

THE PREMIER: How was it to be done?

MR. SOLOMON: It was not necessary to say any more on the subject, as it had been so fully put before the House; but he would vote for the motion.

THE PREMIER: It seemed very easy to talk against the employment of the police on Sunday, but no one had suggested—

MR. ILLINGWORTH said the Premier had not the right of reply.

Question put, and declared in favour of the "ayes."

THE PREMIER: Divide.

MR. GEORGE: There was only one voice in the "noes."

THE SPEAKER said he heard two "noes." He put the question again, and declared it in favour of the "ayes."

THE PREMIER again called for a division, which was taken with the following result:—

| | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|---|
| Ayes ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Noes ... | ... | ... | 7 |

Majority against ... 2

| AYES. | NOES. |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr. George | Sir John Forrest |
| Mr. Higham | Mr. Loton |
| Mr. Simpson | Mr. Monger |
| Mr. Solomon | Mr. Randell |
| Mr. Illingworth (Teller). | Mr. Richardson |
| | Mr. Wood |
| | Mr. R. F. Sholl (Teller). |

Motion negatived.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that the House at its rising adjourn till half-past seven o'clock p.m., on Thursday next.

Put and passed.

The House adjourned at 9:54 p.m. until Thursday.

Legislative Council.

Thursday, 22nd October, 1896.

Mail Service: Cue to Lake Way—Geraldton Jetty Extension—Rottnest Island: use of by the public—Guano: export of from Abrolhos Islands—Fremantle Water Supply: Particulars as to—Standing Orders: Suspension of—Loan Estimates: Procedure as to; motion for adjournment—Cue-Namline Railway Bill: third reading—Appropriation Bill: second reading; committee—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir George Shenton) took the chair at 7:30 o'clock, p.m.

MAIL SERVICE, CUE TO LAKE WAY.

THE HON. W. ALEXANDER asked the Minister for Mines, if the Government intended to establish a weekly mail service between Cue and Lake Way.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom) replied that the matter was under consideration before the hon. member tabled his question.

GERALDTON JETTY EXTENSION.

THE HON. W. ALEXANDER asked the Minister for Mines if the Government intended to proceed with the work of extending the Geraldton jetty to a further length of 1,000 feet.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom) replied, that the matter was under consideration.

ROTTNEST ISLAND—USE OF BY THE PUBLIC.

THE HON. W. ALEXANDER asked the Minister for Mines if the Government were disposed to throw open the Island of Rottnest to the general public, and utilise the labour of the aboriginal convicts on the Abrolhos Islands.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom) replied, No.

GUANO—EXPORT OF FROM ABROLHOS ISLANDS.

THE HON. W. ALEXANDER asked the Minister for Mines if the Government intended to allow the export of guano from the Abrolhos Islands to continue.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom) replied as follows:—Not if there is any demand from local people.

FREMANTLE WATER SUPPLY—
PARTICULARS AS TO.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I beg to move, "That a return be laid upon the Table of the House, showing—

1. The date when the new Water Reservoir at Fremantle is likely to be finished.

2. The nature of the labour used in the work, and the cost per yard for excavation, including supervision.

3. The total cost of the works and the amounts received per annum for water supplied.

4. The cost per thousand gallons to the Government.

5. The receipts and expenses for the current year.

6. The amount the Government intend placing on the Supplementary Estimates to enable the Fremantle Municipality to carry out the scheme for watering the streets, park, and oval, free of further expense to the town."

I submit this motion with a view to obtaining information, not that I want it, but because it is the desire of a large number of the electors I represent to have it. Some gentlemen at Fremantle have endeavoured to obtain information from the officers in charge of the water supply and have failed, and, consequently, I have been induced to bring the matter before the House. Mr. Bell is the officer in charge at Fremantle, and Mr. Hodgson is the engineer. Both gentlemen have been to Fremantle over and over again, but they have failed to satisfy the people that the supply will be made available within the time in which it has been promised. It has been stated that the work will be completed by Christmas, but, as far as can be judged, it will not be completed by Christmas twelve months. That being so, it is desirable that we should obtain the information I ask for, and I am surprised at the manner he has done, and putting me to the inconvenience of making a motion. I told the hon. gentleman I was willing to wait if he would supply the information before the prorogation. I hope hon. members

will recognise that the people of Fremantle have a right to be placed in possession of this information, and I may say again that I am surprised that the Minister should treat questions which are asked as being of no importance.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I cannot reply without the information.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: In your reply to a question put by the Hon. Mr. Piesse you showed no indication of having endeavoured to get the information. If the people are not assured that the information will be forthcoming within a reasonable time, it will be sought for by a deputation to the Minister in charge of the work. At present there is practically no supply for North and South Fremantle, and even for Fremantle proper the supply is inadequate.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: What do the country places do?

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I do not know, but I think it very hard, after people have been promised a supply and have gone to the expense of putting pipes in, they should not get it.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Do they pay in Fremantle?

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: Yes.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Some years ago they did not.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: They would pay if they had a supply. The residents of Fremantle are people of probity, and are willing to pay for what they get. To prove to you, sir, that this is a matter of importance, I may say that I have received a letter from Mr. Knight (and I can give hon. members my word of honour that I have not spoken to that gentleman on the subject), which I will read. Mr. Knight says:—"As I am building on Monument Hill, fully anticipating that we should have a good supply of water when we took possession in December, I cannot tell you how deeply grateful I am for the interest you are taking in the reservoir. With the present appliances and labour, however, there is not the slightest possibility of the work being completed for 12 months. May I ask what the residents on the Hill are to do for water in the meantime? I trust you will not leave the matter alone until you have a distinct promise from the Government

"that they will finish the work by contract." One of the questions I asked was whether it was desirable to carry out this work by prison labour? I think it is undesirable, because, in the first place, we are bringing convict labour into competition with free labour; and, secondly, because at the rate the work is being carried on by convict labour, there is no telling when it will be completed. The questions I have asked are important to two-thirds of the inhabitants of Fremantle, and I ask hon. members to affirm my motion.

THE HON. H. BRIGGS: I rise to second the motion. Hon. members are perhaps not fully cognisant of the facts. At the present time a huge reservoir is being constructed on the highest point in Fremantle, and it is the desire of the Government to pump water from the convict establishment into it. This reservoir will supply Monument Hill, Plympton, North Fremantle, and South Fremantle, where at present the people are suffering from want of water. I own the block next to the reservoir, and, at considerable expense, I put down a mill with a large pump for the purpose of supplying water for the people; but, finding that the Government were about to undertake the work, I did not proceed further with my scheme, and consequently the people between the two are without water. If we obtain this information the people will know what they have to expect, and they will be able to make their arrangements accordingly.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: It is not my intention to oppose the motion, because I think this information will be useful. At the same time I might point out that, if the hon. member would study the Appropriation Bill, he would see that £11,000 is provided for the Fremantle water supply.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I have no intention of opposing the motion, but I may say that the reason why I asked the question as to whether the people of Fremantle paid, was that when I was in office the vast majority of the people did not pay.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: That was not the fault of the consumers. It was the fault of your bad officers.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: It was not the fault of my department, but the

fault of the Department of Public Works in not levying a rate. During 1896 the total amount paid for water at Fremantle was £1,778. Perhaps the hon. gentleman can tell us whether a rate is levied.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: The Director of Public Works has power to levy a rate of 1s., but a rate of only 8d. is levied.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: In calculating the rate at 1s. it shows that the ratable value of Fremantle is only £35,000. We know that is perfectly absurd. We know that the ratable value of Fremantle is several hundreds of thousands of pounds. Obviously, therefore, if a rate of 8d. is levied the majority of people do not pay, or else the rate is not collected.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: It was only last year that power was given to the Director of Works to levy a rate.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Pardon me; but perhaps he did not levy a rate.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I would like to explain that only a portion of the town uses the water, and in the calculation of the Hon. Mr. Parker no account is taken of the water supplied to the Railway Department and the shipping, and these two items would make a great difference in the receipts.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM): I am sorry the hon. gentleman should infer that I am desirous of either shelving or delaying his questions. The information he asked for, however, was so voluminous that it was impossible to obtain it at once. I have tried to get it, and I may say that I hope I shall be able to lay it on the table to-morrow. I did not ask the hon. member to move in the matter in order to evade the question, but simply to give a little time in which to obtain the information. The Government has no desire whatever to keep back any information.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I must thank the hon. the Minister for his assurance, and with the permission of the House I beg to withdraw my motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

STANDING ORDERS—SUSPENSION OF.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I move, "That so much of the Standing Orders as relate to the passing of Bills through their various stages be suspended for the remainder of the session." I do not think many words are required to commend this motion to hon. members. There are many unimportant Bills before the House, which, I feel sure, hon. members will not object to passing through all their stages. With regard to any Bills which hon. members may think fit to discuss, there will be no objection on my part to having the subjects they deal with fully ventilated.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I regret to say that I feel bound to oppose this motion. The hon. gentleman, in speaking only recently, told us that, so far as he was concerned, he had no desire to hurry the business, and that we could sit here as long as we pleased. He stated, however, that his sole consideration was the convenience of hon. members. I find that hon. members do not desire to rush through the business, and that it is only the hon. gentleman himself who endeavours to hurry as fast as possible. Every Bill which has come before the House he has endeavoured to rush through. At our last sitting he desired to suspend the Standing Orders, and rush through Bills which hon. members had never seen, not, so he said, because he wished to hurry matters, but because he was considering the convenience of those hon. members who come from the country. We know that it is impossible for this House to receive the major portion of the Bills which come from the Lower House until a late period of the session, and if we are to do our duty to our constituents, and justify our existence, it behoves us to fully examine and criticise all measures, and not allow them to be rushed through because they have come down late, and country members wish to get away. We are prepared to sit here as long as necessary in the interests of the country. Our Standing Orders provide that they shall not be suspended except in cases of pressing necessity. What pressing necessity is there? Is there any reason why we should not meet until we have thoroughly considered them? There is another reason. I notice that when a Bill recently came before this House,

providing for water supplies in the country districts, it was thrown out; hon. members being unanimously of opinion that, although it was desirable to have a Bill, still the one before them was not such as they could assent to.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I rise to order. This is a question of suspending the Standing Orders, not of water supply.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): I think the hon. member is speaking to the question.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I beg pardon; I thought he was speaking about water supply.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I was informing hon. gentlemen that, when that Bill came before the House, it was considered inadvisable to pass it, and it was thought that it was too late in the session to attempt to remodel it. The consequence was it is thrown out by a large majority. What do we find? We find that the gentleman who occupies the most distinguished position of Premier, in speaking at a banquet at York, said that he was astonished that this House should throw out the Bill on account of some matters of detail. He pointed out that we had six legal gentlemen here who should have devoted some of their spare time (I hope my colleagues have spare time; I have very little) to amending it instead of throwing it out. The hon. gentleman who makes this motion does not desire that we shall make any amendments, but that we shall pass all these Bills through at one sitting. The hon. gentleman may say that his motion will only give the power to pass the Bills through all their stages—a power which need not necessarily be exercised—but we know that any member may put the closure on. It has been done before, and may be done again. Therefore, if we allow the Standing Orders to be suspended, we may have the whole of these Bills passed through in the course of half an hour. I think hon. gentlemen will agree, from our experience of the way Bills have come from the Lower House, that there is necessity to fully criticise them. Already we have had to entirely remodel some of them, and I venture to think that our amendments have been for the public good. In these circumstances I trust

hon. members will not allow this most unprecedented course of suspending the Standing Orders to be adopted.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I trust hon. members will not agree with the motion of the Minister for Mines. All I can say is that if hon. members carry on the business in this way, they will simply make a laughing-stock of the Legislative Council. What we desire is proper time in which to consider the Bills. We are not all so clever as the Government whip, the Hon. Mr. Haynes, who can pick up a Bill at once and tell us what is in it. We are returned to act as a check on hasty legislation, and how can we do our duty if we allow Bills which admittedly are faulty to be passed through in a few minutes? To-night, the hon. the Minister is trying to cram down our throats a number of Bills, a course he would never consent to if he were sitting on the opposite side of the House.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM): It seems to me that we are rather wasting time in discussing this matter, seeing that I have no desire, if hon. members do not wish to carry on the business expeditiously, to force it. I must apologise if I have overrated the powers of hon. members. I thought, perhaps, that gentlemen like the Hon. Mr. Parker and the Hon. Mr. Crowder might possibly be able to grasp the Bills after having had two or three days in which to consider them, but if I have made a mistake I apologise. At the same time, it seems to me that many of them are not very difficult to grasp by ordinary minds. One of the Bills I am accused of trying to rush is a Bill to amend the Jury Act, by providing that in the future jurors shall be paid 10s. per day instead of 5s. per day. No great principle is involved in it, and I should have thought that minds like those of the Hon. Mr. Parker and the Hon. Mr. Crowder would have been able to grasp it in two or three hours. Then we have the Public Health Bill, under which it is proposed to give power to levy a rate of 6d. instead of 3d. Surely this is not a very difficult Bill to grasp. However, I do not wish to press even these Bills, and if a majority of hon. members say that we should not proceed with them, I shall not press them.

Question put.

The House divided with the following result:—

| | | | |
|------|-----|-----|----|
| Ayes | ... | ... | 10 |
| Noes | ... | ... | 7 |

| | | |
|--------------|-----|---|
| Majority for | ... | 3 |
|--------------|-----|---|

| AYES. | NOES. |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| The Hon. R. G. Burgess | The Hon. W. Alexander |
| The Hon. D. K. Coughdon | The Hon. H. Briggs |
| The Hon. C. E. Dempster | The Hon. A. B. Kidson |
| The Hon. J. W. Hackett | The Hon. S. H. Parker |
| The Hon. R. S. Haynes | The Hon. J. E. Richardson |
| The Hon. D. McKay | The Hon. F. M. Stone |
| The Hon. H. J. Saunders | The Hon. F. T. Crowder |
| The Hon. J. H. Taylor | (Teller). |
| The Hon. E. H. Wittenoom | |
| The Hon. W. Spencer | |
| (Teller). | |

Question put and passed.

LOAN ESTIMATES—PROCEDURE AS TO—ADJOURNMENT.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Before the House proceeds, I desire to ask the hon. the Minister whether he is prepared to lay on the table the Loan Estimates for the current year.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM): No, sir, I am not.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Perhaps the hon. gentleman will allow me to draw his attention to the Audit Act, and to place myself in order I shall conclude by moving that the House do now adjourn. It may be remembered by hon. members that recently I drew attention to the fact that the ordinary Estimates had not been laid on the table. Subsequently the hon. the Minister stated that, through an oversight, he had made an omission, and he then laid the Estimates on the table. After this I was in hopes that the department which manages these matters would have drawn his attention to another provision of the Audit Act, which says that these Loan Estimates shall be laid before Parliament. I have now asked the hon. gentleman whether he intends to lay them on the table, and he says he does not.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM): Do you mean those which are included in the Appropriation Bill?

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: No; the Loan Estimates give very different information to that. There appears to be a desire on the part of the Government to ignore this House, for, instead of giving us the Loan Estimates which were pre-

sented to the Legislative Assembly, they supply us with a brief amount of information at the end of the Appropriation Bill. The Audit Act draws no distinction between either House. It says that the Estimates shall be presented to Parliament, and, unless we insist upon having them, we shall be giving up one of our most valued privileges. In these circumstances I shall feel it my duty to oppose the second reading of the Appropriation Bill until we get the information before us which the Statute entitles us to have.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): The only reply I have to make to the hon. gentleman, who has moved this motion from an obstructive point of view—

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Does the hon. gentleman second the motion?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): No.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): Then there is nothing before the House as yet.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): Then it saves me the trouble of making a speech.

Motion lapsed.

CUE-NANNINE RAILWAY BILL.

THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time, and *passed*.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I have now much pleasure in laying before hon. members the Appropriation Bill for the current year, and I trust they will give it that careful consideration which they have bestowed upon other important measures which have been laid before them this session. The estimated revenue for the year ending June 30, 1897, is £2,425,000, and the credit balance from the past year was £312,064. Thus there is available for expenditure during this financial year no less an amount than £2,737,064. If hon. members will look at the expenditure side they will see that the whole of this large sum has been allotted except £16,638, which is the estimated credit balance on June

30, 1897. It must be a matter of congratulation to everyone who takes an interest in the advancement of Western Australia to see these immense amounts coming to hand. It would only be waste of time if I were to make any comparisons between the present and the past. However, I may not be wrong in stating that the estimated revenue of last year was under £2,000,000, but that estimate was exceeded very considerably, and we thus have a large amount available for expenditure upon reproductive works. Amongst these are harbour works, railways, buildings, roads, wells, water supplies, and various other means of assistance to the different industries of the colony. Hon. members are so conversant with the details of the Estimates that I need not go into particulars, but I may allude to a few of the principal works which the Government propose to undertake. Following out the policy of the Government it is proposed to construct agricultural railways out of revenue, and to use some of the surplus on the harbours of the colony. We propose to improve the harbour at Bunbury, where it is anticipated that a large business will be done in the shipment of timber and coal.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: We have to get the coal first.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): We have coal and timber, and it is necessary that there should be facilities for shipping them. What is the use of possessing any product unless we have conveniences for getting it to market? What is the use of gold, wool, timber, or stock unless we have a means of disposing of them? I do not think I need say any more in regard to the Estimates, for the fullest and most reliable information concerning them has been given in the newspapers, which, no doubt, hon. members have availed themselves of. I need only now refer to what the Hon. Mr. Parker has said. He has asked for the Loan Estimates, but hon. members will see that in the second schedule to this Bill details of the loan expenditure are carefully set out. With these remarks I move that the Bill be now read a second time.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I do not intend at this stage to speak on the main question, as I propose to move an amend-

ment. The hon. the Minister has pointed out that at the end of this Bill there is a schedule giving the amounts which are proposed to be expended out of loan funds. I can hardly think that the hon. gentleman will be prepared to contend that this schedule is what are known as the Loan Estimates. The Loan Estimates give a vast amount of information on every item of expenditure. For instance, take the vote for Government House. Not only is the total amount given, but the amount which it is proposed to expend this year and other details are supplied. This schedule does not give such information. The Legislative Assembly has had the Loan Estimates, and the Audit Act makes no distinction between either House. If the hon. gentleman will tell me that this House has had the same information as has been placed before the Legislative Assembly, then I will make no motion.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (HON. E. H. WITTENOOM): Do you want the names of all the engine-drivers?

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I do not, but I want the proper information, and I do not think this House will be satisfied simply because the hon. gentleman is prepared to jeer. Although the hon. gentleman admitted he had made a mistake with regard to the general Estimates, and although the same Statute which cast the duty upon him to lay those Estimates on the table says that the Loan Estimates shall also be laid before Parliament, he apparently desires to ignore it, and pass this Bill without affording any information whatever. I move as an amendment that all the words after "that" be left out with a view to inserting the following:—"This House is not prepared to further proceed with the Appropriation Bill until the provisions of the Audit Act, 1891, are complied with, and the Loan Estimates laid on the table of the House." I believe this is the first year, since we have had responsible government, that the Loan Estimates have not been laid before us. When I occupied the position which the hon. gentleman now occupies, the Loan Estimates were brought before the House and discussed in committee, and the hon. gentleman himself was the first to move that one of the items should be struck out. The hon. gentleman apparently does not desire that

we should discuss them, but wishes to get rid of Parliament as soon as possible, out of consideration, as he says, for the country members. He knows that if we had these Estimates before us we may take time to consider them. We may think it desirable to go into committee upon them, so that they apparently are withheld for a purpose. A statutory duty is imposed upon the Government, and yet they come here and boldly say they will not comply with the law. They say, "We do not consider any duty is cast upon us—we do not care for the Legislative Council, and we will only give the information which is contained in the schedule to this Bill." All I can say is that, if hon. gentlemen will submit to this treatment, the reason for the existence of this House absolutely ceases.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: This appears to me to be a question of privilege, and I hope hon. members will deal with it as such, notwithstanding that the Minister has attempted to sneer at the House. The hon. gentleman has endeavoured to make a light matter of not laying these Estimates on the table, and has relied upon getting a majority of those who always support the Government to pass this Bill so that members may get away. I feel sure, however, that the country members will be the last to get up and vote in this House simply because they desire to get away. From the way they have acted in the past they will, I am sure, now vote to uphold the privileges and dignity of the House. It is all very well to say we have the information in the schedule, but that is only drawing a herring across the track. We are entitled to the same information as the Legislative Assembly, and I hope hon. members will demand it.

THE HON. R. S. HAYNES: I have heard a good deal about upholding the dignity of this House, and a great deal about this House being a check upon hasty legislation, but I think it would be better if we endeavoured to do a little practical work instead of wasting our time upon such matters as these. I must say I do not think this amendment has been moved in good faith, but has been put forward from a spirit of opposition. If the hon. gentleman really desired to have some information, I feel sure the

House would be with him; but I ask whether the Hon. Mr. Parker has shown any instance of where information has not been supplied. Does he require, as the hon. the Minister says, to have the names of the engine-drivers? Is there not sufficient information in the Bill before us to satisfy any reasonable person? If there is, why should the whole of the work of the House be retarded simply to permit a few hon. gentlemen to indulge in opposition tactics? The hon. gentleman says the schedule is not an estimate. I join issue with him. He says when he was in power Estimates were brought in. Perhaps he was wrong, and is it because he was wrong that we are going to follow him now? He says we might discuss the items *seriatim*. Perhaps a great deal of good might be got out of such a course. We might find out the names of the persons who fill the various offices, but for myself I may say there would be nothing in it. If the hon. gentleman can show that he desires any information, I shall support him, but until he does I must vote against him.

THE HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: I object to these continued allusions to country members. Country members, when they come here, are quite as independent as other members, and are not going to be influenced in their votes by such remarks as are passed upon them by hon. members. A great deal of time is unnecessarily wasted in this House. We do not want to be kept here for months and months over some question about the infringement of the rights and dignity of the House, but desire to get on with the business as rapidly as possible in the interests of the country. I think we should support the hon. the Minister for Mines in this instance, and not allow the business to be deferred for the sake of opposition.

THE HON. A. B. KIDSON: I do not think any hon. member who knows the Hon. Mr. Parker can rightly accuse him of having any desire to raise an opposition. I think the hon. gentleman deserves the thanks of the House for having brought this matter forward, and I say that those Loan Estimates should be laid on the table before we proceed any further. The Hon. Mr. Haynes has stated that the Hon. Mr. Parker has given no reasons for his amendments.

THE HON. R. S. HAYNES: Mention one, then.

THE HON. A. B. KIDSON: His main ground is that the Audit Act says that these Estimates shall be laid on the table, and they have not been. The Hon. Mr. Dempster had taken exception to the Hon. Mr. Stone's remarks about country members, but if I understand them aright the Hon. Mr. Stone's words were in praise of the country members, because he threw it out that he felt sure that they would not mind a little delay so that we might have things properly done. I should like to know how the hon. the Minister intends to get over the point which has been raised.

Question—that the words proposed to be struck out stand part of the question, put.

The House divided, with the following result:—

| | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|----|
| Ayes ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Noes ... | ... | ... | 5 |

Majority for ... 7

| AYES. | NOES. |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| The Hon. H. Briggs | The Hon. F. T. Crowder |
| The Hon. R. G. Burges | The Hon. A. B. Kidson |
| The Hon. D. K. Congdon | The Hon. S. H. Parker |
| The Hon. C. E. Dempster | The Hon. F. M. Stone |
| The Hon. R. S. Haynes | The Hon. W. Alexander |
| The Hon. D. McKay | (Teller). |
| The Hon. J. E. Richardson | |
| The Hon. H. J. Saunders | |
| The Hon. W. Spencer | |
| The Hon. J. H. Taylor | |
| The Hon. E. H. Wittenoom | |
| The Hon. J. W. Hackett | (Teller). |

Question put and passed.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I notice the Estimates of revenue show that a considerable amount over the receipts of last year is expected, and it may be that this will be exceeded. I trust the Government will bear in mind that mining matters are not progressing very favourably in the mother country. To my certain knowledge, and I know something about the subject, there are companies in a good financial position which have recently decided to forfeit the moneys they have expended in options and working expenses on the ground that on the London market at the present time no funds can be raised for the West Australian goldfields. Shares have had a tremendous fall, and I believe that no mining property can command a market in London. Companies formed to acquire properties and which have expended

hundreds of thousands of pounds in deposit money and working expenses have forfeited everything because it is said nothing can be done on the London market for some months. On the Coolgardie goldfields there are about 30,000 men employed, and in addition to the wages, which average £4 per week, there are other expenses for materials, water, carting, timber, tools, &c., and when we bear in mind that the principal portion of this money comes from London and that West Australian mining matters are not looked upon with favour, it seems to me there must soon be a great falling off, and that many properties will be thrown up, because it is obvious that the people here cannot work them owing to the onerous labour conditions which are imposed. A gold mine without a large capital to work it is as bad as having a white elephant. Many mines, I am afraid, will cease to work and the consequence will be that hundreds of men will be thrown out of employment, and will have to seek work on the public works which are going on throughout the colony. If money does cease to flow from London it is obvious that the revenue also must suffer, and in the circumstances I will ask the hon. the Minister for Mines, who represents the Government, whether he will consider the advisableness of relaxing those onerous labour conditions, especially seeing that water is scarce, wages high, and that the flow of money from London is likely to be retarded. Looking at the Estimates, it seems to me that the Government has proceeded on the idea that Western Australian mining matters are as popular in London to-day as they were six or eight months ago. We find in these Estimates a most lavish expenditure. Many of the works cannot be carried out during the current 12 months. We have bridges, roads, agricultural halls, and miners' institutes provided all over the country. I have lived here all my life, and I thought I knew all the agricultural portions of the colony, but in looking through these Estimates I find that halls are provided at places I have never heard of. There is one at Gooseberry Hill, where about two people live. Then the Government propose to cover in the Avon from one end to the other; in fact, there is a most lavish

expenditure all round. Apparently a general election is coming on, and this may be the reason for this large and lavish expenditure. I am forced to this conclusion by the remark of the Premier at York, when he pointed out all the good the present Government had done for that town, and all the moneys they proposed to expend. A bridge is built in the centre of the town which is not required; there is to be a railway to the Greenhills. And after telling them this the Premier said he trusted they would remember who their friends were. This money is being expended, I say, broadcast; and apparently the only justification for it is that a general election is coming on. The goldfields are particularly well considered. Miners' institutes are provided for in every possible place. I mentioned one of these places to a gentleman who has travelled all over the goldfields, and he said to me, "Good gracious! Surely they are not going to provide a miners' institute there; there are no miners."

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (HON. E. H. WITTENOOM): What is the name of the place.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I cannot recollect.

THE HON. J. H. TAYLOR: Who was the man? I do not think he knows the fields. I think he has just come from Melbourne.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: We know that at Coolgardie there is what is called a Chamber of Mines. It is a most admirable institution, but it is a close corporation, and certain fees have to be paid to enable a person to become a member. I know the chamber was good enough to entertain a number of visitors on one occasion, when many loyal toasts were proposed, and all this no doubt at the expense of the chamber. What do I find on these Estimates? £4,500 is put down for the Chamber of Mines. It seems to me that the Government might just as well give £4,500 to the Stock Exchange of Perth. Then I find that it is proposed to build a railway to the Perth racecourse.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (HON. E. H. WITTENOOM): The interest on that is guaranteed.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I am glad to hear it. But there is a railway

there at the present time, although it stops on this side of the river. I have never heard any objection to its stopping there, but I heard objections that the line is badly managed, and that people, being compelled to travel in cattle trucks, do not care to make use of it. If decent accommodation were provided, there is no occasion to carry the railway over the river. Then because Perth must have a railway to the racecourse Bunbury must have one also. At Bunbury there is a meeting about once a year, which is attended by 300 or 400 people. I should like to know whether the interest is guaranteed on this line also?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM) : I have not heard.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER : I do not think anyone would be so foolish as to guarantee the interest in that case.

THE HON. H. J. SAUNDERS : Four horses were entered.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT : Will the hon. gentleman pledge himself to that?

THE HON. S. H. PARKER : Anyhow I should like to know what justification there is for a railway line to the Bunbury racecourse. Then take hospitals. These are most necessary, but in most cases the buildings are small. In Bunbury, however, the hospital is to be an enormous structure, and is to cost £4,000. Why? Well, probably, because it is Bunbury. At Fremantle the Legislature came to the conclusion that harbour works were necessary. It was decided that we should have one central harbour at Fremantle, and so make that port the Brindisi of Australia. We were told also when we were asked to build the railway to Bunbury that it was necessary for the purpose of bringing up coal and timber. What do we find now? Why, there must be a harbour at Bunbury, if you please. What for? We have never had any reason. My hon. friend says it is to ship the coal. We have no coal that will pay to export. As far as my recollection goes, the coal we have is one-third or one-fourth less in value than Newcastle coal, and it will not pay to export, although it may be used in the colony. Presuming that we do require a harbour at Bunbury in the future, one would imagine that a cautious Government, who were spending at so great a rate, and who were just about to borrow £6,000,000,

would at least make sure that we have the coal before constructing a harbour to export it. Then, again, if we have coal to export, one would think that we would build railways for the pits to the nearest port. If I remember rightly, the Collie line joins the Bunbury railway many miles to the south. I am perfectly willing to submit, however, that if the coal turns out to be a success, and is merchantable and fit for export, Bunbury shall have a harbour. Then my hon. friend says we require the harbour for the export of timber. We have only to go through Perth to find out that the timber companies cannot supply the local market, although prices have risen tremendously. Buildings are being constructed, not of our splendid jarrah, but of imported softwood, simply because the jarrah cannot be obtained. Before, therefore, we provide facilities for export, surely we should take steps to see that the local market is supplied. We should wait until we have timber to export before providing facilities for shipment. Can the hon. gentleman give us an instance of timber being ready for export at Bunbury and no ship being available to take it? We know that where produce is to be exported ships will always go for it, notwithstanding that the harbour may not be first-class. I am only mentioning this as one of the cases I refer to as reckless extravagance. I think the hon. gentleman will admit that, when a private individual who is in debt finds himself in funds which he did not anticipate, his honest and proper course is to pay off those debts. Here we find the government coming into possession of hundreds of thousands of pounds they did not anticipate, but they do not pay off their debts; they make the increase a reason for borrowing further. What I desire to impress on the House is that we are about to borrow some £7,000,000, including the amount for the Great Southern Railway, which will make our total indebtedness (presuming the population to be 130,000) £80 or £90 per head, and it therefore behoves us to see that economy is used. I notice there is to be a railway from York to Greenhills. I defy any hon. member to say that this is necessary. Can anyone say that agricultural pursuits cannot be carried on successfully in a district

which is only twelve miles from a railway? We know that farmers prefer to cart in some seasons of the year even to paying the freight on the railway, because it costs them very little owing to their teams at that particular period being idle.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: Nonsense.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: It is easy to say nonsense. The hon. member will have an opportunity of replying, and will be able to show that I am speaking nonsense. In the summer teams are standing idle, and it then costs very little to cart 12 miles. This railway to Greenhills means a separate service altogether, and separate rolling-stock, and I ask hon. members how many people will use it? I also ask how long will it take to carry the whole of the produce of the district through which it will run? One fortnight in the year will enable everything to be carried and then for the rest of the year the line must be worked at a large loss to the general community. Why is this? Because there is a general election coming on. Then, again, we all desire to develop the goldfields, and we recognise that they have done a good deal for us in attracting London capital. Although we are most prosperous through them, and our towns are progressing indirectly through them, we must bear in mind that, directly, our prosperity is due to John Bull's pocket—a field which produces coined gold and coined silver. Nevertheless, we are prepared to do what we can to promote the welfare of the goldfields. In these circumstances the railway extension to Menzies is legitimate, but what do we want a railway to Kanowna for? If Kanowna is a valuable mining district, surely it can be worked most profitably with a railway within 12 miles of it. Do we not remember how Bayley's Reward claim was opened up at a distance of 300 miles from a railway? Do we not know that the Murchison goldfields have been developed, notwithstanding the heavy cost of carting machinery? Yet the Government say this railway to Kanowna is necessary. This line, when constructed, will have to be worked as a separate service, and at a large cost. I have been credibly informed that it is perfectly ridiculous to construct a railway to Kanowna, as there is nothing there to

justify even a tramway. I have mentioned these matters because, if there is one duty we owe to our constituents, it is to see that no burdens are placed on the people which they should not be called upon to bear. The time will come when we shall no longer be able to borrow. For my part, I wish that time had arrived. Public works will then cease, and there will be a general exodus from the colony, and the landowners only will remain to pay the taxes. I trust the country members will bear this in mind, and if in the future they are called upon to contribute to what is known as a progressive land tax, they will have to thank the present Government for it. The townspeople will not feel the tax so much. Eventually all taxes must come from the land, and in the future it will be the land that will have to pay the interest on the present lavish expenditure. As hon. members were desirous of passing the Loan Schedule without any further information, I shall say nothing further on the subject. One hon. gentleman has said that I gave no reason why I should ask for information, but I pointed out that the Loan Estimates contained a great deal of information as to how the money was proposed to be expended. This schedule gives no such information. However, as hon. members do not desire further information, I shall not trouble, but I hope and trust when we come to the schedule we shall be in a position to suggest to the Legislative Assembly the striking out of many items which are contained in it. I mentioned that the time had not arrived when our credit in the London market was stopped. It seems to me to be unfortunate that English colonies are able to borrow money so easily and so cheaply. It is almost the ruin of them. Were we unable to borrow money all necessary works would have to be constructed out of surplus revenue. Then we should find it necessary to develop our goldfields and build our railways, and then we should see that there was no absolute necessity for many of the works contained in these Estimates.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: It was not my intention to address hon. members except for the purpose of placing on record my objection to the lavish expenditure in the Bill before the

House. As I pointed out the other evening, the only bright spot in the whole business is that we have Ministers whose honour is unquestionable. There must be hours, however, when even the Premier must lie awake and wonder what the result of his policy will be. I know that, as a progressive Government, Ministers must go on or they will not hold office for 12 hours, but it is our duty to pause and say how far they shall go. I do not think any hon. member can fairly say that the expenditure which is proposed is not beyond the capabilities of the colony at the present time. When we come to look at the items in this Bill and remember that the Government are spending over £10,000,000 in all, I think it is time to ask how we are going to repay it. I do not so much object to the huge expenditure on the goldfields, because I admit that it is from the goldfields almost all our prosperity has come, and I will go so far as to say that the goldfields should have expended on them the money which they directly earn. Hon. members would not mind expending even large sums of money if the Government would provide such a sinking fund as would repay the whole loan in about 25 years. As it is, the sinking fund is merely trifling, and does not start for four years after the money is borrowed. I will just refer to a few of the items in this schedule. Most of us know York. Within a quarter of a mile of one another there are two main bridges, and in the centre there is a spring bridge. Now the Government are going to spend more money for another bridge, and expend still further sums in shifting one of the bridges already there to another place. When this work is complete York, within the space of half-a-mile, will have a bridge for every hundred inhabitants within five miles of it. Another item of expenditure I disapprove of is that provided for Government House. I quite admit that Government House should be such that we all might feel proud of, but I find that last year £6,000 was spent upon it, and now we are asked to provide £20,000 for a ball-room and a few other rooms. I do not think this is the time to expend money in this way. Probably my remarks are simply a waste of breath, but I cannot help placing on record my views. In a few years, however, I shall have

the pleasure of referring to "Hansard," and seeing my remarks justified. If they are not it will be all the better for the colony. I notice that sums are provided for the Bumbury harbour works, and for a railway to the Greenhills. They were probably placed in this schedule so that hon. members might have no power to deal with them. Why was not the Kanowna railway put in this Bill also?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM): We have no revenue to pay it with; we have only £16,000 left.

THE Hon. F. T. CROWDER: I endeavour to do my duty to my constituents, and I take the trouble to read every remark which falls from the leader of the Government in another place. From what he has said, I take it that at the end of the year there will be at least £500,000 over the Estimate, and out of this many of the works on the loan schedule might well have been undertaken. The Government are throwing money about broadcast. Northam is to have £27,000 for a railway station, and then because Northam has a station every other village must have a station. When this Bill is passed we shall be in the unique position of having voted £10,000,000 in one session. We are here to check hasty legislation, and I trust hon. members will not allow these items to pass without entering their protest.

THE Hon. J. H. TAYLOR: As one of the country members who are frequently referred to as being anxious to get away, I may say that I am perhaps the most country member here, and although anxious to get back, it seems my prospects are as far away as ever. The "Independent Party" is working with such immense success that I am afraid that, although a country member, I shall still have to continue to reside in town. No doubt one of the objects of the "Independent Party" is to secure my residence in Perth. I am still a slave to duty, however, and shall oppose their efforts against the good of the country as long as is necessary. Even at the cost of the sneers and jibes of that party I shall support the Government policy for the development of the goldfields to my utmost. I quite agree with the Hon. Mr. Parker that many of the items put down in the Loan Bill should have been paid

for out of revenue, but where I differ from him is that the first items he attacks are those which relate to the goldfields. If he had concentrated his efforts against some of the other items, and had left those for the goldfields alone, I might have found it less difficult to support him. The hon. member has told us that he met a gentleman who stated that some of the places which were mentioned on these Estimates were unknown.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Ballagundi. Where is that?

THE HON. J. H. TAYLOR: Somewhere near the I.O.U.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: You do not know.

THE HON. J. H. TAYLOR: Yes I do, only the Government have recently changed the name of the place. I asked the hon. gentleman to name his authority, but he declined. I have my suspicion that it is a well-known pessimist, who is about to clear out and run the place down. Such people ought to be discredited rather than encouraged, and certainly should not be quoted in this House. Another item he attacked was the vote for the Coolgardie Chamber of Mines. This is an institution having for its object the advancement of mining throughout the whole of the Western Australian goldfields. It has already received £500 from the Government, and the £4,500 which is here provided is for building a School of Mines under the auspices of the Chamber of Mines, which, except in this instance, has received no assistance from the Government. All the assistance the chamber has received up to the present is from the English companies, which each pay a subscription of 10 guineas. Any entertainment that may have been given was provided out of the pockets of the members, and not by the chamber. It is a most deserving institution, and should be well supported. The Hon. Mr. Parker has also referred to the cessation in the flow of English money. Although this may be so, I am certain that during the next 12 months we shall have such an enormous output of gold that it will fully compensate for the cessation. I am glad the hon. member mentioned that the progress of the colony was largely due to British capital. All hon. members know what this country was before the capital came here and

what it is now. We are all becoming extremely frightened lest that capital should leave us, and I think this is a fitting opportunity to urge on the Government and Parliament to relax the onerous labour conditions which are in force. Prospecting does not pay except on exceptional claims. The Bunbury harbour works were referred to. This is not a work for my constituency, but I am in favour of it. Quite lately a report has been published on the timber resources of the country, and we are told that we have an enormous asset. The timber has been in its present position for many years, and will remain there unless facilities are given for working it. The present regulations are unworkable for newcomers. The existing mills are working under entirely different conditions from those which are now imposed, and unless the present conditions are relaxed we shall never be able to obtain capital to develop the industry. The Kanowna railway seems to be the object of attack by the members of the "Independent Party." They say it is a separate railway, but it is really an extension of the present system, and it furnishes one more link in that chain which will connect Fremantle with the other colonies, and go to make that port the great harbour which we all hope for. At present there are three 10-head batteries working at Kanowna, and they have been working for 12 months on 2½ oz. stone. There are other mines there which will erect batteries as soon as railway facilities are provided. Beyond Kanowna there are a number of other mines which can be developed by the aid of this railway. With these remarks I shall support this Bill.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: I rise to protest against the extravagance of the Government. We find from this Bill that the Government are about to throw money broadcast in all directions. There are to be agricultural railways, and miners' institutes, and these in some places where there are only a few people living.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (HON. E. H. WITTENOOM): Name them.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: Gooseberry Hill, Belmont, Coogee, Jandakot, Lower Blackwood, and several others.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: You do not know anything about it.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: Before long Coogee will form part of Fremantle, and where, then, will be the necessity for an agricultural hall? If the Government had put down the £18,000 provided for these items to improve the roads in Perth some good might have been done, because then the capital would have been habitable and attractive for people to come to. Instead of this, the money has been scattered among a number of districts because a general election is coming on. Then we find £23,000 down for a railway station at Northam. We know that when railways run through a town that town is wiped out. All that is wanted at Northam is a good platform. The reason why Coolgardie desired to have the line to Menzies starting from there was the very reason that, if the train once ran through, it would seriously affect the town. Northam will never be a centre, and when we come to the item I hope the Minister will be able to furnish us with full details. Then I come to the Bunbury harbour works. When harbour works have had to be constructed in the past the question has been referred to a select committee, and the necessary amount placed on the Loan Bill. In this case the Government have been afraid to place it on the Loan Bill, because they knew it would not be passed. Again, we have neither plans nor information about the work, and yet we are asked to commit ourselves to the expenditure of £100,000. Then, coming to another item for Bunbury, I find £2,000 is provided for a line to the racecourse. Here, at the capital, we have been going to the racecourse for years by the road. Thousands of people have gone in this way, and yet the few people at Bunbury must have a railway. In the case of the Perth racecourse line, the interest, we are told, has been guaranteed. Why has it not been guaranteed in this case? Probably because the line is provided as a sop to the people of Bunbury. As the Hon. Mr. Parker has said, we should have had the Loan Estimates before us, but as hon. members have determined otherwise, we must do without them. I cannot help saying, however, that the Government are going too fast. They say, now that they have the revenue, we will throw it broadcast about the country, so that when the elections come on they may be enabled to come back

without any opposition. Although I agree that the Premier is honest and straightforward, still there should be some check on legislation, and it has fallen to this House to effect the check. The party to which I belong has been much abused, but if it had not been for that party measures which had been passed would have been a disgrace to the colony. If hon. members will look at the Waterworks Bill—

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): That is the only Bill which has been thrown out during the session.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: What about the Mines Regulation Bill, which would have been passed, had it not been for the Hon. Mr. Parker, without a penalty clause. However, perhaps it is of no use my saying much, and I can only again enter my protest against the lavish expenditure on the part of the Government.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I do not propose to say very much in reply, for the reason that no arguments have been brought forward against the Bill. The Government have been criticised as being extravagant and with spending too much money here, and too much there, but this criticism has come only from those who have a superficial knowledge of the requirements of the different country districts. The Hon. Mr. Parker said it was a duty hon. members owed to their constituents to criticise the Bill in this way, but I should like to know why the members of the Assembly did not consider it their duty to stop this Bill. Indeed, what is there to object to? As far as I know, a few paltry items, such as agricultural halls or a small racecourse line, the whole lot of which will cost under £20,000, have been objected to. Take the one item—agricultural halls. These are small buildings which are put up at a cost of about £250 each in small centres, so that the people living there may meet together, and in many instances, I may say, the revenue derived from the sale of town lots in the localities will cover, many hundreds of times over, the cost of the halls. It is useless for me to say anything more, because nothing has really been urged against the Bill. I will only

add that the whole of the Estimates have received the most careful consideration of the Government, and in saying that the expenditure has been scattered broadcast throughout the country, it is rather a compliment to the Government than otherwise, because it shows that no part of the colony from north to south has been neglected. Although it is possible that some small item might have been done without, on the whole the Government have done their best to expend the money in such a manner as will give facilities to the people, and help them to live with a little more comfort than they have been able to do hitherto. The Government are not extravagant. The country is going ahead rapidly, and when we consider that there will be only £16,000 left out of a revenue of £3,000,000 it will be seen that no further works could be undertaken from this source. With these further remarks I ask hon. members to agree to the second reading of the Bill.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—Application of moneys.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: In order that hon. members may not take exception again to a course which I pursued in connection with another Bill, I desire to say that when we come to the schedule I propose to make certain suggestions to the Legislative Assembly. If they are agreed to, it will be necessary to alter this clause so as to make the amount here stated agree with the schedule.

Clause—agreed to.

The remaining clauses were agreed to.

Schedule A—agreed to.

Schedule B:

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Will the hon. the Minister give us some information as to the first item, "Bridge over the Dale River." Where is this?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM): I cannot give any information. It is rather absurd to ask such questions as these in the Legislative Council. These matters have all been discussed in another place, and these two-penny-half-penny questions seem to be put for no other purpose than obstruction. I am not prepared to answer this. If the hon. member wants answers to such

questions, let him put a notice on the paper.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: In the circumstances I feel it my duty to move a suggestion to the Legislative Assembly on every item. These matters have not been discussed in another place, and, therefore, it is our duty to obtain some information upon them. We know that in the Lower House the members are completely demoralised. I do not know that they are more so than the general public, judging by the fact that there is this large distribution of funds going on. The hon. member says that I ask these questions for the purpose of obstruction. I do not care whether he thinks that or not. I shall do my duty. I ask the hon. gentleman whether he knows whether this bridge has already been completed or not?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM): I do not.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Then I move that it be a request to the Legislative Assembly to omit this item from the schedule.

Question put.

The committee divided, with the following result:—

| | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Ayes | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Noes | ... | ... | ... | 13 |

Majority against ... 10

| AYES. | NOES. |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| The Hon. S. H. Parker | The Hon. H. Briggs |
| The Hon. F. M. Stone | The Hon. R. G. Burges |
| The Hon. F. T. Crowder | The Hon. D. K. Congdon |
| (Teller). | The Hon. C. E. Dempster |
| | The Hon. J. W. Hackett |
| | The Hon. A. B. Kidson |
| | The Hon. D. McKay |
| | The Hon. J. E. Richardson |
| | The Hon. H. J. Saunders |
| | The Hon. W. Spencer |
| | The Hon. J. H. Taylor |
| | The Hon. E. H. Wittenoom |
| | The Hon. R. S. Haynes |
| | (Teller). |

Motion was negatived.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I move, "That the Legislative Assembly be requested to omit item No. 147, 'Blackwood River Bridge, McLeod's Crossing, £1,000.'"

Motion negatived.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I now ask the hon. member whether the hon. gentleman can give us any information about the next item, "Blackwood River Bridge, McLeod's crossing £1,000." Where is the crossing and what is the

necessity for the bridge? Has the bridge been promised or not, or is it intended that it shall be completed in the future? Is the hon. the Minister prepared to answer this?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): No, I am not.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Then it seems to me that the Legislative Council is being flouted by the hon. gentleman. He has already flouted hon. members when he declined to lay upon the table what a statute enjoins upon him to lay upon the table, and now he declines to give us information. I am bound, therefore, to move that the Legislative Assembly be requested to omit this item from the schedule.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: I do not see how we can proceed to pass items without particulars. I know nothing about this item.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): And you do not want to.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: Surely hon. members are not going to pass these items blindfold unless we get particulars. I must support the motion of the Hon. Mr. Parker.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I am sure the hon. member will withdraw his motion when he hears that this item is only a re-vote. The amount was on last year's Estimates and the money is required. The bridge is to be built on the Lower Blackwood, nine miles from Karridale. A petition in favour of it has been signed by the settlers, and the site has been fixed after some discussion.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: The information which the hon. member has furnished is perfectly satisfactory and I do not intend to press my motion. I will now ask whether it is necessary to build a bridge near Gilgerring siding. I know the crossings all up the river, and they are hardly ever uncrossable. It is only for a few days in the year that any of the crossings are not feasible. That being so, why is it necessary to erect this bridge?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): It is not always necessary to erect a bridge on account of water. We must remember that some of the banks are precipitous, and the bottoms sandy and difficult to cross with loads.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I move, sir, that you do report progress.

The committee divided with the following result:—

| | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Ayes | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Noes | ... | ... | ... | 8 |

Majority against ... 1

AYES.
The Hon. W. Alexander
The Hon. H. Briggs
The Hon. F. T. Crowder
The Hon. D. McKay
The Hon. S. H. Parker
The Hon. F. M. Stone
The Hon. D. K. Congdon
(Teller).

NOES.
The Hon. R. G. Burges
The Hon. C. E. Dempster
The Hon. S. J. Haynes
The Hon. A. B. Kidson
The Hon. H. J. Saunders
The Hon. W. Spencer
The Hon. J. H. Taylor
The Hon. J. W. Hackett
(Teller).

Motion negatived.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: With reference to this bridge, I may say that it is absolutely necessary. The settlers have petitioned for it, and it has been agreed that the most suitable place for it is at Gilgerring.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: The explanation of the hon. member is highly satisfactory and I shall not press my motion. The next item I desire information on is No. 149. I wish to know how many bridges there are over the Avon and what is the necessity for this extra bridge at Northam. I know there is a central bridge at York, and probably the Government feel that they must compensate Northam by providing an extra bridge.

THE HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: I think I can say that this bridge is necessary. A large amount of land has been cut up at Northam, and this bridge is necessary in the interests of the settlers.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: How many bridges are there at Northam?

THE HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: Only one.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Seeing that Northam has only one bridge and York three, I do not think I can reasonably object to Northam having another. In these circumstances I shall make no proposition in respect to this item. The next item I should like some information about is No. 152. Perhaps the hon. the Minister will give us some particulars as to this.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: Before the hon. member asks that, I should like some particulars about No. 150.

THE HON. R. S. HAYNES: I move that the question be now put.

THE CHAIRMAN (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): I think the Hon. Mr. Parker was on his feet first.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I move that it be a request to the Legislative Assembly to omit item 152. I make this motion with a view to obtaining information. I know there is a bridge at the 13-Mile, but I do not know that it is necessary to have a bridge at Kelmscott.

Motion put and negatived.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I move that it be a request to the Legislative Assembly to omit item 154 from the schedule. I do so again with the view to obtaining information.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I move that progress be reported.

The Committee divided with the following result:—

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Ayes .. | 10 |
| Noes ... | 4 |
| Majority for ... | 6 |

AYES.

The Hon. W. Alexander
The Hon. H. Briggs
The Hon. D. K. Congdon
The Hon. F. T. Crowder
The Hon. D. McKay
The Hon. S. H. Parker
The Hon. H. J. Saunders
The Hon. F. M. Stone
The Hon. J. H. Taylor
The Hon. W. Spencer

NOES.

The Hon. R. G. Burges
The Hon. J. W. Hackett
The Hon. R. S. Haynes
The Hon. C. E. Dempster
(Teller).

Question put and passed.

Progress reported accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House, at 11 o'clock, p.m., adjourned until Friday, 23rd October, 1896, at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 22nd October, 1896.

Question: Civil Servants and Life Assurance—Delay of a Bigamy Trial—Messages (3) from Legislative Council—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

QUESTION—CIVIL SERVANTS AND LIFE ASSURANCE.

MR. SOLOMON, by leave and without notice, asked the Premier whether it was the intention of the Government during the recess to consider the advisability of civil servants assuring their lives?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the Government would be glad to consider the question.

DELAY OF A BIGAMY TRIAL.

MR. MORAN, by leave, said he had been requested by some influential persons in Fremantle, connected with two of the principal churches, to ask the Attorney General whether it was true that a certain individual named Thomas Libbis, who had been returned for trial at Fremantle on a charge of bigamy, was not to be tried; and if not, why not? The omission to try him on the charge upon which he had been returned at Fremantle was an encouragement of crime.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt), in reply, said such a case had been returned at Fremantle for trial; but there was a difficulty in proceeding, and the matter had not altogether been disposed of. The difficulty was as to procuring the evidence necessary to prove the alleged offence. The evidence necessary in this case had to be obtained from Victoria, and he could not at present say whether the evidence would be obtainable; but an endeavour was being made to ascertain whether the required evidence would be forthcoming.