The practice has been to fill the position with some officer who was paid a high salary with a view to impressing Exeter Hall. Mr. Gale was 22 years in the service, and during the greater portion of the time he was in no fixed position. He had no public service training when he entered the service rather late in life, whereas Mr. Neville is a highly trained officer, capable of satisfactorily filling, after a time, almost any position other than a professional one. It is admitted that Mr. Neville has no first-hand knowledge of aborigines, but he has the advice of police officers and magistrates in the back country, with whom he will be in constant touch; and there is no doubt at all that he will be able to administer

this important department successfully. Recently Mr. Tindale, the engineer for the North-West, was appointed advisory officer to various departments; and his advice has already resulted in many economies throughout the various departments, as well as in the Aborigines Department. The Aborigines Act was passed many years before Mr. Gale was appointed chief protector; and it will be remembered that Mr. Prinsep, Mr. Gale's predecessor, who was appointed by a Liberal Government, had no previous training whatever in the matter of dealing with aborigines. Certainly, Mr. Prinsep had no greater knowledge of aborigine matters than Mr. Neville has.

Hon. F. Connor: Of course he had.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Under Mr. Gale's administration the expenditure had been ever increasing, and the Honorary Minister, with more leisure than the Minister, conceived that he could reduce that expenditure to a very considerable extent. The lock hospitals, in Mr. Underwood's opinion, are situated in the most expensive positions it was possible to select; and this is a matter in which Mr. Underwood has taken considerable interest for many years past, as *Hansard* will show. Mr. Underwood informs me that he was one of the first to advocate the establishment of lock hospitals in the North-West, before the previous Government had made a move in that direction; and hon. members will recognise that Mr. Underwood knows a great deal about the question of dealing with aborigines. Moola Boola station is situated 230 miles from the port, which is 100 miles too far back. As a result of that, a further feeding station had to be established at a depot known as Violet Valley. A much more suitable station than Moola Boola could have been secured, if experience had been brought to bear upon the matter. I have already stated that Mr. Gale had nothing to do with collecting diseased natives. That work was done entirely by the police, and it is now being done by them. Reference has been made

to "the closing of the Immigration Office." I have informed the House that there is no intention of abolishing the Immigration Office. Nominated immigrants are still coming to the State, and we are still accepting nominations for wives and families of men already here who have come from the Old Country. With regard to the economies effected in the Aborigines Department during Mr. Underwood's term of office last year, the expenditure was reduced by £5,000 through the Honorary Minister's interventions and a very substantial reduction is estimated this year. At the same time the natives are being treated as well as ever. The reduction has been brought about by the elimination of waste. I cannot see what object will be attained by the appointment of this select committee. Mr. Kingsmill says there was no motive for the retirement of Mr. Gale.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: I say that I cannot find it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: What Mr. Kingsmill means no doubt is that there is no malicious motive, but there was a motive, and that motive was economy; there was no other motive. Mr. Kingsmill is asking for the appointment of a select committee, but he has already shown, by the matter and manner of his speech, that he is prejudiced, and I am certain it will take a great deal of evidence indeed to shake his convictions. All I can do is to protest against the motion, as tending to hamper the Government in their endeavour to improve the financial position.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan—in reply) [5.47]: If no other member wishes to speak, I have one or two words to say in reply to the remarks of the leader of the House, though those remarks will be very few. I wondered how the leader of the House could keep his countenance when giving us some of the reasons which he did for opposing this motion. There is one thing I did admire about his speech, and that was the ingenuity with which he dealt with the position and sacrificed the claims of Mr.

Gale to those of Mr. Connolly. I say that if Mr. Gale received one-half of the credit for the improvements made, even then the saving effected of £4,000 a year is one for which a civil servant deserves a better fate than summary retirement. In regard to the alleged economies, I shall never be one to stand in the way of economies. But let us see some legitimate economies being effected in thousands, instead of in hundreds. Let the Government shut down some of the wasteful and foolish expenditure which they are making in regard to State enterprises. Once the Government try to economise on a decent scale and in a proper manner, they will then have no stronger supporters than the members of this House. But this is foolish, pettifogging work on the part of the Government. It is more like, as I have said, the wanton and destructive act of a spoilt child, and they style these things economies; I have no words whatever to describe them. If there was any reason wanting for this inquiry, then it is found in the confession which the Colonial Secretary made that the Honorary Minister proposes to conduct the aborigines part of the department himself. But when this country is not in the happy position of having the services of the Honorary Minister, what is to be done? The only thing that will remain for any Government coming into power would be to retain the services of Mr. Underwood as adviser. I know just how much Mr. Underwood knows about the aborigines. Will any incoming Government retain Mr. Underwood as a sort of expert on the aborigines question? The most sensible thing any Government coming into power could do would be to reinstate Mr. Gale in the position from which he should not have been retired. I am sorry the Colonial Secretary should have made use of the laughable reason of economy, the saving of £200 and the sacrifice of the experience of the lifetime of a civil servant. The two things do not balance, and the hon. member knows it. He knows that an injustice has been done to the State, to the civil service and to

Mr. Gale. I do not know why Mr. Jull did not, as he might have done, refuse to sign the Executive Council minute authorising the retirement of Mr. Gale. The Colonial Secretary says I am prejudiced. I admit that I am prejudiced, and members will remember this, that when speaking I said that owing to the possible prejudices that I might have I was not going to act as a member of the select committee.

Question put and passed.

On motion by Hon. W. KINGSMILL the following members were appointed a select committee:—Hon. J. Cornell, Hon. J. Duffell, Hon. J. J. Holmes; with powers to call for persons and papers and to report on the 8th September.

BILLS (3)—FIRST READING.

1. Land and Income Tax.
2. Enemy Contracts Annulment.
3. Bread Act Amendment.

Received from the Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION—MONEY BILLS PROCEDURE, JOINT STANDING ORDERS, TO INQUIRE.

A Message was received from the Legislative Assembly asking the Council to appoint a select committee to act with a committee appointed by the Assembly to consider Joint Standing Orders relating to money Bills.

On motion by the Colonial Secretary the Message was taken into consideration forthwith.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [5.51]: I move—

That this House agrees to the resolution of the Legislative Assembly set out in their Message No. 5, and appoints the Honourables F. Connor, H. P. Colebatch, J. Cornell, A. G. Jenkins, and W. Kingsmill to act jointly with the select committee of the Legislative Assembly, and that the first meeting of the committee be held in the committee room of the Legislative Council on Tuesday, 31st August, at 11 o'clock a.m.

Question put and passed.

MOTION — STATE IMPLEMENT WORKS, TO INQUIRE.

Order of the Day read for resumption of the debate on motion by Hon. C. F. Baxter that a select committee be appointed to inquire into the management, past and present, of the State Implement Works.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan) [5.58]: I move—

That the Order of the Day be postponed for a week.

I may be allowed a word of personal explanation. I take this course because I do not know what attitude I propose to adopt until, firstly I know the personnel of the Royal Commission to be appointed, and what instructions are given to that Commission in regard to the inquiries they have to prosecute. If the Commission is only to inquire into the retirement of Mr. Davies, then the select committee, I think, should proceed, but if it is to inquire into the initiation and running of the present state of the implement works, then there will be no need for the select committee. When I am informed on these points I know what action I shall take. Until such time I do not feel able to debate the question.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES (North) [5.59]: I second the motion.

Motion passed, the Order of the Day postponed.

BILL — FREMANTLE MUNICIPAL TRAMWAYS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [6.0] in moving the second reading said: This is a Bill to authorise an increase of the capital of the Fremantle tramways and electric lighting scheme. The amount authorised under the original Bill was £100,000. Later an amending Bill was introduced which increased the amount of authorisation to £150,000, and now, at the re-

quest of the Fremantle municipality, we are asking the House to agree to a further authorisation of £50,000, making a total of £200,000. The Fremantle tramways and electric lighting scheme has proved to be a splendid proposition. It has paid interest at the rate of 4½ per cent., and sinking fund at from 4½ to 5 per cent. Moreover, no burden has ever fallen on the taxpayers in connection with this undertaking. This year there will be a profit of £2,000 on the operations of the concern. The municipality wishes to extend the plant, and it cannot possibly do so without a further authorisation. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. R. J. LYNN (West) [6.2]: I have pleasure in supporting the second reading. The Bill is essential in the interests of Fremantle, because further borrowing powers are required. As the Colonial Secretary stated, the original Bill empowered us to borrow in Fremantle £100,000. From the inception, we have operated the scheme at a profit to the municipality. No rate has been struck in order to make good any interest or sinking fund in connection with this enterprise. During its ten years' operations it has produced a surplus of £110,000 over and above operating expenses. During that time we have paid £52,000 in interest, and £58,000 in depreciation, sinking fund, and money handed to the council. During this year's operations, ending 31st August, we have produced a surplus of £17,600. Of that amount, £6,500 is to pay interest, £2,850 to pay sinking fund, and £5,241 for depreciation, leaving a surplus of £2,600 over and above all standing charges. We return a surplus of 12½ per cent. on the year's operations. Therefore, I think the House need have no fear in granting to the municipality the additional borrowing powers required. Those powers are necessary to the full success of the scheme. I have pleasure in supporting the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

House adjourned at 6.6 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 24th August, 1915.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Minister for Mines: Regulations under the Mines Regulation Act, 1906—Amendment of General Rule 19.

By Hon. R. H. Underwood (Honorary Minister): Return showing number of members in each industrial union, registered under the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912, as on 31st December, 1915.

By the Minister for Works: 1, Trading account, profit and loss account, and balance sheet of the Boya Quarry, as at 30th June, 1915, together with Auditor General's report. 2, Audit of accounts of Perth City Markets.

QUESTION—FREEZING WORKS, WYNDHAM.

Hon. J. MITCHELL asked the Premier: 1, Does any agreement exist now between Nevanas or Nevanas & Co. and the Government? 2, If so, what is the nature of such agreement?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2, Answered by No. 1.

Hon. J. Mitchell: What about the financial agreement?

QUESTION—DISLOYAL UTTERANCES.

Mr. SMITH asked the Premier: 1, Have the police made any report concerning the disloyal utterances of a man named Reeves in Kalgoorlie which were antagonistic to recruiting. 2, What was the report? 3, What action has been taken?

The PREMIER replied: 1, 2, and 3. Yes; but it was considered undesirable for several reasons to take action in this particular instance. I think the hon. member will agree it is undesirable that I should mention the nature of the report. He can see the file, if necessary.

QUESTION—STATE HOTEL, GWALIA, BEER STRIKE.

Mr. VERYARD asked the Attorney General: 1, Is it a fact that the beer strike at the Gwalia State Hotel has been declared off? 2, Has the strike been settled conditionally on the promise of the Government to—(a) reduce the price of beer; (b) supply a superior quality of beer at the reduced price; (c) reinstate a dismissed barman; (d) dismiss or remove the manager? 3, Is it also a fact that the Government, or the head of the department, had stated during the strike that the barman could not be reinstated on any condition? 4, Was the late manager of the Gwalia State Hotel transferred from the Wongan Hills State Hotel to Gwalia? 5, Is he still in the Government service? 6, If so, where?