

## Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 18th December, 1907.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

## PAPER PRESENTED.

By the Premier: Report of the Surveyor General for year ending 30th June, 1907.

## QUESTION—STANDING ORDERS, LAPSED BILLS.

Mr. DAGLISH asked the Premier (without notice): Will he give an opportunity to the House to consider message No. 5 from the Legislative Council, in regard to the revival of Bills lapsed at the close of the preceding session, with a view of enabling the House to refer the matter to the Standing Orders Committee, giving power to confer with the Standing Orders Committee of another place during the recess; and in asking the question I may say probably the Premier would like to have been able to have the Health Bill, which has passed another place, revived next session at the stage it has already reached.

The PREMIER replied: If time will permit we will endeavour to meet the member's wishes.

## QUESTION—MAGISTRATE, AS TO REMOVAL.

Mr. HORAN asked the Premier (without notice): Will he be agreeable to lay

on the table of the House all papers in connection with the omission from the magistracy of the name of I. J. K. Cohn? The Premier replied: No.

## QUESTION—ILLINGWORTH INQUIRY, TO RECONSIDER.

Mr. H. BROWN asked the Premier: 1, After the promise of the Attorney General that a Judge of the Supreme Court should be appointed a Commissioner to conduct the Illingworth inquiry, is it now the intention of the Government to allow Parliament to reconsider its decision? 2, After my being consulted by the Premier with reference to the appointment of the Auditor General as Commissioner, and protesting against the same, what was the reason for his appointment? 3, What were the objections of the Government causing the non-appointment of the Official Receiver, the nominee of the Chief Justice?

The PREMIER replied: 1, The Judges have given reasons why they were unable to act, the Governor has appointed the Auditor General as a Royal Commissioner to conduct the enquiry. 2, Because it was considered that Mr. Topin being an official directly responsible to Parliament, he was the most suitable person that could be appointed. 3, Answered by No. 2.

## QUESTION—MUNICIPAL SUBSIDIES INQUIRY, AS TO REPAYMENTS.

Mr. H. BROWN asked the Premier: 1, Is it the intention of the Government to adopt that portion of the Select Committee's report with reference to enforcing the repayment of overpayment to municipalities on account of subsidies? 2, If not, why not?

The PREMIER replied: The Select Committee's report and the evidence taken will be carefully considered by Cabinet before a decision is come to.

## QUESTION—MINING EXEMPTION, BOULDER.

Mr. BATH (for Mr. Scaddan) asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Has he con-

curred in the Warden's recommendation to grant further exemption to the Central and West Boulder G.M. Co. ? If so, to what amount ? 2, What is the total amount of exemption granted to this company on its various leases during the past three (3) years, viz., 1905-6-7 ?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, Yes. Six months from December 6th, 1907. 2, On 24e and 949e, no exemption. On 888e and 1168e—in 1905, 11 months 28 days (six months under Section 93); in 1906, 1 month; in 1907, 7 months and 28 days (six months being under Section 93).

### QUESTION—SWINE FEVER REPORT.

Mr. BATH asked the Minister for Agriculture: Does he intend to lay upon the table of the House the report of Mr. Burns, Acting Chief Inspector of Stock, on swine fever ?

The PREMIER replied: In view of the investigations now being made the Minister does not consider it advisable to lay the papers on the table.

### QUESTION—TRADE INSTRUCTOR BEHAN, REPORT.

Mr. BATH asked the Premier: 1, Did the report of the Royal Commission exonerate ex-trade instructor Behan ? 2, If so, what steps does the Government intend to take in the matter ?

The PREMIER replied: The report of the Royal Commissioner is now receiving the attention of the Government. I promised to give the hon. member an opportunity of perusing the report of the Commission, and at the earliest opportunity to give a decision in regard to the matter.

### REPORT—MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

Mr. DAGLISH brought up the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the manufacturing industries of Western Australia.

Report received and read.

### MOTION—STANDING ORDERS REVISION.

Mr. H. DAGLISH (Subiaco) moved:

*That the Standing Orders Committee be empowered to sit during the recess to revise the Standing Rules and Orders of the House.*

A similar motion was carried last session, but it was not acted upon. There are a number of Standing Orders which are contradictory, and in a number of cases we rely on the procedure and rules of the House of Commons. It would be far more satisfactory if the Standing Orders were brought up as far as possible to date, and if we can compress, as far as it is possible to do so, in a single volume all the rules under which we work, it would be advisable. This is the object of the motion.

Question put and passed.

### BILL—NEWCASTLE-BOLGART RAILWAY.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

### BILL—GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS AMENDMENT.

*Third Reading.*

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. H. Gregory) moved—

*That the Bill be now read a third time.*

Mr. T. H. BATH (Brown Hill) desired to submit a point of order in regard to this Bill, as he considered it was contrary to Section 67 of the Constitution Act, which provided:—

“It shall not be lawful for the Legislative Assembly to adopt or pass any Vote, Resolution, or Bill for the appropriation of any part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, or of any rate, tax, duty, or impost to any purpose which has not been first recommended to the Assembly by message of the Governor during the session in which such Vote, Resolution, or Bill is proposed.”

Under the Bill by Clause 2, we made provision for the appropriation of the salary of the Commissioner of Railways.

and he (Mr. Bath) contended therefore in view of that fact, that the Bill was out of order, not having been covered by a message from the Governor.

**The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS:** The hon. member had raised the point without looking at the parent Act, which provided that no appointment could be made without the consent of Parliament being obtained. So the alteration did not give the Government power to make an appointment or to expend any sum of money without the consent of Parliament being first obtained in connection therewith.

**Mr. Walker:** The Minister evaded the real point. The question was not whether the appointment should be made by Cabinet and then validated by Parliament, but whether Clause 2 made provision for the appropriation of money. He submitted it did. There was recently a lot of trouble about Bills not being properly introduced by message. The Crown had raised the point in a recent law case. Undoubtedly this Bill fixed a salary and pledged the House to an appropriation. Bills of this character should be preceded by a message.

**Mr. Bath:** The Auditor General in his report referred at length to the case mentioned by the member for Kanowna (Mr. Walker) and dealt with moneys paid out without appropriation.

**The Minister:** In almost every Act dealing with administration there was provision for a salary; for instance in the Electoral Bill; and the authorisation for the expenditure was on the Estimates. In the original Act there was authority to spend £1,500, but under the amending Bill there was no authority to spend money except with the approval of Parliament, and that approval was obtained on the Estimates.

**Mr. Taylor:** The Electoral Bill was not a parallel case. Here we were dealing with power to take money out of consolidated revenue. This was a new appropriation. By no stretch of the imagination could we say that we were not giving power to appropriate money from the consolidated revenue.

**Mr. Speaker:** This Bill did not fix a sum. The approval of Parliament was necessary before any salary was paid, and that approval was obtained in the ordinary way on the Estimates. The Bill was perfectly in order.

**Mr. Bath:** Parliament did not have a chance of approving of the appropriation for the salary of the Commissioner of Railways on the Estimates. It was one of the items provided for under Special Acts. The only chance members had was on the point where it was raised in Parliament in the Bill where the provision was inserted, and such a Bill should be preceded by a message.

**Mr. Bolton:** If the argument of the Minister was to be accepted, it would only be possible for the Government to appoint an honorary Commissioner.

**Mr. Speaker:** There was no occasion to proceed farther in the matter. His opinion had been expressed.

**Mr. TAYLOR:** While the Leader of the Opposition did not feel disposed to disagree with the ruling, he (Mr. Taylor) considered it necessary—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Was the hon. member speaking to a point of order?

**Mr. TAYLOR:** It was necessary that the third reading should not be passed. Could not one debate the third reading?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** If the hon. member was desirous of raising a point of order as to whether a message must precede the third reading of this Bill, he was prepared to give a ruling on it. The point was raised some time ago and on that occasion the ruling he gave did not seem to be satisfactory to the hon. member who raised it. He was prepared to give a definite ruling, because for months past he had the ruling waiting in case the matter should crop up again during the session.

**Mr. TAYLOR:** The point was submitted for a ruling and he had no desire to discuss it farther, except to say that if he were Leader of the Opposition he would at once disagree with the ruling given. However, he would not debate that now, but to save farther discussion it would be wise to refuse the passage of the third reading, because there were ob-

jectionable points in the Bill and the point raised was fatal to it, showing that the Bill was irregular.

Question (third reading) put, and a division taken with the following result :—

Ayes	..	..	..	21
Noes	..	..	..	11

Majority for .. 10

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Angwin	Mr. Bath
Mr. Barnett	Mr. Bolton
Mr. Brebber	Mr. T. L. Brown
Mr. H. Brown	Mr. Holman
Mr. Cowcher	Mr. Horn
Mr. Davies	Mr. Johnson
Mr. Draper	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Foulkes	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Underwood
Mr. Gull	Mr. Walker
Mr. Hayward	Mr. Hudson (Teller).
Mr. Layman	
Mr. McLarty	
Mr. Male	
Mr. N. J. Moore	
Mr. S. F. Moore	
Mr. Price	
Mr. Smith	
Mr. A. J. Wilson	
Mr. F. Wilson	
Mr. Gordon (Teller).	

Question thus passed.

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

## LOAN ESTIMATES, 1907-8.

### *In Committee of Supply.*

Resumed from the previous sitting, *Mr. Daglish* in the Chair.

**MR. BATH :** When the Treasurer completed his introductory remarks at the previous sitting and was desirous of continuing these Estimates without adjournment, it was pointed out that members should have some opportunity for assimilating the information, not only in the Estimates but also in the Treasurer's introductory remarks. In view of the late hour to which the House sat through the night, there had been little opportunity afforded to members, and the fault lay entirely with the Treasurer and his colleagues. One could not understand the remark of the Treasurer, that it was passing strange that members should object to rushing matters of this kind through Parliament. It was hard to conceive what possible motive could have actuated the Treasurer in pursuing this course, which was nothing more than a travesty on Responsible Government ; and in this time

of financial stringency and difficulty we should give more attention to the voting of large sums of money. Evidently the Treasurer relied on his majority for passing these money votes. From one's experience in this House, he thought that if a motion was submitted by the Government that their supporters should hang themselves, there would be seen members trooping into the Chamber on the Government side and voting for that motion. Passing money votes was more a question of voting at the dictation of the Government, and any State which did that was rushing on to destruction. We saw in the State the inevitable result of pursuing this policy ; for in spite of the developmental policy of the Government and the great drafts on the general loan funds since 1900, we had nothing but dull apathy throughout the State. In spite of the expenditure of loan money and the construction of public works, we were losing population, for the last returns in the *Statistical Abstract* showed we had lost a number which reached the considerable total of nearly 1,600 persons. If this was the fruit of the policy of the Government, if in spite of the expenditure of loan money which the Government could not continue for ever we were to have these results, then what could be expected when the present authorisation of £2,500,000 was exhausted ? The present stagnation was bad enough, but the position must become worse in the future owing to the lack of direct interest on the part of members and the public ; because when it was a question of constructing works out of general loan funds, there was not that alert criticism which would arise if the money were to come out of taxation, and it was only when there was a probability of direct taxation measures being passed that we had any alertness on the part of the public, through the Press and on platforms, as to the policy of the Government. Only recently we had attention drawn to the ineptitude which characterised the departments controlling the expenditure on public works. We had associated with the Works Department instances which showed that the lack of control on the part of Ministers and members had been responsible for what

had reached the stage of scandal. We had only to refer to the Perth sewerage works, to the construction of the Hospital for Insane at Claremont where £14,000 was expended in electric lighting, to see that where we relied on loan funds it meant extravagance in administration, incapacity in administration, and these evils were going to affect the State disastrously.

*The Treasurer :* That instalment of electric lighting for the asylum at Claremont was the cheapest job that had been done.

Mr. BATH : It was absurd to say so; £14,000 for one set of buildings was cheap according to the Treasurer ! We had never had any justification for it in this House, and it had been at the wish of the Minister for Works that any attempted explanation was left over till the discussion of these Loan Estimates.

*The Minister for Works :* Nothing of the sort.

Mr. BATH : We were still waiting for that explanation, also as to the blundering that had characterised the construction of the sewerage works in Perth.

*The Minister for Works :* Be specific.

Mr. BATH : There was no need to go farther than the filter beds at Burswood Island.

*The Minister for Works :* What about them ?

Mr. BATH : The Minister had been very careful regarding the answering of questions as to the blundering of the Works Department in that matter ; everybody knew the blundering in connection with it. If the Minister for Works had any explanation to offer, it was time he offered it, instead of asking what were the criticisms. The Treasurer's statement of the amount of money essential, in addition to the unexpended balance of existing loan authorisations, to complete the works programme, looked well ; but on two works alone—the Claremont Asylum and the sewerage—the cost when completed would largely exceed the original estimate. It was difficult to pin down the department to what was the original estimate for the sewerage works. The member for Perth (Mr. H.

Brown) had repeatedly inquired through the Press and in the House ; but from the information supplied on the Estimates it must be apparent that the cost of these two works would greatly exceed what was first anticipated. If this was true of two such works, it was evident that before the works policy was completed a much larger sum would be needed from loan than was provided in the Treasurer's estimate on which he based his statement that to complete the works policy he would have to raise an additional £470,000. Moreover, the Treasurer had not given us any clear indication as to whether that sum covered the increased cost of steel rails for the railways. When the estimate for these was originally made the price of steel rails was much lower than at present ; and if no allowance had been made for the rise, the estimate would be greatly exceeded. The detailed information supplied to the Treasurer showed that his estimates made no provision for the recurring departmental expenditure from loan funds.

*The Treasurer :* The estimate was of the amount required to carry out the works policy.

Mr. BATH : But while those works were being constructed, we had to find money from general loan fund for certain departmental expenditure. No provision was made for railway loan expenditure. The Works Department, who supplied the Treasurer's figures, clearly stated that they did not include those items.

*The Treasurer* was not dealing with existing lines.

Mr. BATH : But the Treasurer must recognise that if he spent loan money, as he was spending it to-day and must spend more of it in the future, on departmental works, he must borrow the money. He anticipated raising only £470,000. But in addition he would have to go on the market, either in the Commonwealth or in London, to carry on such works as additions and improvements to opened railways, and to purchase rolling stock. These were not included in the item of £470,000. If that sum had to be raised for new works, a consider-

able sum in addition must be raised to carry out loan expenditure which recurred from year to year. And there was no provision in the £470,000 for Development of Goldfields and Mineral Resources, nor for Development of Agriculture, nor for Harbours and Rivers.

*The Treasurer* : These were not part of the works programme.

Mr. BATH : They were part of the administrative policy of the Government. The Treasurer was trying to lead the House to believe that we could carry on the works policy without difficulty, having to raise only £470,000. But if to carry on those other works we had to borrow more freely than in the past, then the Treasurer's statement was misleading, no matter whether he called the other works part of his works policy or an administrative policy. Conversely if any of the £470,000 was used for that recurring expenditure, the Treasurer must borrow other money to complete the works policy. The Auditor General, in his report, pointed out that the Treasurer must have taken money either from the trust fund or from general loan fund to provide for the deficit in the consolidated revenue. The Auditor General did not know from which fund this sum was taken; but if it was taken from general loan funds, which were included under the general heading of trust funds, that meant an additional sum of over £200,000 to be provided for by the Treasurer. Regarding the Trust Fund Account, which included general loan funds and smaller items, the Auditor General's report stated that—

“ The sum of £716,242 5s. 7d. represents cash utilised for the purposes as shown: Advances, £95,000; Loan Suspense Account, £1,404; Stores, £400,000; Coolgardie Water Supply stores, £10,000; and Consolidated Revenue Fund Deficit, £208,728.”

So if any portion of that was taken from General Loan Fund, then, in order to complete the works and provide for the recurring items of expenditure, the Treasurer would have to add that portion to his estimate of what had to be raised over and above existing loan authorisations. In spite of this loan expendi-

ture, and the fact that many of those works were constructed, we had not—what one would expect from a developmental policy—any increase of revenue; in fact, the revenue estimate for the financial year ending 30th June, 1908, was £7,734 less than for 1906-7; and there would be no opportunity for the Treasurer to explain that this was due to the loss of revenue from the Commonwealth, occasioned by the reduction of the sliding scale, for the sliding scale had been entirely wiped out. Unless the estimate of revenue for the current financial year was exceeded, we should not only have to contemplate probably the same amounts as had to be allocated year after year from general loan fund for recurring items in the various departments, but the Treasurer would probably have to make a greater demand on loan funds for these items in the future. With the increase in interest and sinking fund and the slightly diminished revenue, there would be less revenue for the construction of public works. He (Mr. Bath) anticipated that for the year ending the 30th June, 1909, there would be a comparatively insignificant sum left over and above administrative cost from our consolidated revenue, for the purpose of constructing works from revenue. So there would have to be a greater demand on the general loan fund, not only for the departmental items mentioned, but also for roads and bridges and public buildings. The Treasurer's policy was admittedly unsound. He was the only alleged expert who attempted to justify such a policy. The highest authorities in the old country and the Eastern States admitted that the policy of constructing such works out of loan was indefensible; and its unsoundness was proved by the experience of the present Government. Its first adoption was like the adoption of the opium habit. It became a necessity, and the consumption increased. Next year we might expect to find additional items of expenditure from General Loan Fund on works which had hitherto been constructed from revenue. Some £236,133 was provided for from loan suspense account—loan expenditure for which no authori-

sation had been given. This policy of making provision for loan expenditure, some of it on unauthorised works, thus anticipating the sanction of Parliament, was essentially dangerous. The Auditor General, in his report, characterised this course as illegal, and remarked:—

“The amount of £1,404 13s. 1d. is illegal expenditure, having been drawn from the public account without an appropriation of Parliament.

“The items making up the above sum are as follow: Denmark-Torbay Railway, £58 9s. 6d.; Narrogin-Yorraning Railway, £1,148 5s. 3d.; Wagin-Dumbleyung Railway, £197 18s. 4d.; Total, £1,404 13s. 1d. The first two items are unsupported by an Act of Parliament authorising the work or purchase, as required by Section 58 of the Audit Act, and the third item is unsupported by an Appropriation Act authorising the raising of the money as required by Section 60 of the Audit Act: it has therefore been necessary to make a surcharge for the full amount under Section 41 of the same Act.”

These criticisms showed the straits to which the Treasurer had arrived in the present condition of the finances. He adopted the most astonishing policy as soon as he took over the control of the finances of the State and there could be no doubt that, from the very inception, he had had no conception of his responsibilities in regard to expenditure from General Loan Fund. He had utilised the fund for the construction of roads, bridges, and public buildings. [*The Treasurer: Sanctioned by Parliament.*] Sanctioned by those who had no sense of their responsibility, and who did not even take the trouble to find out what they were voting upon.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must respect other members of the Chamber.

Mr. BATH: If what he had said was considered a reflection he would withdraw the statement. In any event the acquiescence of those members in the financial transactions of the Treasurer was quite sufficient without any other reference being made to it. It was shown

on the Consolidated Revenue Estimates, already passed, that there was an additional sum of £43,000 to provide for interest and sinking fund for last year. Taking the Treasurer's figures of the total amount necessary to complete the works policy of the Government and the cost of flotation, the sum amounted in round numbers to £3,000,000 of loan moneys which had to be expended in the completion of that policy. We were committed to an increased expenditure of £43,000 for interest and sinking fund, and the total amount to which we would be committed if the works were completed would be £135,000. That was not taking into consideration the loss which the Treasurer and the supporters of the various works admitted would occur on those works for some years to come. The sum of £150,000 was a moderate estimate of the increased liability of the taxpayers, so that we might enjoy this developmental policy of the Government. We had seen the difficulty the Government experienced in raising £80,000, which was the amount estimated to be obtained under the taxation proposals. It would be just as well for the Treasurer and members supporting the policy to ask what the public would say when a farther £135,000 was demanded from them. We knew the criticism and humiliation experienced by this Chamber, as the House responsible for finding the money, in order to realise that £80,000; but what would happen when the Treasurer went to the people and asked them for another £135,000 in order to meet liabilities? Even if the Treasurer wiped out the sinking fund contribution or even reduced it on future loans, he would still have to find £100,000 for interest. Either there must be an abandonment to some extent of the policy to which the Government were pledging the country, or there must be a financial stringency to which our present position would not be a circumstance. Among the methods devised to hide the real position of the revenue account, the Minister for Works was attempting to show an economy in administrative cost by passing over an increased percentage of salaries and departmental expenditure

to General Loan Fund. The Revenue Estimates proved that.

*The Minister for Works* : There was an increased amount, but there was an increased expenditure.

*Mr. BATH* : In connection with the public works votes, salaries and temporary assistance for 1906-7, totalled £53,278. From that there was deducted as an amount to be provided on the Loan Estimates £38,282, leaving a total revenue vote for salaries of £14,996. In the Estimates for 1907-8, the revenue and loan expenditure for departmental salaries and temporary assistance was £54,259. The provision on the Loan Estimates totalled £41,259, leaving a balance of only £13,000 to be paid from Consolidated Revenue.

*The Minister for Works* : Now turn up the loan expenditure and the revenue expenditure for the two years.

*Mr. BATH* : The Minister had not taken cognisance of the fact that in the summary of expenditure for 1906-7 from general loan fund the total shown was £869,978, of which £145,362 was expended in 1905-6 as from the Loan Suspense Account. Last year the vote on the Loan Estimates was £1,332,000, while the actual expenditure was £869,000. Yet there was provision made for the next year of £1,322,000. It was very improbable that the whole of this money would be expended, especially in view of the fact that before the money could be spent the Government must go on the market for a farther loan. It was easy to make provision on the Loan Estimates for contemplated loan expenditure, but it was another matter to raise the necessary money to carry out the policy. There were certain obvious disadvantages which the Treasurer would have to undergo in connection with the raising of money. First there was the tale of declining revenue, then there was the fact that the interest and sinking fund were eating up all the increased percentage of that revenue, also that the construction of works out of loan was not resulting in an increase in revenue to a corresponding degree. And to all this that the Treasurer had to go on a stringent money market. In the course of his introductory remarks the

Treasurer said that if the borrowing were done in the right way and there was not too much talk about it, it was the easiest thing in the world to raise the money necessary.

*The Treasurer* : The hon. member should quote correctly, for he had said nothing of the sort.

*Mr. BATH* : The Treasurer gave the House to understand there would be no difficulty in raising the money, and that we could go ahead with the works and commit the country to the expenditure of the money. On several occasions the Treasurer had made reference to the audacity of members who criticised his conduct as Treasurer, and especially for utilising money raised by the sale of Government property as current revenue. The Treasurer said that if this were pointed out we would be doing something that might prove detrimental to the possibility of borrowing money. It was not a credit to the country that the Treasurer should act in this manner. It was not a case of criticising the country and its position, but it was a criticism of the methods adopted by the Treasurer, which affected so materially the credit of the country. The sooner the Treasurer realised that the better. If we were to look for utterances which would have a damaging effect on our credit we need go no farther than the remarks put in the mouth of His Excellency, the Governor, at the last prorogation of Parliament. On that occasion the Governor practically said that because they could not secure the passage of a measure for the raising of £60,000, the whole of the works policy of Western Australia would have to be abandoned. It was pointed out that there had to be a prorogation in order that the Government might reconsider the position. No more damaging statements than those could be made, for it was telling the people at home, from whom we borrowed money, that because we could not get a paltry £60,000 the country was to stand still. He did not know whether that statement was published in the newspapers of the old country, but hoped for the credit of Western Australia it was not, for nothing would be more likely to damage our credit than a statement of that kind.



And while on some occasions the Treasurer talked about the need for optimism, it was just this sort of damaging remarks that he too frequently made that give rise not only to criticism within our borders but outside the State. In regard to the loan policy, if we could be assured that with the carrying out of this policy each year we would have an increasing amount in our revenue which would enable us to make interest and sinking fund payments, without imposing heavy burdens on the taxpayers, he (Mr. Bath) would be the first to say, "Go ahead with the development ; go ahead with a policy that is vigorous ; at the same time be wise and cautious." When we saw a policy pursued that committed us to increased charges year after year, and which led to no increase in revenue, but led to the necessity of a resort to loan funds to pay for works which were previously paid for out of general revenue, the time must come when that policy should stop or we should be in the same position as other States had been faced with ; we should be faced with a large amount of distress and suffering which would eventually lead to some reform in our financial methods. But reform would never come with a Treasurer such as we had now. Before Western Australia reached to the position of the other States, there must be a change in the person controlling the Treasury of the State.

Mr. FOULKES agreed with what the Leader of the Opposition had said as to the propensity of the two last Treasurers for using loan moneys for the purpose of erecting buildings and constructing roads. No one could say it was a good policy ; but to some extent it had an extenuation inasmuch as we were paying every year about £240,000 for sinking fund. Although we had such an enormous sinking fund, he recognised it was a bad principle to adopt to use loan moneys for the purpose of constructing unproductive works, such as public buildings and roads. It was impossible for two parties strongly opposed to each other, dealing practically with each measure on party lines, to have the finances controlled as they should be controlled while such party

feeling existed. He hoped some Premier would come forward and insist on passing legislation that would provide for the establishment of a committee to deal with our public finances. It would be a right step to adopt, that no Estimates, whether for loan or general revenue, should be submitted to the House until they had first of all been referred to a standing committee selected from both sides of the House. His experience was that when committees were appointed from both sides of the House party feeling was removed ; there was no party feeling with a small number of men like a committee appointed by the House to deal with a particular matter, and he hoped we should have a Government some day or other—he hoped it might come from next general election—who would pass legislation providing that before any Estimates for works were passed they should go before a committee of say seven or nine members selected from both sides of the House. It was impossible to give proper attention to estimates, either for loan or current revenue. He (Mr. Foulkes) had been a member of the House for five or six years, and during the whole of that time the Estimates had been rushed through at the end of the session. No item was struck off ; various members supported items in many cases to which they were strongly opposed, from a feeling of loyalty to their party, and, as the member for Perth reminded him, members received various amounts for their districts which tended to bias them in favour of the Government. The Treasurer had informed members that he required £1,700,000 for the purposes of constructing all the works on the Loan Estimates for which legislation had been passed during last session and was to be passed this session. He recognised it was a large sum ; still he felt reassured that no larger sum would be required. He believed when the works were completed, particularly the various railways, they would enormously increase the resources of the State. The Leader of the Opposition referred to the fact that when the Treasurer had to go to the financiers in London for farther financial assistance there was no doubt our financial position would be gone into

carefully. Not only would the speech of the Treasurer be read, but the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, and the State's affairs would be gone into by the financiers at home. They knew as much about the State as many members of Parliament, perhaps more. And these financiers must be impressed with one fact, that we were not paying our way. He did not know whether the deficit was increasing, at any rate it was not diminishing. Our total amount of debt per head had also increased. That was owing to the fact that our population was not increasing. Some years ago he believed the debt per head in the State was £69, he was subject to correction on this point. That was considered an enormous amount. He believed it was the highest amount of debt per head of any State in Australia. [Mr. Bath: No; Queensland and South Australia.] At any rate the debt of £69 per head was one of the highest in Australia. Since then the amount had been reduced; at one time it was reduced to £63 or £64 per head; that was owing to the increase of population; and the year before last it was £65 per head, while last year it went up again to £67 per head. He feared unless due attention was given to immigration, we should find when the loan funds were raised the amount would again come dangerously near an amount of £70 per head. That showed conclusively how necessary it was that the Government of the day should pay more attention to the question of immigration. We proposed spending an enormous sum on various railways. It was proposed to spend something like £40,000 or £50,000 in the purchase of the Denmark Railway, and it was seriously stated by one member, in speaking in support of that railway, that actually no less than 25 settlers were to be found along that line of railway. That was considered an enormous number of settlers to be found in a locality, and the statement seemed to make a great impression on members, that actually in Denmark there were no less than 25 people settled on the land. One had only to look at the Press of the day, wherein it was periodically announced that one settler was coming here from Victoria. The Colonial

Secretary had mentioned that actually provision was being made for housing accommodation for people when they arrived in the country.

*The Minister for Works :* Was the member sorry for that ?

Mr. FOULKES : The Minister for Works seemed to be proud of it. He believed there were something like 12 boarding houses selected by the Colonial Secretary's Department for the housing of immigrants when they came to the State. To his mind it was most pathetic and pitiable that such a picture should be drawn. The Premier periodically read telegrams which he received from the Government agent in Melbourne describing how three settlers were coming over to the State. All this to his mind indicated that this important question of immigration should be dealt with in a proper manner. It was with great trepidation that the Government decided to open a Government land agency in Melbourne to give adequate information with regard to the agricultural lands of the State. That was considered a very bold step to take; but to his mind the Government had not gone far enough. The Premier of New South Wales had asked that an agency should be opened in New South Wales, but the Government had not appointed an agent there. He (Mr. Foulkes) would have appointed agents in Adelaide, Brisbane, and Sydney. That would be a proper step to take. We had only to look at Canada. The Canadian Government did not hesitate to spend £40,000 per annum to encourage people to settle in the Dominion. There was a great change coming soon in these States. Many persons did not think much of the Federal Government, and up to now there had not been much inducement for people to place any confidence in the Federal Parliament. But the Federal Government realised it was necessary to do something in the way of immigration, not so much in order to settle the land of the country, but more for defence purposes. Mr. Deakin had asked the States to co-operate with the Federal Government if the States would provide the land, but there was no willingness on the part of the State Govern-

ments to meet the Federal Government in this direction. If we could get the people to come here we would have no difficulty in finding money to construct agricultural railways. If the population increased by 5,000 people it reduced the total indebtedness per head. The money we provided for immigration was not enough; there was practically no money provided for the London agency, and no steps were to be taken to fill Mr. Scammell's post when it became vacant at the end of the year.

*Mr. Johnson:* Nobody could justify the expenditure in lectures.

*Mr. FOULKES:* The lectures did no good. We should adopt the system Canada adopted, and send men through the agricultural districts to explain matters to the farmers, to call on them, and to attend the markets, and to give information in a conversational style and not by lectures. That the Canadian immigration agents did good work in this direction was shown by the fact that they induced a quarter of a million of people to emigrate to Canada every year. Many Labour members were afraid that immigration would increase the supply of labour. He also strongly objected to bringing out men to an already well supplied labour market. But that was owing to the fact that the wrong men were selected to carry on the work in England, and it was idle to condemn immigration on that account. Mr. Rason was not the type of man who could convince agriculturists that Western Australia was a good field for farmers to come to, neither could Mr. Scammell do it. Mr. Scammell realised his deficiency, and had applied to the Government for six months' leave of absence—[*Mr. T. L. Brown:* On full pay]—to come to Western Australia to acquire information.

*The Premier:* The hon. member knew very well Mr. Scammell was not granted that leave.

*Mr. FOULKES* was pleased the Government had not acceded to the request, and that they had decided not to re-engage Mr. Scammell. We should select practical farmers with a thorough grasp of the subject to go to England, and then there would be no danger of men being

sent out who would be likely to compete in a full labour market. The key to our financial position was the question of population. The great prosperity in 1894-5 was not owing to the enormous amount of money spent, but was owing to the increase of population. About 40,000 people came into the State during that period. Unless our population increased the depression would continue. If greater attention were paid to immigration it would be the greatest possible help to put our finances on a proper footing.

*Hon. F. H. PIESSE* wished to draw attention to the attraction to be afforded to people likely to make their homes in some part of the world outside Great Britain. We heard of the great success following on the settlement in Canada, which country had gone ahead by leaps and bounds; but Canada was not equal to Australia from a climatic point of view, or from the point of view of the general development of resources. Australia afforded an opening for people, and it was population we required; but it was because our resources were not known so well at home, or in places where we sought for people, that we were not receiving such attention as Canada received. The length of the sea journey to Australia was another factor against our getting population. In an interview a recent visitor said that Australia was the finest country in the world, and if the conditions that existed were only better known we would not be long without population. We needed to advertise the country, and to do something to induce people to come here and carry away a knowledge of our conditions. We should ask representative men of the Press of the old country to come here, not particularly those writers dealing with general topics of special interest or politics, but men of practical mind and with a knowledge of the requirements of a country, men able to judge of the development, capabilities, and resources of a country. These we should ask to visit us, and convey through the Press to the old country by their writings and their descriptions Australia's development, its capabilities and its resources, and the true

facts concerning us. Good results would follow. On many occasions he had met people who had been sent to the country to look into its resources. Germany and Russia had sent emissaries to obtain information, and they had gone away strongly impressed with our capabilities, and had written of Australian institutions as such as could be followed with advantage in their own countries. That was a knowledge we should place before people of our own race in Great Britain. Then we would see some advantageous change for the benefit of Australia. It was because Australia had been so belittled in some respects that we reported more fully the failures than the successes of our country. Any setback was telegraphed to the English papers. As to reports by visitors to Australia, he referred particularly to the recent visit of Mr. Dawson, who on leaving Australia gave an interview to the Press, saying it was the finest country in the world. [*Member*: A good country for selling whisky.] No matter what a man's occupation might be, if he manufactured any commercial commodity in daily use and came here to see for himself, his opinions would be worth listening to. What we wanted was men of knowledge who were capable of judging and expressing their opinions, such as had been expressed by many recent visitors to Australia. Another reference he would make was to the Russian agent who came here some time ago, and after travelling through Australia set forth his impressions of it in a book which had obtained a wide circulation, and had been translated for English readers. Although that visitor did not say much of other parts of Australia, yet to Western Australia he gave special attention, and wrote very fully in regard to its institutions, its land laws, methods of development, and its resources. If it was of interest to people in Russia to receive instruction in this form concerning Western Australia and its developments, we should look round to see that we were advertised in our home-land at least as well as we had been advertised in Russia. That was a despised country in the opinion of many persons, but the action then taken in sending an agent to

report on the conditions of this country showed what might be done elsewhere. We did not want to encourage the immigration of Russians to Australia, but it was more to give information to Russian people in regard to Russian developments that the book was written. Some of their agricultural implements had in fact been copied in America, Canada, also in Australia, and so enabled us to compete more successfully with other parts of the world by these improved implements. Immigration carried on in a half-hearted way, and the immigration of certain people not suitable for settlement in Australia, had caused much unrest and disappointment. But we should make known the possibilities of our country and its suitability for agricultural purposes—for tropical, subtropical, and temperate productions. Australia must yet come to the fore, and suitable advertising would assist it in doing so by showing the resources and capabilities of Western Australia. We should take opportunities of inducing people to come here and see with their own eyes, for then they could say in making their reports, "I have seen this, I have witnessed that," and so on. Such statements by eye-witnesses would be read with more interest in the old country amongst people we wished to attract here. Every time we got well informed persons to see our country, they went away with a good impression of its resources, and recorded their opinion that we were far in advance of what they had been led to expect.

*Mr. Walker*: We had Sir William Lyne here, and what did he say?

*Hon. F. H. PIESSE*: He made most unfair remarks about Western Australia. But we could show people when they came here as visitors such conditions as must convince them that we stood to-day as the great State of Australia. In the South-West corner of this State, with its 35 millions of acres yet unsettled, we must in the future see a teeming population settling there in a temperate climate, not subject to drought; and so by favourably impressing visitors to our country we would make our resources known more completely to people outside we wanted to attract here. Such reports

would lead to a better understanding in other parts of Australia. Although he was often doubtful in regard to some of the larger works on which it was proposed to spend money at a time when our financial condition was not satisfactory, yet he believed our resources would be so developed that they would fully justify the carrying out of works, especially in big agricultural centres. So we should take some risk and work onward. He believed in this country ; for although immigration had not always been successful and we found some men in the country complaining, yet we should not be disheartened, but try to induce the right sort of people to settle on our lands and develop them. If we could turn to account 100 acres to every man who came into the country, making it produce something, we were likely to benefit not only Western Australia but Australia generally.

Mr. WALKER : Ever since he came into this House he had heard vague generalities from the member for Claremont (Mr. Foulkes) and the member for Katanning (Mr. Piesse).

Hon. F. H. Piesse : Not vague generalities. He had given indications as to how our resources could be developed in a practical way.

Mr. WALKER : One way was to get the country advertised through the visit of a whisky merchant.

Hon. F. H. Piesse : That was not the way to discuss it.

Mr. WALKER did not think these constant appeals to the loan market would do any real good to the country.

Mr. Gordon : The hon. member should pack up and get away.

Mr. WALKER would ask for the protection of the Committee, not for himself, against the interruptions of the member for Canning. We often had generalities about bringing people here. He would like to know what the hon. member (Mr. Piesse) had done in the way of inducing the Government to rightly develop this State. He suggested the writing of books. Long ago some Chaldean author by the name of Job wrote, " Oh that mine

enemy would write a book ! " Now the hon. member was for treating this State in a similar fashion. We had any amount of books and advertisements on that score. It was not books we wanted. It was not representation even in the newspapers. For every person who bought a book about other States, the respective Governments of those States had spent scores of dollars. The development of Canada had been a work of years, hard work on the part of the Canadian Government. He remembered Manitoba 30 years ago, when frontier policemen became the first settlers ; of course they were safeguards against the Indians. But Canada had great difficulty in retaining its British immigrants, who had a decided tendency to drift southward to the United States. Canada had undoubtedly excellent prairie land and navigable rivers, and she had sent the iron horse from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Hon. F. H. Piesse : By private enterprise.

Mr. WALKER : No matter how. The means of settlement had preceded settlement in Canada.

Hon. F. H. Piesse : Canada had paid for keeping complaints out of the newspapers.

Mr. WALKER : If the hon. member had travelled in America he would have seen paper after paper containing complaints against Canada. Newspapers had not made Canada. Thirty years ago every Canadian shipping line had its agent in each town in the north of England, and distributed books to every household, giving full particulars of how to emigrate to Canada. Every immigrant on arrival received a railway pass to headquarters at Montreal, Quebec, or Toronto, where he was if necessary fed and sheltered till placed in communication with an outlying agent, who took him to an employer. But an immigrant arriving in Perth had to knock about the backdoor of the Lands Office, and was not cordially received if he wanted employment. There was no arrangement for assisting the man who came here without capital.

*Mr. H. Brown* : Without money a man could not successfully settle on the land.

*Mr. WALKER* : That was the trouble. He was not welcomed as a farm labourer, or assisted to obtain employment. It was a farce to send lecturers to England or the Eastern States if immigrants on arrival here had to take pot luck. Some newcomers from the Eastern States had been treated so badly that they were glad to go back. Could the result of their complaints be counteracted by our Melbourne Agency ? Our first object should be to make this State a fit place for a man desirous of working as a farm labourer.

*Mr. Gordon* : Was not the condition of farm labourers here as good as in the Eastern States ?

*Mr. WALKER* : For the most part farm labourers were shockingly treated in all the States. Only at a certain season of the year could they get anything like decent treatment. But in the Eastern States farm labourers from England had a better chance than here, because here, if farm labouring failed, they had no choice of other employment except unskilled mining. When we paid to the British money lender, by way of interest and sinking fund, enough money to run the State, were we likely to attract immigrants ? Rather should we repel them. When we raised mongrel taxes like the land and income taxes, to pay current expenses, and told the world that the cost of collecting the tax was as much as it would yield, what would people think of a country governed by such far-seeing statesmen ? Other countries in monetary difficulties had by sound finance lifted themselves out of the mire. New Zealand was at one time on the verge of bankruptcy.

*The Treasurer* : Yet she had even now the mongrel tax.

*Mr. WALKER* : There was no comparison between our tax and that of New Zealand. The same dog was not the father of both. The financial skill of New Zealand statesmen brought about her redemption. There was a time when immigrants could not be induced to go to New Zealand, which was regarded as a land utterly unpromising for either the worker or the speculator. New Zealand stood

ahead of all the groups in Australia. What was done there by Mr. Ballance and Mr. Seddon ? No citizen of New Zealand was considered too poor or too mean to be helped. The roads were made to the farms by the farmers, and were paid for by the Government. Seed was given to the farmers and every assistance was provided, in such a way, however, that the Government reaped the ultimate reward. The local Government obtained the benefit of any increment from the expenditure of capital. Here all was different. Going down St. George's Terrace one was struck with the great number of foreign banks. Why were the Government doing nothing here towards the establishment of a bank, and why was not paper money issued ? America issued paper money and a similar system might be adopted in Western Australia. No wonder, considering all the foreign suckers there were, that there were no resources left in Western Australia, and that the whole of her energy had to be expended in keeping quiet the foreign money lender. The practice of spending and borrowing year after year had brought about the present position of affairs. No move was made to try and stop farther borrowing or to utilise the lending capacities ing or to utilise the lending capacity of our own citizens, or even to rely on our own credit in the issue of a paper currency in the present time of necessity. We were playing into the hands of the bankers and the foreign capitalists, through the rich mining companies, scarcely one of which was a local concern. In every instance the capitalist here was represented by a foreigner ; and therefore the surplus continued to drain out of the country. Was it to be wondered at therefore, that the worker did not come here ? This should be changed, and could be if patriotism and energy were shown by those in control. No ; all they desired to do was to be left alone, and then they were content and callous. The present financial condition of the State was the result of the apathy and want of energy on the part of the Government. The pawnshop policy must ultimately end in disaster, the same to a State as to an individual. The position

taken up by the Government with regard to the Opposition was most unfair. They listened to no suggestions, took no heed of what was said or done by the Opposition in their endeavour to farther the interests of the State. To appreciate the difference between the justice meted out to those who spoke from the Opposition benches and those who spoke in another Chamber, one only had to look at the treatment given to the Land and Income Tax Assessment Bill. Amendments debated here for hours without even receiving the courtesy of a reply from the Government, and which were treated by the Ministerial benches with absolute contempt, were, it was found subsequently, put in the Bill by another Chamber. Immediately that was done they were viewed from an entirely different aspect by the Minister, and as soon as they came back to this House were accepted at once and were considered to be excellent amendments. When proposing amendments for the development of the country, members of the Opposition had to speak to empty benches, but when the bells were rung Ministerial members came in, had no knowledge of what the question was, but voted on every occasion to defeat the Opposition. We were told that immigrants were needed; but what was wanted was better members of Parliament. The Opposition did their best to put things straight and were doing their duty, but they could achieve nothing owing to the numbers supporting the Ministerial party. There could be no greater incubus upon the progress and future prosperity of the State than the Government we had now. Almost every man in the country felt that we were in a helpless state and that nothing was to be expected from those in power. The majority of the people were of the firm conviction that until we removed some of the logs that remained in the way of progress the country would still farther stagnate. If the Government had confidence in the people there would have been a dissolution before now; but they knew they were generally condemned by the public and Ministers were merely clinging to office. A live Government would have a bit of patriotism in it and cease to go to

the home market for loans. It would see what could be done by real judicious economy to save expense; and see that every pound spent was judiciously spent; and not lend rich squatters £35,000, while neglecting the mining industry and the agricultural industry. If money had to be borrowed, the Government should see first what could be done by its own citizens; by establishing a State bank and issuing paper currency. We required an increment of population; but we could not get population until we had statesmen at the helm, at least men who were not absolute slaves to the foreign capitalist.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS : The member for Kanowna wondered why there were empty benches on the Government side of the House. If he would take his speech when it came out in *Hansard* and analyse it, he would have some idea why members did not come into the House while he was speaking. We had had discussions hour after hour devoted to the most trivial matters. When the Works Estimates were under consideration we had a discussion lasting four or five hours on the main road vote of the State. Session after session that question had been discussed and attacked. During this session we had had hours of debate on the most fruitless topics. It was just as well that the country should know that there were members on the Government side who did not always feel disposed to listen to that kind of debate. He (the Minister) desired to deal with one or two strictures that the Leader of the Opposition made on Works administration. He did not propose to go into the electric lighting of the Claremont Asylum again. A debate took place some weeks ago on that subject. It might not have been satisfactory to the member; but the bulk of the people realised that the position set out by the Treasurer and himself (the Minister) at that time disarmed and discounted criticism. He wanted to deal particularly with the reference made by the Leader of the Opposition to the Perth sewerage scheme. The member said the work was scandalously carried out, and that incapacity was shown on the part of

the officials of the Works Department in carrying out that work. Probably it would be admitted that one of the ablest critics the Works Department had had this year had been the *Morning Herald*. Let him (the Minister) read a couple of quotations from a criticism on the sewerage work. The *Morning Herald* sent their critic to the Works Department to go through the sewage works, and he was invited—as any local authority was invited—to visit the works. He went through the George Street drain, and after a number of criticisms on minor points we came to these words, covered around by an amount of verbiage :—

“The laying of concrete, and placing of brickwork under conditions of wet quicksand taxed severely the resources of the contractors, and the skill of the directing engineers, Messrs. Oldham and Hickson. There are few in Perth at the time who believed that the difficulties would be surmounted, and the *Herald's* representative was not one of them. It is pleasing, therefore, now to say that the work done—though not perfection—is a measure of success which reflects credit alike on engineers, contractors, and contractors' foremen.”

In response to an invitation the Mayor of Perth also visited the works, and he gave an expression of opinion on the work to the municipal council at its last meeting. This was what the *Herald* said about that—

“Before the consideration of the business on the notice-paper came on the Mayor reported that in company with the city engineer he had that day, by the courtesy of the Minister for Works, inspected the plans for the Perth sewerage works and had had the unique experience of travelling through one of the main drains constructed by the Public Works Department from end to end, and so far as the work itself was concerned, irrespective of what difference of opinion there might be as to the scheme generally, he had never seen any better cement or concrete work. They had also seen the process of the manufacture of the new pipes for the sewers, and he was surprised to see that they could cast cement pipes

with the smooth inner surface. These pipes, reinforced with iron, were capable of standing a pressure of four tons to every six square inches. From the way in which the work was being constructed, they could rely on getting a satisfactory job.”

Any person who desired to visit these works, if he went to the Works Department he would be gladly shown over. There was nothing to hide or cover up.

*Mr. Johnson* : It was like travelling through a mine ; you could not tell whether it was any good.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS did not agree with the member in the opinion he expressed. Anyone would have no difficulty in deciding whether a good job had been carried out or not.

*Mr. Johnson* : How did the Minister account for the Wellington Street drain having been passed, and subsequently found faulty?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS : There was no sign of defect in the sewerage works except in one instance, which he would come to directly. The total proposed expenditure for the work under way came to something like £416,000 for the first five years from the initiation of the scheme. Although the department got the scheme well under way, there was only one work on which there was any ground at all for criticism; and that work was the filter beds on Burswood Island. But he desired to say the criticism on these filter beds had been exaggerated and a wrong impression given to the public. If he took members across to Burswood Island very few would notice that any settlement had occurred. Settlement had occurred undoubtedly, but only such settlement as an expenditure, at the outside, of £300 or £400 would fix up, making the beds as efficacious and useful as it was anticipated they would be. The beds were not lost. The Government would be able to use them, and the cost of putting them right would only be a paltry item.

*Mr. H. Brown* : Perth had to pay for it.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS : There were in the Works Department human beings who were liable to err, like



others; but what was the position? Assuming that there was an expenditure of £120,000. Supposing we had officers who had erred to an extent that £500 would rectify; and supposing these officers were able to do intelligent work, and that the contracts were let and faithfully and properly carried out, and that on the whole the works were carried out within the estimates, if a slip did occur, would one be justified in a wholesale condemnation of an officer for a slip of that nature? The error had been immensely exaggerated. With an expenditure of £300 or £400 the usefulness of the work would be as great as ever. Some reference had been made to the construction of the drains; and it had been said that the ends of the drains did not meet, which was absolutely untrue. We were told the syphon going across the Burswood Island had sunk. It had not sunk one inch, and the member knew these statements were incorrect. The member for Brown Hill stated that the cost of the scheme greatly exceeded the original estimate. The original estimate was given in Mr. Palmer's report of 12th December, 1903, paragraphs 10 and 11. From indications the Government knew the scheme as set out by Mr. Palmer would not exceed the cost anticipated by him. To drain the sewerage area it was anticipated by Mr. Palmer, or reported by Mr. Palmer, that certain works were necessary. The estimate for these works was : Claisebrook treatment works, estimated cost £30,000, and as a fact the actual cost was £20,100. The first section of the Mount Bay drain, estimated cost £23,137, actual cost £23,217, an increase of £80. The first section of the Matilda Bay drain, estimated cost £29,600, actual cost £26,200, or £3,400 below the estimate. The first section of the Claisebrook main, estimated cost £7,134, actual cost £7,409 or £275 above the estimate. The Parry Street main sewer was estimated to cost £33,069, its actual cost would be £32,139. Claisebrook main sewer was estimated to cost £3,575, its actual cost would be £2,948. The Fremantle treatment works were estimated to cost £15,000, as a matter of fact they would cost £8,640.

*Mr. Johnson :* How was that known ?

The MINISTER: Because we had let contracts. The first section of the main drain was now being constructed at Fremantle. The estimated cost of these works was £141,515, but the actual cost, after adding the share of departmental expenses, was £121,489, a fair indication that the cost was not likely to exceed the estimate.

*Mr. H. Brown :* The cost of it was reduced by taking a short cut along George Street.

The MINISTER : The scheme dealt with the drainage of a certain area in a particular way. Subsequently alterations were made as to the methods of draining the area, and as to the streets in which the sewers were to be laid; but the alterations were submitted with a greater knowledge of the levels, arrived at by a more concise survey, to Mr. Davies, and they were approved by him. Surely no member considered that when a scheme was first propounded with some general knowledge, it must not be altered when that knowledge became more precise and particular by reason of exhaustive surveys.

*Mr. H. Brown :* No one queried that. But the estimate was for a certain route and the sewer was taken down a shorter route.

The MINISTER: The works considered necessary for the drainage of this area were invariably under the estimate. In regard to the method in which administrative costs were charged to loan expenditure or revenue expenditure, at the end of the year the department ascertained what was the expenditure on loan and revenue works and debited each account with its proportion. Taking our works as a whole, in 1905-6 the administrative cost was 9.28 per cent; last year it came down to 7.81 per cent. We debited exactly the same percentage to the work whether it were loan or revenue.

Mr. H. BROWN : These Estimates were a means of political bribery, so that members of the Opposition had no opportunity whatever of altering any of the items. There were 14 railways in the district for various members on the Government side of the House. None of

these would be necessary if the Government had the backbone to enforce the conditions of improvement on the majority of the lauds in the State. He was informed by a settler in the Kojonup district the other day that thousands of acres of land had been lying there unimproved for four or five years.

*Mr. Collier:* That was absolutely true of all over the State.

*The Premier:* Could the hon. member give one case?

*Mr. H. BROWN:* There was one purchaser who was assisted in dummying by one of the officers of the Lands Department. Mr. Cavanagh had fought one landholder, a Queensland hotelkeeper. Directly the railway was projected, at a time when the land was forfeitable, an officer of the Lands Department wired to this hotelkeeper, telling him that his fortune was made and that the railway was coming along. That hotelkeeper came over and fought for his land, but the land board saw the justice of the other's claim. There were thousands of acres of land which had been held without improvements being done.

*Mr. Collier:* The assistant town clerk of Victoria Park held land for three years and had not lived on it.

*Hon. F. H. Piesse:* That could be done in certain cases.

*Mr. Collier:* But this land was taken up under residential conditions.

*Mr. H. BROWN:* If the land within 15 miles of spur lines were taken from persons who would not improve it, we would have no need to extend these railways.

*Hon. F. H. Piesse:* A very small proportion of land was not being improved.

*Mr. H. BROWN:* It seemed a case of frenzied finance to go in for huge loan expenditure at the present time. The principal and interest would amount to a million pounds and another million would go in administration. The Minister defended the expenditure on the Claremont Lunatic Asylum. No one would object to the expenditure on the asylum if it was reasonable expenditure; but after the long debate during the session on the £14,000 spent on an electric light installation, on these Estimates

there was a sum of £5,000 put down for a producer-gas plant. With reference to agriculture, the Minister for Lands should pay more attention to clearing. One could say without fear of contradiction, he believed, that there was not a single acre of land cleared, beyond ringbarking, for immigrants to go on. It was absolutely impossible for people to go on the land without some money or a good deal of credit. Areas should be cleared and made available for settlement. No one criticised the nature of the work carried out in connection with sewerage, but the Minister was to blame in erecting treatment works three or four years before they were needed. Perth would be debited with the interest on works which might well have stood over. To show the opinion the Fremantle people had of the time when the works now being carried out would be required, they had just entered into a huge scheme for carrying out the sanitary arrangements in the port. Evidently Fremantle did not expect the sewerage scheme to be in working order for many years to come. The Minister talked of the officers in the Works Department. There were good officers underneath those in charge, and it was jealousy that kept them down. Two or three years ago one officer applied for permission to read a paper on sewerage before a meeting of local government officers, but the permission was refused, and the officer left the service in disgust. Certainly the work was being carried out under the estimate. We all knew that Government officers made their estimates high in order that the work should be done under the estimates. Taking the Estimates as a whole the only item where a district was to be taxed for a work was that relating to the Perth and Fremantle sewerage. It was not a matter for wonder that Government proposals could be carried through without let or hindrance seeing that there was something for practically every member on the Government side.

*Mr. SCADDAN* desired to deal mainly with the question of immigration. He was tired of the platitudes of the member for Katanning (*Hon. F. H. Piesse*) as

to the efficacy of the newspaper reports, lecturers, pamphlets, and other literature on the resources of the State as a means for attracting population. Three years ago he said the best advertising medium we could have was a community of prosperous and contented settlers. Pamphlets, lectures, and Press notices would then be unnecessary, as those settlers would acquaint their friends in other parts of the prospects and opportunities offering in this State. [*Hon. F. H. Piessé*: But we wanted to reach not only the friends of present settlers, but also other people in different parts of the world.] We could expend the money proposed for advertising, pamphlets, and lectures on the agricultural resources of the State to better advantage by assisting struggling farmers now on the land. He would rather that the Government made a gift of this money to farmers struggling with the initial difficulties of settlement, many of whom were compelled to leave their farms for six months in the year and seek employment in order to obtain the necessary capital to carry on developmental work. Only last week he had met an experienced farmer from the Eastern States in that position. Having lost his all through the drought in the East this man came to this State to start afresh two years ago; and for periods in each of those years he had to go to the goldfields seeking employment in order to raise the necessary capital to improve his holding. We were to be congratulated on the possession of settlers with sufficient perseverance to do this, and if those men were successful, as they deserved to be, they would advertise this State and its agronomic capabilities far better than would be done by the proposed expenditure, by circulating among their friends in the East, whose difficulties from intermittent drought and other drawbacks they knew, the advantages offering for settlement in Western Australia. Such advertisement would be preferable to the publication of beautiful views of orchards at the Harvey and elsewhere, which led people to the mistaken belief that similar land to that illustrated was available for settlement. Farther, sufficient precautions were not taken with

regard to immigrants, and it was unwise to induce wage-earners from the old country to come here by publishing the wages paid, because in the present overcrowded condition of the labour market these people found on arrival that employment was not obtainable. We had room for none but genuine farm workers. Immigrants on arrival, instead of being left to shift for themselves, should be placed on the land straight away by the Lands Department. Regarding the sewerage scheme he agreed with the Minister for Works that to some extent many of the complaints made were not warranted; but he was not yet satisfied that the filter beds would ever be put to their intended use. The Minister would have the Committee believe that the filter beds were constructed in accordance with the original design or, if altered at all, in such manner only as not to impair their efficiency. It was remarkable, however, that while the Works Department intended the walls to be 5ft. they had in some instances been reduced to under 3ft., showing, if the walls were now sufficient, departmental officers had blundered in the first instance. Moreover, the beds had sunk to a greater extent than shown in the replies given to his questions some time since. As originally designed the beds were shaped like inverted saucers, whereas now the centres had sunk so that it would be necessary to draw the water off. [*Mr. Taylor*: Faulty construction or bad material?] Faulty foundations. The officer making the recommendations after inspection stated that the walls as designed would carry a weight of one ton to the square foot, but though in many instances the proportion was not greater than four hundredweight the walls had sunk. Yet that officer was now in charge of the work and in addition was given an increase on the Estimates besides drawing £100 allowance for doing outside work. The cost of these beds was placed at £20,000, and the State was for nine months past paying interest on that sum though admittedly it would be some time yet before there would be necessity for the filter beds.

*Mr. T. L. BROWN*: The proposed loan expenditure as between the various ports

of the State were inequitable. Albany was to have expended there some £140,000, including harbour works £80,000, and water supply £10,000.

*The Treasurer :* The £80,000 was portion of an authorisation made many years ago. The amounts to be expended at Albany would be found on page 4, and totalled £1,832.

Mr. T. L. BROWN was speaking of loan money that had been spent on the different ports. Geraldton had been treated most illiberally, though as a revenue-earner it was second only to Fremantle ; and the treatment of the ports north of Geraldton did not compare with that of ports to the south. The revenue derived from ports should be the basis for expenditure on them. Such assistance as was given to North-West ports was only in connection with other public works which necessitated harbour expenditure. The improvements at Port Hedland, for instance, were rendered necessary by the Pilbarra railway. Was it true that the permanent survey of the Upper Chapman railway was to be made so that the line should serve only a few of the inhabitants, to the neglect of the greater number? If so, the project should be opposed. Last year we were assured that the railway was not shelved ; but other railways not mentioned then had since been passed, while the Upper Chapman railway was only being surveyed. The permanent survey should not proceed until qualified engineers and practical agricultural experts had an opportunity of thoroughly examining the district and determining the route.

*General discussion concluded; Schedule of Items followed.*

Water Supply and Sewerage,  
£164,262—

Sewerage for Perth and Fremantle,  
£129,103:

Mr. ANGWIN: The work at Fremantle was proceeding very slowly. Last year, in the Legislative Council, the Government promised that £20,000 would be spent on the Fremantle main drains ; but during the last twelve months a contract was let for only £800 or £900.

*The TREASURER :* The intention of the Government was that the work should proceed at the present rate—in other words, as quickly as possible. This was a big undertaking. Last year, on the Loan Bill, the Government fully explained that three years would be needed to complete the scheme. Column 7 of the return appended to the Estimates showed the contracts let for the pipes, and the provision for the different mains. The amount already expended was £136,000, the proposed expenditure this year £129,000, and the amount required to complete, £153,000. To complete the suburban extensions an additional amount of £151,000 would be needed.

Development of Agriculture, £62,445 ;  
Loan Suspense Account, £19,357 :

Mr. TAYLOR : These sums totalled £81,000. Did this include provision for freezing works in the North-West ?

*The PREMIER :* No agreement had yet been signed for the proposed freezing works. A draft agreement had been prepared on the lines indicated. Small stock owners were to come in on the same terms as large, and the small man, like the large, would have space provided in the vessels carrying carcasses. The agreement was being discussed between the parties. No provision had been made for the expenditure. If the money was required next year, it would be provided on the Estimates. Under the agreement it was proposed that a block of land should be given for the purposes of the factory, and a reserve of 30,000 acres would be granted on lease, so that the stock might be held pending treatment.

Mr. TAYLOR : Would these grants of land be in addition to the £35,000 ?

*The Premier :* The land would be let on pastoral lease, at a rental of about £15 to £30 a year.

Mr. TAYLOR : It was well to know this was in addition to the £35,000, and that the Government were exercising more foresight on behalf of the pastoralists than they showed for the North-West copper miners. For months, when the market price for copper was £97, and

even over £100 a ton, 600 or 700 tons of copper lay on the jetties in the North-West, and could not be removed because the squatters had at their disposal all the shipping space available during the shearing season. The Government were guilty of neglect in that case.

*The Attorney General* : Was it not a fact that some ship broke her charter and thus the trouble was caused ?

Mr. TAYLOR : It was a good thing that the Government were going to look after the smaller people. Definite information had been given them as to what was going to be done in connection with the establishment of the freezing works in the North-West, and as to the area of land which it was intended to place at the disposal of the persons obtaining the concession.

Item—Agricultural Immigrants, £9,643 :

Mr. BATH : There should be pointed out to the Premier the urgent necessity that existed to attach to the Department of Agriculture an expert detective and intelligence agency, otherwise it would be a difficult matter to keep a strict watch on immigrants who were being brought in at an expense of something like £100 apiece. The introduction of these people formed a most expensive luxury, and it would be wise for careful track to be kept of them.

Mr. UNDERWOOD : The item should be struck out for it was absolute waste to spend money in that direction. It had been said by various speakers that the immigrants were coming here to reduce our debt *per capita*. We owed about £70 per head and as these people were costing the State £100 per head, how could it be suggested that their arrival would help to reduce the debt. The system of spending money to bring people to a State was a useless waste of funds. It had been tried in almost every Australian State, and had absolutely failed to effect the purpose for which it was introduced. Ten or 12 years ago hundreds of men had been assisted to go to Queensland. They went there and immediately after arrival struck out for different States. The same thing happened in South Australia and Victoria. The States that

wasted money in this way always suffered for it. The immigrant who came here did not visit the State because of the limelight lectures which were given in England, but because of information from someone in the State that this was a place worth coming to. If the £10,000 were put into the development of the agricultural districts, and spent in providing means for the people already here to get on the land, a useful purpose would be effected. It was ridiculous to talk of a man being able to come here without money and go on the land.

*Hon. F. H. Piesse* : A man with plenty of pluck could get on well, although he had nothing to start with.

Mr. UNDERWOOD : After long experience in the bush, he knew very well it would be impossible for him to go on the land and succeed unless he had money.

*Hon. F. H. Piesse* : The hon. member did not know his own capabilities.

Mr. UNDERWOOD : Even if a man got so far as to get a block of land, he had to purchase implements, etcetera, and then it was no use trying to succeed unless he had horses. Unless wheat was a good price and there was a big yield, the man who owned land received nothing for all his work.

*Hon. F. H. Piesse* : Some of the best men we had came here and took up land without a penny to their name.

Mr. UNDERWOOD : If such a man went on land, he would first have to go and work for good wages on the fields, and after he had saved £100 or £200, he would have a chance of succeeding in the farming districts. Let the Government endeavour to get the men already in Western Australia on the land before they spent money in bringing out immigrants. At the present time it was a very hard matter to get land near a railway, not because there was no land unworked near railways, but because the land was being held by land agents. The greatest preventive to immigration was the man holding land for speculative purposes.

Mr. TAYLOR : How was the sum put down for immigration to be spent and what class of immigrant did the Government intend to bring out ? In the past

many immigrants had been sent out here who were artisans, and quite useless to this State, which was already overstocked with men of that class. When he (Mr. Taylor) was in office, he had ascertained that this sort of thing was going on, and had put a stop to it. Sir Walter James was Agent General then and they all knew how enthusiastic that gentleman had been all his life on the question of immigration. The Daglish Government, however, found it necessary to curtail his powers in this respect. Under these Estimates there was a sum of £4,000 voted for the Colonial Secretary's Department to spend in immigration purposes, and he would like to know whether the Government intended to exercise a close supervision over the type of immigrants who came here.

At 6.15, the Chairman left the Chair.

At 7.30, Chair resumed.

The PREMIER: The Agent General had been instructed to take every care to see that the men who came out had a certain amount of capital, and that they were prepared to go on the land. Reference had been made to the fact that the officer who was engaged lecturing in the old country, Mr. Scammell, had not an intimate knowledge of the country, which was essential for an immigration lecturer. At the expiration of Mr. Scammell's engagement, which occurred in January next, it was not the intention of the Government to re-engage him, and in any future appointment care would be taken that the officer had a personal knowledge of the land and was able to give his experience as to agricultural matters in the State. He realised the necessity for every care being taken. At the same time the other States were not neglecting the immigration question. Queensland had given their Agent General £50,000 to assist immigration at the present time. They were not satisfied with partially paying the passages, but the whole of the passage money of eligible immigrants was paid. So that members must realise that in order to cope with the other States it was necessary we should have

a qualified man in the old country to put the advantages of Western Australia before desirable immigrants.

Item—Public Buildings, £85,983:

Mr. ANGWIN: Apparently it was the intention of the Government to go in for extensive buildings in connection with secondary schools and technical schools. There was necessity for a building being erected for the agricultural bank and for the Mines Department.

The TREASURER: It was intended to spend £9,000 on secondary school buildings. There was a block of land in Hay Street West which was not required for educational purposes, and it was intended to cut this up and sell it. It was anticipated that would realise £7,000, so that with the £2,000 provided on the Estimates it would not be necessary for years to provide any money for secondary schools. As to technical schools, £2,000 was provided for much-needed additional accommodation. The £2,000 would be utilised in erecting buildings, which would be portion of an ultimate scheme.

Vote put and passed.

This concluded the Loan Estimates.

Resolutions reported, and the report adopted.

## BILL—APPROPRIATION.

Introduced by the Premier, for giving effect to the annual appropriations of expenditure approved in Committee.

Bill read a first time, and formally passed through remaining stages without debate; transmitted to the Legislative Council.

## BILL—LAND AND INCOME TAX.

To impose a Tax—Council's Amendments.

Schedule of three amendments requested, by the Legislative Council now considered in Committee.

No. 1—Clause 2, paragraph (a), after "land tax" insert "at the rate of"; paragraph (b), after "income tax" insert "at the rate of."

The Treasurer moved—

*That the amendment be made.*

Mr. BATH: In moving this amendment in another place Mr. Moss stated that it would have a certain effect in regard to when the measure came into force.

The TREASURER: That applied to the following amendment.

Question passed, the amendment made.

No. 2—Insert the following proviso at the end of Clause 2: "Provided that for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1908, one-half only of the land tax and income tax to be charged, levied, collected and paid in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be levied and collected."

The TREASURER: That was the amendment referred to by the Leader of the Opposition. It was already provided for in the Assessment Bill. He moved—

*That the amendment be made.*

Mr. BATH: There was a difference in the treatment meted out to this House, which was responsible to the people for measures of taxation, and that accorded to amendments sent along from another place. When amendments were moved in this House to improve the Bill, the Government fought strenuously against them, and any amendments carried were against the wishes and in spite of the opposition of the Government. Proposals were put forward to prevent the Bill being made retrospective, but the Treasurer jumped on them; yet now, without a murmur, a protest or an objection to the attitude of another place, we had the most affable desire on the Treasurer's part to fall in with the wishes of the Legislative Council in this respect. It was lack of loyalty on the Treasurer's part towards members of this House.

The TREASURER: When the Assessment Bill was under discussion there were two months of the calendar year yet to run, and he was extremely anxious to get in all the revenue he could for the financial year, so that he had opposed the suggestions thrown out in this direction; but now he found that the Assessment Bill was somewhat ambiguous on the point, and as it was extremely doubtful whether we could collect the whole of the tax, he was agreeable to fall in with the suggestion. We had inserted a provision in the Assessment Bill that the tax should be

collected in moieties. Without this amendment requested by the Council the probability was that two moieties would be collected in the first half of the next financial year, namely, the second moiety for this year in arrears, and the first moiety for the next financial year. That was not to be desired. The Leader of the Opposition had advocated this principle, and it was already accepted in the Assessment Bill. Where therefore was the complaint in accepting this amendment?

Mr. Walker: The only complaint was as to the change of front.

Mr. BATH: How would this amendment affect the revenue to be raised for the current year?

The Treasurer: We would only get half of the Estimate.

Mr. BATH: We would get £40,000?

The Treasurer: Yes.

Question put and passed; the amendment made.

No. 3—Insert the following proviso, to follow No. 2: "Provided also that Section 56 of the Land and Income Tax Assessment Act, 1907, shall not apply to the land and income tax to be levied and collected for the financial year ending thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and eight.

The TREASURER: The clause referred to provided for the collection of the tax in two moieties. Without this amendment we would be prevented from collecting for the half year more than half the moiety; namely, a quarter of the tax. The amendment was necessary. He moved—

*That the amendment be made.*

Question passed; the amendment made.

Bill returned to the Council with amendments made as requested.

## BILL—ELECTORAL.

### *Council's Amendments.*

Message from the Legislative Council read, transmitting schedule of amendments made to the Electoral Bill.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I move—

*That the Speaker leave the Chair for the purpose of considering this message in Committee.*

Mr. BATH: I must protest. We ought to see these amendments in print before being asked to consider them. Why was the business sheet not adhered to? Some of these amendments are very important.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Sufficient copies of the amendments have been prepared for distribution to members. They will be in the same form as they would appear on the Notice Paper. With few exceptions the amendments are on matters of detail, many being consequential on the deletion of the system of proportional voting. The amendments are of two classes; firstly those dealing with the deletion of the original proposal for the division of the State into sub-districts, the removal of which by this Committee was not followed to the full extent of its consequential results; and secondly amendments to a number of clauses rendered necessary owing to their not having been carefully revised here. A number of these amendments have been made at the suggestion of the Crown Law Department, with the object of making the Bill accord with the expressed wishes of Parliament. Printed papers setting out the amendments made to the Bill by another place have been circulated amongst members, who are thus in a position similar to what they would be in if referring to amendments printed on the usual Notice Paper.

Mr. Angwin: Why not circulate the Bill, printed as amended?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The hon. member knows it is not usual to circulate amongst members of this House Bills as amended by another place after passing this House.

Mr. Bath: But we have not copies of the Bill as amended by this House.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I was under the impression that members had each a copy of the Bill as passed on the third reading.

Mr. Holman: We have only the Bill as introduced. We should have received a fair print of the amended Bill for the third reading, but did not.

[Copies of Bill as printed for third reading now distributed to members.]

Mr. WALKER: I trust the Attorney General will not persist in his intention to proceed now with the Bill. Although Standing Orders have been suspended, the course now suggested is an exceedingly dangerous innovation.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (in explanation): I do not desire to take advantage of members by urging this subject now, knowing they have not had the amendments from another place before them fully. My only desire was to have the Bill considered as soon as possible, so that in view of the early closing of the session, if farther amendments were made or any of those submitted not agreed to, we might have the time to return a message to another place. Were I proposing that all the amendments of another place should be accepted, the position would be different; but desiring, as I have always done in conducting this measure, to meet the reasonable wishes of members, I shall agree to postpone the consideration of this message until the next sitting.

Motion (that the Speaker do now leave the chair) by leave withdrawn.

Question (postponement) put and passed.

## BILL—STATE CHILDREN.

### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 3rd December.

Mr. T. WALKER (Kanowna): The measure now before the House is of such importance that although I do not agree with all the provisions, I am pleased to see a measure of this kind introduced. I cannot but remark, however, that we have not the time necessary for its proper consideration. Though the principles of the Bill are admirable, particularly the principle which substitutes in some degree the parentage of the State for the general neglect of callous society, yet in almost every clause of this measure I venture to think we could, had we time, insert improvements. Generally I may say that although the State has taken an enormous step in the right direction, it has by later legislative proposals practically abandoned its principles, as may be gathered by glancing at the subsequent parts of



the Bill. First, it is proposed to establish a State Children Department; then we come in successive parts to institutions, establishment and maintenance of children's courts, maintenance of children by relatives, the committal of children for street trading, lying-in homes, foster mothers etcetera; all these latter indicating that after the State has undertaken the possession and charge of the neglected children in our midst, while preserving it is true a specious State supervision, it practically hands over the management of the whole to private persons—therefore leaving the position as before. Apart from this delegation of the State's responsibility to private persons, relatives or societies, the step taken is a wise one; I mean that the recognition by the State of the fact that it has a duty to perform towards neglected children is a step we should be thankful is being taken. I do not desire it to be imagined that I believe this measure is going to be a panacea for all the ills of society. I am well aware we cannot in the time available debate this question as I should like; therefore my remarks must be brief and somewhat disjointed. But I wish to impress on members that in taking this step, the Government have not gone far enough—not so far as I should like. Furthermore, they will have to bring in auxiliary measures, if I may so speak, all working to the same end. I am bound here to say that the principle of the Bill as it appears to me is that we are giving to the people of this State a sort of one-sided education. One cannot but be convinced that the moral element of respect for parents is sadly lacking in Westralian and in Australian society. I am not going to say, as some people do, that this is entirely due to our climate, to the fact that we live so much out-of-doors. I wish to impress on members, without unduly enlarging on the point, that it is due to our national system of education, which regards a child as composed only of brains and body, instead of as a being with heart and moral instincts. It is this one-sided State education, this neglect of education in morals, that renders necessary a measure of this kind. This Bill, however, only touches the evil; it does not touch

the cause. Real reform lies in that education of our young which reaches the heart as well as the understanding. I do not say we should have all kinds of religious sectarianism introduced into the training of our children, or that we should give to any particular class in the community a monopoly in the teaching of morals; but just as we can give to the youth of our State an education in what may be called the three r's, so we can give them education in moral discipline. I do not mean moral precepts which reach only the understanding, but an education in the practice of that respect for what is deserving of respect, the appreciation of what is good because it is good; that education which in a heathen nation like the Japanese always accompanies the education which may be called scholastic. In Japan the moral instincts are developed, and a child is trained to the belief that to have respect for what is good in his brethren, good in society and good in the home, is to progress. In this connection I have but briefly outlined what I would like to enlarge upon had I the time. There is one thing in the Bill to which, when we reach the Committee stage, I shall have to object—the provision in Clause 80 to hand over to private societies not in receipt of Government aid the charge of neglected children, while to other societies Government subsidies and assistance are to be given. I am now alluding to the parent society, to what may be called the parent of this Bill, the Children's Protection Society. Under this Bill a society such as this, which is now spending considerable money and doing splendid work in rescuing and taking care of those children who are subjects of parental neglect and social coldness, will be unable to receive the slightest help from the Government, while other societies, probably with the recommendation of a sectarian body behind them, may receive assistance. I object altogether to that. A Bill of this kind should not be subject to the slightest shadow of sectarian superiority or sectarian interference; a Bill of this national character should recognise all children as equal, irrespective of the church to which they belong, and

regardless even of whether their parents belong to no church at all. They are under the protection of the State. That is the principle which should be recognised and not departed from in even the minutest particular.

*The Minister for Works :* I think the Bill recognises that principle.

*Mr. WALKER :* I do not wish to stop now to discuss that point ; for I recognise the value of time. We shall deal with that later. I am only indicating what work we shall yet have to do, and the incompleteness of the Bill. If we had time properly to discuss the Bill in Committee, I think we could better safeguard the proper control and management of the children. In conclusion let me say, I hope this is a stepping-stone to that stage outlined by the Leader of the Opposition—when we need not to depend on the Waifs' Home at Parkerville, an institution for which I have the profoundest respect, knowing the value of the service it has performed for this community, but an institution which may or may not fail, whose excellence now consists of the excellence of those who have charge of it ; but when, as a national right, we shall have our national *crèche*, our national institution that shall respect the sanctity of motherhood, even in the most degraded of our outcasts. That hope I have in view ; and I only regret that the fag end of the session should compel me to hold both my feelings and my information in check. I have to congratulate the Premier on the introduction of the Bill. and trust that whoever is in power in future Parliaments may see the wisdom of going farther in the direction now pointed out.

*The PREMIER (replying as mover) :* I do not think it necessary to say anything farther. I am highly gratified at the manner in which the Bill has been received by all sections of the House. As I stated on its introduction, I realise it will commend itself to those who are desirous of assisting people who, frequently through no fault of their own, have been unfortunate. If in Committee any suggestions are offered to improve the measure, I shall be happy to give them every consideration.

Question put and passed.  
Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

*Mr. Daglish* in the Chair ; *the Premier* in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1, 2, 3—agreed to.

Clause 4—Interpretation :

*Mr. BATH* moved an amendment—

*That the words "and includes any home maintained for this purpose by the Government," be added to the interpretation of "lying-in home."*

Amendment passed ; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 18—agreed to.

Clause 19—Powers of Court :

*The PREMIER* moved an amendment that the following be added as paragraph (b)—

*"and under Sections 10 and 12 of the Public Education Act 1899, and Section 3 of the Public Education Amendment Act 1905."*

This would provide that persons who neglected to send their children to school, and otherwise violated the truancy sections, might be dealt with by this court.

Amendment passed ; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 20, 21—agreed to.

Clause 22—Exclusion of persons from the hearing :

*The PREMIER :* In cases where publication of the report of proceedings was not advisable, the court should have power to prohibit the publication. He moved an amendment that the following paragraph be added :

*"It shall not be lawful to publish a report of the proceedings before the court, or of the result of any such proceedings, if such publication has been prohibited by the court."*

*Mr. Foulkes :* This provision was useless without a penalty.

*The PREMIER :* Clause 126 provided a general penalty not exceeding £10.

Amendment put and passed ; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 23 to 79—agreed to.

Clause 80—Government may approve of private persons or societies having care of children:

Mr. FOULKES moved an amendment—

*That the words "protecting or assisting" be inserted after the word "of," in line 2.*

If the amendment were not added the Children's Protection Society might be prevented from receiving Government relief.

The PREMIER: There was no objection to the amendment, but unless they had a voice in the control it was not likely that a body would do much in the way of protecting or assisting.

Mr. WALKER: The amendment might make the clause a little wider.

Mr. ANGWIN: The Government should have control of the persons who took charge of the children, and do away with intermediaries.

Mr. FOULKES: The reason he introduced the amendment was to make provision for the Children's Protection Society. They had no buildings of their own in which to put children, but they made arrangements with other people to board the children. The society, however, visited them, and really took charge of them. If the amendment were not passed it might happen that a Colonial Secretary would feel himself bound by the strict interpretation of the clause, and decline to give a grant to this society because they were not in charge of the children from day to day.

Mr. DRAPER: If the clause were passed as printed, disputes might arise, for some Minister would possibly object to assisting institutions of the kind mentioned, and would say that the clause did not authorise the assistance which the House undoubtedly desired should be given.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. BATH moved an amendment—

*That the words "without subsidy or aid from the Consolidated Revenue Fund," in lines 3 and 4 be struck out.*

There should not be distinction made between the persons and bodies who were assisting the children. All recognised the

good work which had been done by such institutions as the Waifs' Home and the Children's Protection Society. Because by the Bill it was provided there should be a recognition to certain institutions it was no reason why it should be refused to others, who deserved assistance perhaps just as much. Ultimately we would have to recognise the necessity of the community, as a community, assuming to the fullest extent the responsibility of these children, who with others would ultimately form the nation of Western Australia.

The PREMIER: The Leader of the Opposition was right when he said it was only a question of time when the State would have to take a greater responsibility in regard to these matters. Perhaps it had not occurred to the member that in this case we were practically handing over the control of the children to the society, and giving the State which paid for them no control at all.

Mr. Bath: There would be the same control over these children as over those in other institutions.

The PREMIER: The absolute control was being handed over to these persons. The clause was taken from the Victorian Act, and the Colonial Secretary had informed him his objection was that the control of the child would be taken away from the State, which was paying for its upkeep. If private organisations were unable to pay for the upkeep of the children, power was given to them to transfer them to the department.

Mr. WALKER: There were certain institutions which would under the clause receive these neglected children, and for that would obtain a subsidy from the State. There was on the other hand, however, working in this State, a society which was doing very great good, known as the Children's Protection Society, and care should be taken that its interests were protected. By the amendment it would be provided that the Minister could see that a private person did not usurp the functions of a society, and the clause was safeguarded. Even with the inclusion of the amendment the Minister could still refuse to grant aid to a bogus society of any description. He had in his mind a

well-known society consisting of non-sectarian bodies, and it was hard on them that, although they had spent a considerable sum of money in this work, they should receive no assistance from the State. They could not under this Bill receive recognition.

Mr. BATH: The fact that assistance would be rendered under the clause would at once bring the society under the category of an institution. Whatever regulations were provided for institutions would apply with equal force to the society. He could not see any loophole by which they could free themselves from the effective supervision of the department. The department might make arrangements with private persons to adopt children and might wish to exercise the control or supervision. If the amendment were defeated the department would be unable to do that.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: There was a line to be drawn between institutions like the orphanage at Clontarf and a body that was merely a committee having no capital expended in a home for the care of children. He did not think anything should be done to take away from the department the responsibility of looking after the very little ones. In the past the trouble had been that there had been divided responsibility. It was better for a child when it reached the age of three years to be sent to an institution. He could imagine under the amendment there could be irresponsible societies. He drew a big line between an institution which had capital invested and a society which practically had an office and that was all. The State had to keep and look after boarded-out children, and anything which tended to diminish such control was a misfortune.

Mr. DRAPER: It must be apparent to anyone that the principle of the Bill was to provide the best means of protecting children, especially young children. The Bill provided that institutions mentioned in the schedule should alone receive financial assistance from the Government to farther their object. To encourage societies of this nature to undertake the work was the duty of the Government. If the clause passed in its present form

the effect would be to discourage people from giving subscriptions to societies, and these societies might cease to exist. On reading the evidence taken before the select committee one must come to the conclusion that societies such as the Children's Protection Society were an absolute necessity in the State at the present time, for in the institutions there were very few children under the age of three years. The most urgent time that a child required protection was up to three years. The Children's Protection Society had a lady inspector assisted by a committee of twelve, and there were about thirty others who took an active interest in the inspection of the children. If the clause passed, all this good work must cease, and the operations of the society could not be extended.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	17
Noes	..	..	..	20

Majority against .. 3

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Bath	Mr. Angwin
Mr. Bolton	Mr. Barnett
Mr. Brebber	Mr. Ewing
Mr. H. Brown	Mr. Gordon
Mr. T. L. Brown	Mr. Hayward
Mr. Collier	Mr. Keenan
Mr. Cowcher	Mr. McLarty
Mr. Draper	Mr. Male
Mr. Foulkes	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Gull	Mr. Monger
Mr. Holman	Mr. N. J. Moore
Mr. Horan	Mr. S. F. Moore
Mr. Scaddan	Mr. Picasso
Mr. Stuart	Mr. Price
Mr. Underwood	Mr. Smith
Mr. Walker	Mr. Veryard
Mr. Taylor	Mr. Ware
(Teller).	Mr. A. J. Wilson
	Mr. F. Wilson
	Mr. Layman
	(Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause as previously amended agreed to.

Clauses 81 to 93—agreed to.

Clause 94—Issue of licenses:

Mr. WALKER moved as an amendment—

*That the words "State controlled" be inserted before "child" in line 1.*

The State should not control other people's children selling papers.

The PREMIER: If the amendment were passed we would have no power to license newsboys under the age of 10 years

except those controlled by the State. There apparently was no objection to striking out the words "during week days."

Amendment negatived.

Mr. H. BROWN moved an amendment—

*That the words "during week days" in line 2 be struck out.*

*The Attorney General:* The hon. member should give some reason.

Mr. H. BROWN: Those on the Treasury bench posed as great purists; that was sufficient reason for striking out the words.

*The ATTORNEY GENERAL:* Members objected to amendments being moved without reasons given. It was a practice one hoped would not grow.

*Mr. Walker:* The Premier had accepted this amendment.

*The PREMIER:* The hon. member for Kanowna had privately advanced reasons why this amendment should be made and had instanced the case of a child whose parents were Seventh Day Adventists. Such a child should not be prevented from working on a Sunday.

Mr. ANGWIN: Were we to remove the prohibition against Sunday labour because some people happened to be Seventh Day Adventists? Were we to throw open our mines for work on Sundays because a Seventh Day Adventist wished to work? There was too great a tendency for getting in the thin end of the wedge of making Sunday a day of employment. It was one of the things we should endeavour to teach our children, that Sunday was a day of rest. Surely there was a sufficient number of men who could sell the newspapers on Sunday. Why should we instil into the minds of the children that there was a possibility in the future of the people of this State having to work on Sundays?

Mr. UNDERWOOD opposed the amendment. Sunday labour was a necessary evil that should be reduced to the lowest possible minimum. He would rather not see children selling papers on Sundays. Sunday as a day of rest was strong, sound legislation without taking into regard any religious beliefs on the matter.

Mr. WALKER: As to Sunday labour, if children could improve their lot by selling papers on Sunday morning, why should they be prevented? If such labour was a desecration of the Sabbath, it would be a greater desecration to throw this Sunday selling into the hands of men instead of children. Why not allow a boy or a man to use on a Sunday the faculties nature had given him to use? One had known men who started life as newsboys to attain high positions, and this kind of work was the first rough training in business life.

Mr. STUART: If Sunday selling of newspapers was to be stopped, let the daily morning papers stop the practice of working their printers on Sunday evening for Monday's paper. This was a Bill aimed by the *West Australian* proprietary at the *Sunday Times*, and he for one was not hypocrite enough to allow it to pass. As a former teacher in a Sunday school, he was told by newsboys that Sunday was their best day for selling papers.

Mr. SCADDAN: To require newsboys to carry a license and show it when required would make them a laughingstock. This clause was a rebuff aimed at a certain Sunday paper.

*The PREMIER:* As to the clause being a rebuff, it was taken from the New South Wales Act of 1905.

Mr. TAYLOR would be sorry if this House allowed a member of another place to gain an advantage over a Sunday paper. The arguments for preventing newsboys from selling papers on Sunday were of little value. The Sunday Press had been repeatedly attacked in Parliament, and motions and even a Bill introduced to prevent its publication. Even he had been criticised in a Sunday paper; but that would not induce him to interfere with the liberty of the Press. On principle he had always opposed Sunday labour, because six days constituted a sufficient week's work, and the Sunday should be a day of rest, not necessarily because it was a holy day. Under the Mines Regulation Act the employer had to obtain permission from the Minister to work his employees underground on Sunday; and a permit

could be secured to prevent the weekly stoppage of machinery which for economical working must be run continuously. A badge for newsboys was not desirable. A license could be carried in the pocket. He did not wish to see anybody work on Sundays, but the circulation of Sunday newspapers was an overwhelming testimony to the public demand for them; and if newsboys were prohibited, the papers would be delivered by men. If we disapproved of Sunday labour, we should prevent any person from selling newspapers on Sunday. Many newsboys were orphans, and supported their mothers and the younger members of the family. Members who understood newspaper work should enlighten the Committee on this subject.

Mr. ANGWIN: The character of any individual Sunday paper should not be dragged into the question. He subscribed to the paper referred to, which was delivered on Sunday by men. But the employment of boys for seven days a week accustomed them to the notion of working every day. The seven-days week would thus have a tendency to become general, whereas the six-days week should be retained. If we were not careful we should lose it. Parents complained because their boys were hired on Sunday by golf-players. It was doubtful whether the average newsboy was the family breadwinner. Sometimes his earnings provided him with cigarettes. Other boys were compelled by their parents to sell papers on Sundays. To force boys of ten years of age out on Sunday to sell papers should not be permitted.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: With regard to the question generally his main objection was to Sunday labour of any sort being permitted. Reference had been made to one certain paper, but personally he did not care what paper it was, for he paid no attention to the Press anyhow. Members would be much more respected if they treated the Press as they should be, namely, with silent contempt. The Press got a good deal of kudos and took no responsibility. On various occasions throughout the goldfields he had worked a good deal on Sundays, but he had al-

ways protested against Sunday labour and always intended to do.

Mr. COLLIER: Most of those who had opposed the amendment did so because they opposed Sunday labour. If members desired to do away with Sunday labour let them go straight to the root of the evil and bring down a Bill to do away with the Sunday papers altogether. The distribution of these papers was as necessary as the printing and while they allowed the papers to be printed and published on Sunday they should not attempt to stop the distribution.

Mr. FOULKES: If the clause were passed as printed it would soon become a dead letter, for no one would take the slightest notice of it. It was absurd to suggest that a youth of the age of 18 years should be compelled to obtain a license if he intended to do any work at all. Not only that but he had to apply for his license every six months. It would be well to strike the clause out altogether.

Mr. A. J. WILSON: It was a great mistake to insist on the licensing of children, for it would place them on the same plane as the marine dealer, pawnbroker and other "crook" individuals, with whom the law had to keep in touch. If the law as suggested were to be put into operation respectable children who were now engaged in making a few shillings a week by selling papers would have to cease this work, for their parents would not allow them to continue it, as a certain amount of degradation would attach to it owing to the fact that the children had to get licenses and would be compelled to wear a badge. There might be certain restrictions placed upon their labour as for instance to prevent them from selling papers in public house bars.

The CHAIRMAN: An amendment was under discussion to strike out the words "during week days." The main clause could not be discussed until after the amendment was disposed of.

Mr. A. J. WILSON: As one or two members had been allowed considerable latitude he thought some little indulgence would be given to him. He objected altogether to the principle of licensing children. If, however, the Committee de-

cided to retain the clauses dealing with licenses there should be certain restrictions framed in order to restrict to a certain extent their work. No argument had been used against the amendment. Children assisted their parents by selling papers, and they only worked for three hours a day—from 4 o'clock till 7. There was no necessity why a child should be deprived from working on Sunday selling newspapers.

Mr. STUART: One might be wrong in assuming that this provision was aimed at the Sunday newspapers; but if the clause was passed as printed it would have the effect of seriously inconveniencing the public and the proprietors of the Sunday papers. If it was a degradation for boys to sell newspapers on Sunday, it was a degradation for them to sell newspapers on week days.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	22
Noes	..	..	..	10

Majority for .. .. 12

## AYES.

Mr. Bath  
Mr. Brebber  
Mr. H. Brown  
Mr. T. L. Brown  
Mr. Collier  
Mr. Davies  
Mr. Gregory  
Mr. Hayward  
Mr. Holman  
Mr. Hudson  
Mr. Keenan  
Mr. McLarty  
Mr. Mitchell  
Mr. Monger  
Mr. N. J. Moore  
Mr. Scaddan  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Stuart  
Mr. Walker  
Mr. A. J. Wilson  
Mr. F. Wilson  
Mr. Gordon (Teller).

## NOES.

Mr. Angwin  
Mr. Barnett  
Mr. Cowcher  
Mr. Gull  
Mr. Horan  
Mr. S. F. Moore  
Mr. Piesse  
Mr. Underwood  
Mr. Ware  
Mr. Layman (Teller).

Amendment thus passed.

The PREMIER: Objection had been raised to the wearing of a badge. That could be got over by an amendment. He moved—

*That in Subclause 2 the words "with a badge to be worn by him as prescribed during such trading," be struck out, and insert in lieu "who shall produce such license on demand to any inspector."*

Mr. SCADDAN: Why compel a boy to carry a license about? It might become

destroyed or lost. There should be a system of registration.

Amendment put and passed.

The PREMIER moved a farther amendment—

*That in line 12 the word "so" be struck out and "engaged in the street" be inserted in lieu.*

Mr. A. J. WILSON: A child might have lost his license, or might not be in possession of it at the time.

Mr. HOLMAN: The whole question of licensing should be deleted. In older countries persons employed children under the cloak of selling newspapers, to steal and pick pockets. In Western Australia he had yet to learn that children who sold newspapers were worse than other children. There should be no necessity to issue these licenses. If a child could not produce a license when required to do so, although the child had one, what would happen? The Bill itself was a great improvement, and he would like to see the other clauses given a trial, but this provision should be struck out.

Mr. BATH: The utilisation of the services of children in criminal purposes in older countries was referred to by the Commissioner of Police in Melbourne some years back in his annual report. The matter needed regulating.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was not desirable that children of tender years should be engaged in selling newspapers. The proper time to decide on the age of a child was when the license was granted. The clause was necessary. It would enable inquiries to be made as to the need for the child to be employed in the streets.

Mr. SCADDAN: The point was what constituted street trading. This clause would prevent a youth of 18 years working in the streets without a license.

Amendment passed.

Mr. HOLMAN: We should not pass this clause. The object of such legislation in the old country was to prevent children of tender age from being employed in the streets, and falling into the hands of criminals, or from going into hotels and saloons selling matches. But here the clause would compel youths and girls of 17 and 18 years of age to take out licenses

for hawking in the streets. If youths and girls had not sufficient sense at 17 years of age, they would never have any. How would the youths and girls in the country get licenses? So far as he knew the children employed in the Perth streets selling newspapers were a bright, intelligent, civil and respectful lot who would grow up to be a credit to the State. There should be no obstacle in the way of their getting a livelihood, and it would be an obstacle to compel them to get a license every six months.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This provision was in force in New South Wales and Victoria. Country children could get licenses from persons appointed throughout the State to issue them. No charge was to be made for the licenses. It was a fair protection to grant these licenses. It would protect children as to the class of employers, and it would guarantee that children of a suitable age were employed in the streets. People with experience of the city of London knew that great numbers of the criminal class were recruited from the children employed in the streets.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	20
Noes	..	..	..	9

Majority for .. 11

#### AYES.

Mr. Barnett  
Mr. Bath  
Mr. Brebber  
Mr. T. L. Brown  
Mr. Cowcher  
Mr. Draper  
Mr. Eddy  
Mr. Gordon  
Mr. Gregory  
Mr. Hayward  
Mr. Horan  
Mr. Hudson  
Mr. Mitchell  
Mr. N. J. Moore  
Mr. Price  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Underwood  
Mr. Ware  
Mr. F. Wilson  
Mr. Layman (Teller).

#### NOES.

Mr. Angwin  
Mr. H. Brown  
Mr. Collier  
Mr. Foulkes  
Mr. Monger  
Mr. Scaddan  
Mr. Walker  
Mr. A. J. Wilson  
Mr. Holman (Teller).

Clause thus passed.

Clause 95—Penalty for employing children in contravention of Act:

Mr. SCADDAN asked for a definition of street trading.

The PREMIER: A correct explanation would be hawking in the street, or carrying on business in the street.

Mr. HOLMAN: Would that apply strictly to Hay Street? It had been declared in a court of law to be less than the proper width of a street. If a boy traded in a lane, for instance, it would not be a street.

Mr. A. J. WILSON: Under Clause 94 the license would have to describe what was street trading.

Mr. HOLMAN: If a boy were selling papers in the Perth railway station, would that be street trading? There were alleys that were not streets. Employers of newspaper boys would have the onus thrown on them of finding out whether each boy offering to sell papers was duly licensed.

The PREMIER: A railway station would be under the control of railway authorities. Regulations would provide for what was necessary as to street trading.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 96—Power to assist women in lying-in homes:

Mr. BATH moved an amendment—

*That the following words be added: "and may maintain Government homes for the same purpose."*

The PREMIER accepted the amendment. There were two such homes at present.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 97 to 105—agreed to.

Clause 106—Register to be kept by foster mother:

Mr. COLLIER moved an amendment—

*That Subclause 2 be struck out.*

He intended to move a farther amendment providing that the register should be kept in the secretary's office, and should not be inspected by any other person except on the order of the Minister, or where it was necessary to take proceedings for the recovery of maintenance under the Act. This would prevent inquisitive persons inspecting the register, and the words were taken from the Victorian Act.



Mr. SCADDAN: The amendment would not effect the desired purpose. The clause really provided that the register should be kept by the foster-mother and a copy should be sent to the department.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The hon. member might let the clause stand. The register was not open to public inspection.

Mr. SCADDAN: The clause provided that the register might be inspected by the proper officer, but did not provide that it should not be open to inspection by anybody else.

The Minister for Works: It might be wanted in court.

Mr. SCADDAN: Better provide that no other person than an officer appointed by the department might inspect the register.

Mr. ANGWIN: That provision would subject the foster-mother to a penalty if she showed the register to an unauthorised person.

Mr. HOLMAN: The Minister would hardly permit people to gratify mere curiosity by inspecting the register.

The PREMIER moved an amendment—

*That the words "provided such register shall only be open to an accredited officer of the department, and at such other times to such persons as the Minister may direct," be inserted after "thereof," in line 2 of Subclause 2.*

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 107 to 122—agreed to.

Clause 124—Whipping:

Mr. COLLIER had unfortunately overlooked a provision already made for whipping.

The Premier: Only for whipping with a cane.

Clause passed.

Clause 125—agreed to.

Clause 126—General penalty:

Mr. ANGWIN moved an amendment—

*That Subclause 3 be struck out.*

The minimum penalty was twenty shillings, and might be inflicted on a child ignorantly trading without a license.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 127 to end—agreed to.

Schedule 1—agreed to.

Schedule 2—Institutions:

Mr. BATH moved an amendment—

*That the words "The Children's Protection Society" be added to the Schedule.*

This addition would prevent the possibility of irresponsible societies without *bona fides* being formed with a view to participating in Government subsidies.

The PREMIER: The only objection was that this society had no institution or building.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: By Clause 13 the Governor might declare any building to be a Government institution. Societies mentioned in the schedule had spent considerable sums on buildings to accommodate the children.

Mr. Bath: Sums raised by public subscription.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: A society should attain a certain status before being recognised.

Mr. Draper: The Children's Protection Society was the best of the lot.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: With that he did not agree. He pinned his faith to the work done at Clontarf and Collie. No body of people, however estimable, should receive the same privileges as societies which had expended considerable sums on institutions and buildings for the accommodation of children.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	10
Noes	..	..	..	18

Majority against .. 8

**AYES.**  
 Mr. Bath  
 Mr. Draper  
 Mr. Eddy  
 Mr. Holman  
 Mr. Horan  
 Mr. Hudson  
 Mr. Monger  
 Mr. Stuart  
 Mr. Taylor  
 Mr. Underwood (Teller).

**NOES.**  
 Mr. Angwin  
 Mr. Brebber  
 Mr. T. L. Brown  
 Mr. Collier  
 Mr. Cowcher  
 Mr. Davies  
 Mr. Ewing  
 Mr. Gordon  
 Mr. Gregory  
 Mr. Hayward  
 Mr. Mitchell  
 Mr. N. J. Moore  
 Mr. Price  
 Mr. Scaddan  
 Mr. Smith  
 Mr. Ware  
 Mr. F. Wilson  
 Mr. Layman (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments ; the report adopted.

## BILL—CUE ROADS BOARD RATE VALIDATION.

### *Second Reading.*

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. J. Price) in moving the second reading said: This is, merely a formal measure, and is necessary owing to a mistake which was made in connection with the signing of the Cue roads board rate book. At one of the meetings the chairman of the board was absent, and one of the members took his place. Without being gazetted, that member acting as chairman signed the rate book ; consequently, the rate is illegal. The object of this Bill is merely to validate the rate they then struck, and enable the board to collect their funds.

Question put and passed ; Bill read a second time.

### *In Committee, etc.*

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

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

## BILL—GAME ACT AMENDMENT.

### *Second Reading moved.*

The HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. J. Mitchell) in moving the second reading said: This is a small amending Bill dealing with the question of protecting native game in the South-West. In the agricultural districts in the south-west of the State kangaroos are fast becoming extinct, owing to the fact that so many

are being destroyed for their skins. Difficulty is experienced by those persons who desire to shoot the kangaroos as food in getting supplies. There are a number of men down there who make their living by collecting skins, and it has been discovered that they have been altogether disregarding the restricted area. There are certain reserves where kangaroos are not allowed to be shot except for food purposes, but these kangarooers pay no heed to this fact, and large numbers of kangaroos have been slaughtered there. It has been found practically impossible to obtain convictions against these men. Representations have been made to the Government from various parts of the State, asking that more stringent regulations should be provided for the protection of kangaroos, owing to the fact that the residents in the outback districts have to rely upon kangaroos for their meat supply. The Government are anxious to comply with this request for the reason also that it will result in the protection of native game. By this Bill the Government will be able to protect game much better than they have been in the past. It is proposed that those people who desire to kill kangaroos for their skins shall be forced to take out licenses. The position in the South-West is very different from the North-West, for in the latter portion of the State it is necessary to destroy the kangaroos, owing to the trouble they are to the settlers. We are spending £1,000 per annum in subsidising settlers to arrange for the destruction of kangaroos. In the South-West, however, we desire to license all professional skin collectors. Under this system kangarooers will be much more careful, for they will know that if they commit an offence against the Act and shoot kangaroos in protected areas, their licenses will be revoked, and consequently their living gone. We also desire to protect ducks from being captured in nets. At the present time there is a considerable trade caused by the netting of ducks, and it is desirable that this should be put a stop to. Under the Bill it is provided that the natives who are employed by persons who kill kangaroos will also have to be licensed. We propose that in the

more settled districts *bona fide* settlers will be licensed to destroy kangaroos and other game. These people will not be charged license fees, for we realise that they kill game for food; but fees will be charged to men who make a living by destroying the animals for the sake of their skins. Whilst these amendments are important, they do not make any drastic change in the Game Act; but they will give the Government power to control those who are destroying native game in the settled portions of the State.

Mr. T. H. BATH (Brown Hill): I know absolutely nothing about this Bill, and am not in a position to gain much knowledge of it in the present state of the session and the present condition of the House. It is about time that we shut down at this stage on the consideration of Bills sent to us from another place to-day and seen for the first time during the last hour. [Mr. Taylor: The last few minutes.] The Bill may be the most desirable under the sun; but if it cannot be put before us at an earlier stage, it will be better left till next session. We had to-day an indication of how fit members are for business, when an important Bill like the Appropriation Bill was passed through all its stages, and members were in doubt whether it had been read a second time. Better leave the present measure to a more convenient season, when members are not tired out as they are now, so that we may assure ourselves that the Bill does not contain any dangerous provision.

The Premier: Move the adjournment, and if we have time to-morrow we shall pass the Bill.

Mr. BATH moved—

*That the debate be adjourned.*

Motion passed; the debate adjourned.

### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 18 minutes past 11 o'clock, until the next day.

## Legislative Council,

Thursday, 19th December, 1907.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: Reports on Portions of the Kimberleys (1905-6); Report of the Comptroller General of Prisons for 1906; By-laws of Municipality of Kanowna.

### BILLS—THIRD READING.

1, Narrogin-Wickepin Railway; 2, Land and Income Tax; read a third time and *passed*.

### BILL—APPROPRIATION.

*All Stages.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading said: Members are aware that this Bill contains the Revenue and Expenditure Estimates, together with the Loan Estimates, for this financial year. It is not usual, nor do I think members expect me, to make a long speech on the second reading. Such a speech would be only a repetition of the Budget Speech already delivered in another place by the Treasurer. I move—

*That the Bill be now read a second time.*