

VICTORIA



MINUTES
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL.

SESSION

1899-1900

COMMITTEE
ROOM.



VICTORIA.



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SESSION 1899-1900.

WITH COPIES OF THE VARIOUS DOCUMENTS ORDERED
TO BE PRINTED.

By Authority:

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2014年12月31日

资产负债表

项目	2014年12月31日	2013年12月31日
流动资产	100,000,000.00	100,000,000.00
货币资金	50,000,000.00	50,000,000.00
应收账款	30,000,000.00	30,000,000.00
其他流动资产	20,000,000.00	20,000,000.00
非流动资产	100,000,000.00	100,000,000.00
固定资产	80,000,000.00	80,000,000.00
无形资产	20,000,000.00	20,000,000.00

利润表

项目	2014年度	2013年度
营业收入	1,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000.00
营业成本	800,000,000.00	800,000,000.00
营业利润	200,000,000.00	200,000,000.00
利润总额	200,000,000.00	200,000,000.00
净利润	150,000,000.00	150,000,000.00

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1st
JANUARY, 1899, TO 20th FEBRUARY, 1900, INCLUSIVE.

Provinces and Members.	Elected at—		Dates of Retirement.	Remarks.
	Nomination.	Polling.		
MELBOURNE PROVINCE:				
The Honorables—				
Cornelius Job Ham	26 Aug. 1898	...	1904	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Robert Reid	28 Aug. 1896	...	1902	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Sir Arthur Snowden	31 Aug. 1895	...	1901	Elected in place of Hon. G. S. Coppin, who retired by rotation.
James Service	1 Sept. 1894	...	1900	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
succeeded by	3 May 1899	...	1900	Elected in place of Hon. J. Service, deceased.
John Mark Davies ... ..	...	30 Dec. 1899	1900	Vacated seat by accepting office of Solicitor-General; re-elected.
NORTH YARRA PROVINCE:				
The Honorables—				
Nathaniel Levi	26 Aug. 1898	...	1904	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
William Pitt	28 Aug. 1896	...	1902	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Frederick Sheppard Grimwade	1 Sept. 1894	...	1900	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
SOUTH YARRA PROVINCE:				
The Honorables—				
Simon Fraser	26 Aug. 1898	...	1904	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Lieut.-Col. Sir Frederick Thomas Sargood, K.C.M.G.	28 Aug. 1896	...	1902	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
George Godfrey ... ..	...	12 Sept. 1895	1901	Elected in place of Hon. J. M. Davies, who retired by rotation.
Edward Miller	1 Sept. 1894	...	1900	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
SOUTHERN PROVINCE:				
The Honorables—				
Donald Melville	26 Aug. 1898	...	1904	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
	19 Dec. 1899	...	1904	Vacated seat by accepting office of Minister of Defence; re-elected.
Thomas Brunton	28 Aug. 1896	...	1902	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Sir Rupert Turner Havelock Clarke, Bart.	17 June 1897	...	1900	Elected in place of Hon. Sir W. J. Clarke, Bart., deceased.
SOUTH-WESTERN PROVINCE:				
The Honorables—				
Sir Henry John Wrixon, K.C.M.G., Q.C.	26 Aug. 1898	...	1904	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Joseph Henry Connor	28 Aug. 1896	...	1902	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
succeeded by				
Thomas Charles Harwood	19 July 1899	...	1902	Elected in place of Hon. J. H. Connor, deceased.
Sidney Austin	1 Sept. 1894	...	1900	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
NELSON PROVINCE:				
The Honorables—				
Thomas Dowling	26 Aug. 1898	...	1904	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Samuel Williamson	28 Aug. 1896	...	1902	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
William Henry Seville Osmand	1 Sept. 1894	...	1900	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
WESTERN PROVINCE:				
The Honorables—				
Nathan Thornley	26 Aug. 1898	...	1904	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Agar Wynne	28 Aug. 1896	...	1902	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Samuel Winter Cooke	1 Sept. 1894	...	1900	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE:				
The Honorables—				
Thomas Comrie	26 Aug. 1898	...	1904	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Pharez Phillips ... ..	...	10 Sept. 1896	1902	Elected in place of Hon. D. E. McBryde, who retired by rotation.
Joseph Major Pratt	31 Aug. 1895	...	1901	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
James Bell	1 Sept. 1894	...	1900	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—*continued.*

Provinces and Members.	Elected at—		Dates of Retirement.	Remarks.
	Nomination.	Polling.		
NORTHERN PROVINCE :				
The Honorables—				
Joseph Henry Abbott	26 Aug. 1898	...	1904	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
William Irving Winter-Irving	28 Aug. 1896	...	1902	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
George Simmie	31 Aug. 1895	...	1901	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Joseph Sternberg	1 Sept. 1894	...	1900	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
WELLINGTON PROVINCE :				
The Honorables—				
John Young McDonald	26 Aug. 1898	...	1904	Elected in place of Hon. T. D. Wanliss, who retired by rotation.
Sir Henry Cuthbert, K.C.M.G., Q.C.	28 Aug. 1896	...	1902	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Edward Morey	31 Aug. 1895	...	1901	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
David Ham	1 Sept. 1894	...	1900	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE :				
The Honorables—				
Dr. William Henry Embling	26 Aug. 1898	...	1904	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Nicholas FitzGerald	28 Aug. 1896	...	1902	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Sir William Austin Zeal, K.C.M.G.	1 Sept. 1894	...	1900	Retired by rotation, and re-elected. Re-elected President, 4th October, 1894.
NORTH-EASTERN PROVINCE :				
The Honorables—				
Frederick Brown	26 Aug. 1898	...	1904	Retired by rotation, and re-elected. Re-appointed Chairman of Committees, 6th September, 1898.
John Alston Wallace	28 Aug. 1896	...	1902	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Arthur Otto Sachse	1 Sept. 1894	...	1900	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
GIPPSLAND PROVINCE :				
The Honorables—				
Edward Jolley Crooke	26 Aug. 1898	...	1904	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
William McCulloch	28 Aug. 1896	...	1902	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
Joseph Hoddinott ... ..	...	18 Nov. 1898	1901	Elected in place of Hon. C. Sargeant, resigned.
William Pearson	18 Sept. 1896	...	1900	Elected in place of Hon. G. Davis, deceased.
SOUTH-EASTERN PROVINCE :				
The Honorables—				
William Knox	26 Aug. 1898	...	1904	Elected in place of Hon. J. Buchanan, who retired by rotation.
James Balfour	28 Aug. 1896	...	1902	Retired by rotation, and re-elected.
James Callender Campbell	19 June 1895	...	1900	Elected in place of Hon. Dr. Dobson, deceased.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Parliaments.

Legislative Council,
Melbourne, 20th February, 1900.

I N D E X.

SECRET

1899-1900.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF VICTORIA.

THIRD SESSION

OF THE

SEVENTEENTH PARLIAMENT.

I N D E X.

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SESSION 1899-1900.

APPROPRIATION BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year ending on the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament.*"—(Hon. J. M. Davies.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 14th February, 1900, p. 147.

Read a second time, by leave, and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 14th February, p. 154. (*Assented to 20th February. Act No. 1653.*)

ARARAT LAND RESUMPTION BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the Resumption by the Crown of certain Land in the parish of Ararat.*"—(Hon. W. McCulloch.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 16th August, 1899, p. 45.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 23rd August, p. 51. (*Assented to 30th August. Act No. 1610.*)

AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION ENABLING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Australasian Federation Enabling Act (Victoria) 1896.'*"—(Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 4th July, 1899, p. 21.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; motion, That this Bill be now read a third time. The President said:—"It has been suggested to me by Mr. Knox that it would be interesting to have the names of the honorable Members voting for the third reading of the Bill recorded. It will not be necessary to take a division. If honorable Members who are in favour of the Bill will pass to the right of the Chair, I will instruct the Clerk to record their names." Question—put. The Clerk having reported that the names of the following Members had been recorded as having voted for the third reading of the Bill, viz.:—The Honorable J. H. Abbott, J. Balfour, J. Bell, F. Brown, J. C. Campbell, T. Comrie, S. W. Cooke, Sir H. Cuthbert, J. M. Davies, T. Dowling, Dr. W. H. Embling, N. FitzGerald, G. Godfrey, F. S. Grimwade, D. Ham, W. Knox, N. Levi, J. Y. McDonald, D. Melville, E. Miller, E. Morey, W. H. S. Osmand, W. Pitt, J. M. Pratt, R. Reid, A. O. Sachse, Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood, Sir A. Snowden, N. Thornley, W. I. Winter-Irving, Sir H. J. Wrixon, and A. Wynne—the President declared the question to have been resolved in the affirmative; Bill read the third time and passed, 5th July, pp. 23-4. (*Assented to 7th July. Act No. 1603.*)

BAILIWICKS BOUNDARIES BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Supreme Court Act 1890' with regard to the Boundaries of the Eastern and Central Bailiwicks.*"—(Hon. J. M. Davies.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 14th February, 1900, p. 163.

Read a second time, by leave, and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 14th February, p. 163. (*Assented to 19th February. Act No. 1647.*)

COMPANIES ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Companies Act 1890.'*"—(Hon. J. M. Davies.)

—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 14th February, 1900, p. 154. Motion—That this Bill be now read a second time—debate adjourned, 14th February, p. 158; debate resumed; Bill read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported with an amendment; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 14th February, p. 159.

Message from the Assembly notifying their agreement to the amendment of the Council, 14th February, p. 162.

Message from the Assembly transmitting Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommending an amendment in the Bill, to which the Assembly had agreed; His Excellency's amendment considered and agreed to, 20th February, p. 167. (*Assented to 20th February. Act No. 1649.*)

COMPANIES (RULES AND ORDERS) BILL.—Bill relating to certain general rules and orders made under the *Companies Act 1896.*—(Hon. J. M. Davies.)—Initiated, by leave, and read a first time, 9th January, 1900, p. 104.

Motion—That this Bill be now read a second time; further motion for the adjournment of the debate negatived; Bill read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 10th January, p. 107.

Message from the Assembly notifying their agreement to the Bill, 14th February, p. 162. (*Assented to 19th February. Act No. 1645.*)

CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the creation of a Corporate Body in which property belonging to the Congregational College of Victoria may be vested and for declaring the Trusts on which same is to be held.*"—(Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 31st January, 1900, p. 129.

Standing Orders relating to Private Bills, by leave, suspended, and all fees remitted with regard to the Bill, and Bill read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and

CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE BILL—*continued.*

reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 1st February, p. 133. (*Assented to 8th February. Act No. 1636.*)

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 1).—Bill intitled "*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Five hundred and eighty-four thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred.*"—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time; read a second time, by leave, and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 11th July, 1899, p. 28. (*Assented to 12th July. Act No. 1604.*)

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 2).—Bill intitled "*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of One hundred and sixty-seven thousand seven hundred and sixty-six pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight and ninety-nine.*"—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 23rd August, 1899, p. 50.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 29th August, p. 53. (*Assented to 30th August. Act No. 1612.*)

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 3).—Bill intitled "*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of One million one hundred and seventy-eight thousand five hundred and thirty-one pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred.*"—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time; read a second time, by leave, and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 29th August, 1899, pp. 54-5. (*Assented to 30th August. Act No. 1613.*)

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 4).—Bill intitled "*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Three hundred and ninety-one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred.*"—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 28th November, 1899, p. 96.

Read a second time, by leave, and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 28th November, pp. 96-7. (*Assented to 30th November. Act No. 1624.*)

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 5).—Bill intitled "*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Three hundred and seventy-six thousand six hundred and fifty-nine pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred.*"—(*Hon. J. Balfour.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 5)—*continued.*

time; read a second time, by leave, and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 5th December, 1899, p. 101. (*Assented to 15th December. Act No. 1626.*)

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 6).—Bill intitled "*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Three hundred and seventy-eight thousand one hundred and fifty-seven pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred.*"—(*Hon. J. M. Davies.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time; read a second time, by leave, and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 30th January, 1900, pp. 127-8. (*Assented to 31st January. Act No. 1628.*)

CREMATION BILL.—Bill to regulate Cremation and for other purposes.—(*Hon. F. S. Grimvade.*)—Initiated and read a first time, 16th August, 1899, p. 44.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported with an amendment, 30th August, p. 58.

Report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 27th September, p. 69. Bill not returned from the Assembly.

CRIMES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill to amend the Crimes Acts.—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Initiated, by leave, and read a first time, 21st November, 1899, p. 91.

Order for second reading discharged and Bill withdrawn, 16th January, 1900, p. 111.

CYANIDE PATENT RIGHTS PURCHASE BILL.—Bill intitled "*An Act authorizing the State to acquire certain Patent and other Rights relating to the Extraction of Gold and Silver by the Cyanide Process.*"—(*Hon. J. M. Davies.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time; read a second time, by leave, and committed; considered in Committee and reported with amendments; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 15th February, 1900 (morning), p. 164.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they have agreed to one of the amendments of the Council and have agreed to another of the said amendments with amendments; amendments considered; the Council disagree with the amendment of the Assembly to omit certain words from new clause A, and agree to the amendment to insert other words, but to insert such words at the end of the clause, 15th February (morning), p. 165.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they do not insist on their amendment to omit certain words from new clause A, disagreed with by the Council, and that they have agreed to the further amendment of the Council in the said clause, 15th February (morning), p. 166. (*Assented to 19th February. Act No. 1648.*)

EVIDENCE LAW AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill to amend the Law of Evidence with regard to the Office of Deputy Registrar-General.—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Initiated and read a first time, 27th June, 1899, p. 13.

EVIDENCE LAW AMENDMENT BILL—*continued.*

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 4th July, p. 20.

Message from the Assembly notifying their agreement to the Bill with an amendment, 16th August, p. 46.

Amendment considered and agreed to, 23rd August, p. 51. (*Assented to 30th August. Act No. 1611.*)

FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts.*"—(*Hon. J. M. Davies.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 10th January, 1900, pp. 107–8.

Petition presented, 23rd January, p. 117.

Motion—That this Bill be now read a second time; amendment proposed to omit all the words after "That" with a view to insert in place thereof the following words:—"in view of the early federation of the Australasian Colonies, and with the object of securing uniform legislation on the subject of 'An Act to consolidate the Law relating to the supervision and regulation of Factories and Work-rooms and the limitation of the Hours of Trading in Shops,' it is the opinion of this House that Act No. 1091 and all Acts amending the same shall remain in full force and effect until 30th of June, 1901, and this House declares that it is the immediate duty of the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the working of the existing factory legislation"—debate adjourned, 16th January, p. 110; debate resumed; amendment, by leave, withdrawn and Bill read a second time and committed; considered in Committee, 23rd January, p. 118.

Further considered in Committee, 24th January, p. 125; 30th January, pp. 127, 128; 31st January, p. 129; 1st February, p. 131.

Reported with amendments, 1st February, p. 131.

Recommitted for the reconsideration of clauses 3, 4, 7, 13, 16, and 46; reconsidered in Committee and re-reported with further amendments; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 1st February, p. 131.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they have agreed to some of the amendments of the Council, have disagreed with others of the said amendments, and have agreed to others of the said amendments with amendments, 6th February, p. 137.

Motion—That a Free Conference be desired with the Assembly on the subject-matter of the amendments made by the Council and disagreed with by the Assembly, or agreed to with amendments—resolved in the affirmative, and seven Members appointed Managers of the Conference, 6th February, p. 138.

Manager of the Conference discharged from attendance, 7th February, p. 139.

Manager of the Conference appointed, 7th February, p. 139.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they have appointed seven Members to confer with a like number of Members of the Council on the subject-matter of the amendments made by

FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—*continued.*

the Council and disagreed with by the Assembly, or agreed to with amendments, and naming the South Library as the place and Wednesday, the 7th February instant, at a quarter to five o'clock in the afternoon, as the time of meeting of the said Conference, 7th February, p. 139.

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood stated on behalf of the Managers for the Council that they had met the Managers for the Assembly, and had agreed to report as follows:—

1. That the Conference has arrived at an agreement upon all the points of difference between the two Houses.
2. That amendments embodying the result of its agreement will be printed and circulated at the earliest moment possible.
3. That the Conference has agreed to omit in clause 13 the words "any building or place in which gas or electricity is prepared or produced."
4. That the Conference has agreed to certain amendments in clause 16 under which the Governor in Council may on the resolution of either House appoint Special Boards to be elected as prescribed.
5. That it is agreed that as to the clothing trade there shall be only one Board.
6. That the question of fixing piece-work prices or rates in lieu of wages shall be decided by the Special Board on appeal by the employer.
7. That clause 36, relating to the compulsory half-holiday, shall be omitted.
8. That clause 41, limiting the hours of male shop assistants, shall be confined to the Metropolitan district.
9. That clause 43, giving power to the Governor in Council to limit the hours for carters and carriers, and providing for a half-holiday, shall be made applicable to the Metropolitan district only.
10. That the Act shall remain in force for two years, and thence until the end of the next ensuing Session of Parliament; 8th February, p. 141.

Report from the Managers of the Free Conference considered; recommendations of the Free Conference except those relating to clause 16 agreed to; motion—That the Council agree to the recommendation of the Free Conference on amendment numbered 7 (clause 16); amendment proposed to omit the words "either House" from the recommendation (column 3), with a view to insert in place thereof the words "both Houses"—but not made; original motion put and resolved in the affirmative, and the other recommendations of the Free Conference with regard to clause 16 agreed to, 14th February, pp. 147–54.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they have concurred with the Council in agreeing to the recommendations of the Free Conference, 14th February, p. 159.

Message from the Assembly transmitting Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommending certain amendments in the Bill, to which the Assembly had agreed; His Excellency's amendments considered and agreed to, 20th February, p. 168. (*Assented to 20th February. Act No. 1654.*)

GEELONG MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act for the Incorporation of the Mechanics' Institute at Geelong and for other purposes.*"—(Hon. Sir H. J. Wrixon.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 11th July, 1899, p. 27.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee, 16th August, p. 45.

Further considered in Committee and reported with amendments; motion for Bill to be re-committed for reconsideration—negatived; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 23rd August, p. 50.

Message from the Assembly notifying their agreement to the amendments of the Council, 30th August, p. 57. (*Assented to 18th September. Act No. 1614.*)

GEELONG REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRELAND BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act relating to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland at Geelong.*"—(Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 22nd August, 1899, p. 47.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 23rd August, pp. 50-1. (*Assented to 30th August. Act No. 1608.*)

GOVERNMENT THREE PER CENT. STOCK BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to authorize the raising of Money for certain purposes by increasing the amount of Victorian Government Three per cent. Stock.*"—(Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 1st November, 1899, pp. 85-6.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 14th November, pp. 88-9. (*Assented to 27th November. Act No. 1623.*)

HAMILTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE SITE BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the Sale of certain Lands set apart as a Site for a Mechanics' Institute at Hamilton.*"—(Hon. D. Melville.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 23rd January, 1900, p. 118.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 31st January, p. 130. (*Assented to 8th February. Act No. 1634.*)

HAWKERS AND PEDLERS LAW AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the Law relating to Hawkers and Pedlers.*"—(Hon. W. McCulloch.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 22nd August, 1899, p. 48.

Petition presented and referred to the Committee on the Bill, 29th August, p. 53.

Motion—That this Bill be now read a second time—on division, resolved in the affirmative; Bill read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported with amendments; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 29th August, p. 54.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they have disagreed with the amendments of the Council, 16th January, 1900, p. 110.

HAWKERS AND PEDLERS LAW AMENDMENT BILL—continued.

Amendments considered; the Council insist on their amendments disagreed with by the Assembly, 17th January, p. 116.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they insist on disagreeing with the amendments insisted on by the Council, 14th February, p. 155.

Amendments considered; the Council still insist on their amendments disagreed with by the Assembly, 14th February, p. 157. Bill not returned from the Assembly.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill to amend the *Hospitals and Charities Act 1890.*—(Hon. J. M. Davies.)—Initiated and read a first time, 23rd August, 1899, p. 49.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 30th August, p. 58. Bill not returned from the Assembly.

IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to place certain Restrictions on Immigration.*"—(Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 29th November, 1899, p. 99.

Petition presented and referred to the Committee on the Bill, 9th January, 1900, p. 104.

Motion—That this Bill be now read a second time; amendment proposed to put off for "six months"—debate adjourned, 9th January, pp. 104-5; debate resumed, and second reading, on division, put off for "six months," 16th January, p. 111.

INCOME TAX BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to revive continue and amend the Income Tax Acts and declare the Rates of Income Tax thereunder for the Year ending on the thirty-first day of December One thousand nine hundred.*"—(Hon. D. Melville.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 1st February, 1900, p. 132.

Read a second time, by leave, and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 1st February, p. 132. (*Assented to 8th February. Act No. 1635.*)

INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to prohibit Indecent or Obscene Advertisements.*"—(Hon. D. Melville.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 11th July, 1899, p. 27.

Petition presented and referred to the Committee on the Bill, 1st August, p. 32.

Motion—That this Bill be now read a second time—debate adjourned, 29th November, p. 99; debate resumed and further adjourned, 9th January, 1900, p. 105; debate resumed; Bill read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported with amendments and with an amended title, viz.:—"*An Act to amend the 'Crimes Act 1891'*"; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 8th February, p. 143.

Message from the Assembly notifying their agreement to the amendments of the Council, 14th February, p. 162. (*Assented to 19th February. Act No. 1643.*)

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill to amend the *Infant Life Protection Act 1890*.—(Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.)—Initiated, by leave, and read a first time, 30th August, 1899, p. 57.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported with amendments, 26th September, p. 67.

Order for consideration of report discharged and Bill recommitted for the consideration of a proposed new clause and the reconsideration of the Schedule; reconsidered in Committee and re-reported with further amendments; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 11th October, p. 74. Bill not returned from the Assembly.

KERANG SHOW YARDS SALE BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the Sale of the Show Yards at Kerang*."—(Hon. J. Bell.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 11th July, 1899, p. 27.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 16th August, p. 44. (*Assented to 30th August. Act No. 1607.*)

LAND ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the Land Acts*."—(Hon. D. Melville.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 23rd January, 1900, pp. 117-18.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported with amendments; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 1st February, p. 132.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they have agreed to some of the amendments of the Council, and have agreed to one of the said amendments with amendments, 6th February, p. 138.

Amendments considered; the Council agree to the amendments of the Assembly on an amendment of the Council, 8th February, p. 142.

Message from the Assembly transmitting a communication from the Clerk of the Parliaments calling attention to a clerical error in the Bill, which error the Assembly had agreed to correct; Council concur in the correction of the error, 14th February, p. 157. (*Assented to 19th February. Act No. 1641.*)

LICENCES VALIDATING BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to validate certain Licences and for other purposes*."—(Hon. J. M. Davies.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 14th February, 1900, p. 155.

Read a second time, by leave, and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 14th February, p. 163. (*Assented to 19th February. Act No. 1646.*)

LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill to amend the provisions of the *Companies Act 1890* relating to Life Assurance and for other purposes.—(Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.)—Initiated, by leave, and read a first time, 27th June, 1899, pp. 14-15.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee, 4th July, p. 20.

LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—continued.

Further considered in Committee and reported with amendments and with an amended title, viz.:—"*A Bill to amend the provisions of the Companies Acts relating to Life Assurance and for other purposes*," 12th September, p. 65.

Order for consideration of report discharged and Bill recommitted for reconsideration; reconsidered in Committee and re-reported with further amendments; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 10th October, p. 72. Bill not returned from the Assembly.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1).—Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Local Government Act 1890'*."—(Hon. J. H. Abbott.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 11th July, 1899, p. 28.

Petition presented and referred to the Committee on the Bill, 12th September, p. 65.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee, 23rd August, p. 50.

Further considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 27th September, p. 69. (*Assented to 16th October. Act No. 1616.*)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).—Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Local Government Act 1890'*."—(Hon. D. Melville.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 23rd January, 1900, p. 118.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 1st February, pp. 133-4. (*Assented to 8th February. Act No. 1637.*)

MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Marine Act 1890'*."—(Hon. W. McCulloch.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 16th August, 1899, p. 45.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported with amendments; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 10th October, p. 72.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they have agreed to some of the amendments of the Council, have disagreed with one of the said amendments, and have agreed to another of the said amendments with an amendment, 1st November, p. 84.

Amendments considered; the Council insist on their amendment disagreed with by the Assembly, and agree to the amendment of the Assembly on an amendment of the Council with a further amendment, 16th January, 1900, p. 111.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they have agreed to the further amendment of the Council on the amendment made by the Assembly on the Council's amendment in clause 7, and that they do not insist on disagreeing with the amendment made and insisted on by the Council in the same clause, but have agreed to the same with further amendments; amendments considered; the Council agree to the further amendments made by the Assembly on an amendment of the Council, 14th February, pp. 155-6.

MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—
continued.

Message from the Assembly transmitting Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommending an amendment in the Bill, to which the Assembly had agreed; His Excellency's amendment considered and agreed to, 20th February, p. 168. (*Assented to 20th February. Act No. 1650.*)

MEAT SUPERVISION BILL.—Bill for the proper supervision of the Slaughtering of Animals and the Sale of Meat and for other purposes.—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Initiated, by leave, and read a first time, 27th June, 1899, p. 15.

Petitions presented and referred to the Committee on the Bill, 11th July, p. 26; 8th August, p. 33; 15th August, p. 41.

Motion—That this Bill be now read a second time—debate adjourned, 12th September, p. 65; debate resumed and further adjourned, 10th October, p. 72; debate resumed; Bill read a second time and committed; considered in Committee, 11th October, p. 73.

Further considered in Committee, 17th October, p. 75; 24th October, p. 80; 31st October, p. 82.

Reported with amendments, 31st October, p. 82.

Order for consideration of report discharged and Bill recommitted for the reconsideration of clauses 2, 3, 4, 5, A, 7, 16, 30, 32, and 43; reconsidered in Committee and re-reported with further amendments; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 1st November, p. 86.

Report from the Clerk of a correction made by him in the Bill, 14th November, p. 87.

Message from the Assembly notifying their agreement to the Bill with amendments, 14th February, 1900, p. 155.

Amendments considered and agreed to, 14th February, pp. 157–8.

Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommending certain amendments in the Bill; His Excellency's amendments considered and agreed to, 20th February, p. 167.

Message from the Assembly notifying their agreement to His Excellency's amendments, 20th February, p. 169. (*Assented to 20th February. Act No. 1652.*)

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intitled "*An Act to further amend the 'Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1890.'*"—(*Hon. D. Melville.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 11th July, 1899, pp. 26–7.

Petition presented, 9th August, p. 39.

Motion for second reading negatived, 16th August, p. 45.

MELBOURNE TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS COMPANY'S ACT 1883 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intitled "*An Act to further amend 'The Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company's Act 1883.'*"—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 1st February, 1900, p. 131.

Petition presented, 1st February, p. 132.

Read a second time; motion—That this Bill be committed; amendment proposed to add the words "to a Select Committee"; debate adjourned, 6th February, p. 137; debate

MELBOURNE TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS COMPANY'S ACT 1883 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—
continued.

resumed; amendment, on division, agreed to and motion, as amended, resolved in the affirmative; Bill committed to a Select Committee, 6th February, p. 138.

Order for referring Bill to Select Committee, by leave, rescinded, 14th February, p. 159.

Committed, by leave, to a Committee of the whole; considered in Committee and reported with an amendment; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 14th February, p. 159.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they have agreed to the amendment of the Council with an amendment; amendment considered; the Council disagree with the amendment made by the Assembly on the amendment of the Council, 14th February, pp. 162–3.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they do not insist on their amendment on the amendment made by the Council, but have made a further amendment in lieu thereof; amendment considered; the Council disagree with the further amendment of the Assembly, 15th February (morning), pp. 164–5.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they insist on their further amendment on the amendment of the Council, disagreed with by the Council, 15th February (morning), p. 165. Bill lapsed.

MINING DEVELOPMENT ACT 1896 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intitled "*An Act to further amend the 'Mining Development Act 1896.'*"—(*Hon. J. M. Davies.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 16th January, 1900, p. 110.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 17th January, p. 114. (*Assented to 8th February. Act No. 1632.*)

MOORPANYAL LAND ACT 1897 AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intitled "*An Act to amend the 'Moorpanyal Land Act 1897.'*"—(*Hon. W. McCulloch.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 16th August, 1899, p. 45.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 23rd August, p. 51. (*Assented to 30th August. Act No. 1609.*)

MUNICIPAL COUNCILS (MILITARY CONTINGENTS) CONTRIBUTIONS BILL.—Bill intitled "*An Act to authorize Contributions by Municipal Councils towards Military Contingents for South Africa or any members thereof or their relatives.*"—(*Hon. J. M. Davies.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 8th February, 1900, p. 142.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported with amendments and with an amended title, viz.:—"*An Act to authorize Contributions by Municipal Councils Banks and other Bodies towards Military Contingents for South Africa or any members thereof or their relatives*"; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 8th February, p. 143.

MUNICIPAL COUNCILS (MILITARY CONTINGENTS) CONTRIBUTIONS BILL—continued.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they have agreed to some of the amendments of the Council, and have agreed to one of the said amendments with amendments; amendments considered and agreed to, 14th February, p. 155. (*Assented to 19th February. Act No. 1640.*)

MUNICIPAL OVERDRAFTS INDEMNITY BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to indemnify the Councillors of various Municipalities for Borrowing Moneys by Overdrafts on Bankers for the purposes of their Municipalities contrary to the provisions of the 'Local Government Act 1890.'*"—(*Hon. J. M. Davies.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 16th January, 1900, p. 109.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 17th January, p. 114. (*Assented to 8th February. Act No. 1630.*)

MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the Local Government Acts with regard to Valuations.*"—(*Hon. J. M. Davies.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 11th July, 1899, p. 26.

Motion—That this Bill be now read a second time—debate adjourned, 16th August, p. 44; debate resumed; Bill read a second time and committed; considered in Committee, 23rd August, p. 49.

Further considered in Committee, 30th August, p. 58; 27th September, p. 69.

Reported with amendments and with an amended title, viz.:—"*An Act to amend the Local Government Acts with regard to Valuations and for other purposes,*" 27th September, p. 69.

Order for consideration of report discharged and Bill recommitted for the reconsideration of clauses 2, B, and C; reconsidered in Committee, 18th October, p. 78.

Further reconsidered in Committee, and re-reported with further amendments, 1st November, p. 85.

Report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 14th November, p. 89.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they have agreed to one of the amendments of the Council, and have disagreed with the other amendments, 16th January, 1900, p. 110.

Amendments considered; the Council insist on some of their amendments disagreed with by the Assembly, and do not insist on their amendment to insert clauses A, B, and C, 17th January, p. 115. Bill not returned from the Assembly.

PILOTS' ADVANCE REPAYMENT ACT 1898 AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Pilots' Advance Repayment Act 1898.'*"—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 1st November, 1899, p. 84.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 14th November, pp. 87-8. (*Assented to 27th November. Act No. 1620.*)

PLURAL VOTING ABOLITION BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to abolish Plural Voting in the Elections of Members of the Legislative Assembly.*"—(*Hon. W. McCulloch.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 8th August, 1899, p. 33.

Motion—That this Bill be now read a second time—on division, resolved in the affirmative; Bill read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 15th August, pp. 41-2. (*Assented to 30th August. Act No. 1606.*)

POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill to further amend the *Poisons Act 1890.*—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Initiated, by leave, and read a first time, 5th July, 1899, p. 23.

Motion—That this Bill be now read a second time—debate adjourned, 11th July, p. 28; debate resumed; Bill read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported with amendments, 8th August, p. 34.

Order for consideration of report discharged and Bill recommitted for reconsideration; reconsidered in Committee and re-reported with further amendments, 22nd August, p. 47.

Order for consideration of report discharged and Bill recommitted for reconsideration; reconsidered in Committee and re-reported with further amendments; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 29th August, p. 55. Bill not returned from the Assembly.

POLICE OFFENCES ACT 1890 (PART IV.) FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill to further amend Part IV. of the *Police Offences Act 1890* and for other purposes.—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Initiated, by leave, and read a first time, 31st October, 1899, p. 82.

Order for second reading discharged and Bill withdrawn, 16th January, 1900, p. 111.

PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the Incorporation and Government of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute.*"—(*Hon. G. Godfrey.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 11th July, 1899, p. 27.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported with amendments; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 27th September, p. 70.

Message from the Assembly notifying their agreement to the amendments of the Council, 11th October, p. 73. (*Assented to 27th October. Act No. 1617.*)

PRESTON LOAN BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to authorize the Shire of Preston to construct certain permanent Works and Undertakings in lieu of certain other permanent Works and Undertakings.*"—(*Hon. D. Melville.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 23rd January, 1900, p. 118.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment, 1st February, p. 133.

Recommitted for the reconsideration of the preamble; reconsidered in Committee and re-reported with amendments; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 1st February, p. 133.

PRESTON LOAN BILL.—*continued.*

Message from the Assembly notifying their agreement to the amendments of the Council, 6th February, p. 137. (*Assented to 19th February. Act No. 1638.*)

PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS BILL.—Bill relating to the observance of certain Public and Bank Holidays.—(*Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood.*)—Initiated, by leave, and read a first time, 10th October, 1899, p. 71.

Petitions presented and referred to the Committee of the whole on the Bill, 24th October, p. 79; 31st October, p. 81; 1st November, p. 83.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee, 18th October, p. 78.

Further considered in Committee, 24th October, p. 80; 1st November, p. 84.

Reported with amendments; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 1st November, p. 84. Bill not returned from the Assembly.

RAILWAY AND PUBLIC WORKS LOAN APPLICATION ACT 1898 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Railway and Public Works Loan Application Act 1898.'*"—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 1st November, 1899, p. 85.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 14th November, p. 88. (*Assented to 27th November. Act No. 1621.*)

RAILWAY AND PUBLIC WORKS LOAN APPLICATION ACT 1898 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).—Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Railway and Public Works Loan Application Act 1898.'*"—(*Hon. D. Melville.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 16th January, 1900, p. 110.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 17th January, p. 115. (*Assented to 8th February. Act No. 1633.*)

RAILWAY LANDS ACQUISITION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the Railway Lands Acquisition Acts.*"—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time; read a second time, by leave, and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 11th July, 1899, pp. 28-9. (*Assented to 17th July. Act No. 1605.*)

RAILWAY LOAN APPLICATION BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to authorize the Expenditure of certain sums of Money available under Loan Acts for Railways.*"—(*Hon. J. Balfour.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 16th January, 1900, pp. 109-10.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 17th January, p. 114. (*Assented to 8th February. Act No. 1631.*)

ROMSEY PUBLIC PARK BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the resumption by the Crown of a portion of the Romsey Public Park.*"—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 10th October, 1899, pp. 71-2.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 17th October, p. 75. (*Assented to 27th October. Act No. 1618.*)

STATE SCHOOL TEACHERS BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act relating to State School Teachers.*"—(*Hon. J. M. Davies.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 8th February, 1900, p. 143.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported with an amendment; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 14th February, p. 156.

Message from the Assembly notifying their agreement to the amendment of the Council, 14th February, p. 159. (*Assented to 19th February. Act No. 1642.*)

SURPLUS REVENUE BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act relating to the Surplus Revenue of the Financial Year ended on the thirtieth day of June One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine.*"—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 1st November, 1899, p. 85.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 14th November, p. 88. (*Assented to 27th November. Act No. 1622.*)

TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL.—Bill to prevent the use of Trading Stamps Coupons and other Devices on the Sale or Exchange of Property.—(*Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood.*)—Initiated, by leave, and read a first time, 11th October, 1899, p. 74.

Petition presented and referred to the Committee on the Bill, 18th October, p. 78.

Petitions presented and referred to the Select Committee on the Bill, 31st October, p. 81; 1st November, p. 83; 21st November, p. 92; 22nd November, p. 93; 28th November, p. 95.

Petition presented, 24th January, 1900, p. 121.

Read a second time and committed to a Select Committee, 18th October, 1899, p. 78.

Members of Select Committee appointed, 18th October, p. 78; 9th January, 1900, p. 104.

Power given to Select Committee to hear counsel (to such extent as they shall think fit) on behalf of persons interested in the Bill, 24th October, 1899, p. 79.

Report of Select Committee brought up, 10th January, 1900, p. 107.

Motion to recommit Bill to a Committee of the whole on Wednesday next—resolved in the affirmative, 10th January, p. 107.

Considered in Committee, 17th January, p. 113.

Further considered in Committee and reported with an amendment, 24th January, p. 121.

TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—continued.

Recommitted for the reconsideration of clause 3; reconsidered in Committee and re-reported with further amendments; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time, further amended, and passed, 24th January, p. 121. Bill not returned from the Assembly.

VEGETATION DISEASES ACT 1896 CONTINUATION BILL.—Bill to continue the *Vegetation Diseases Act 1896.*—(Hon. W. McCulloch.)—Initiated, by leave, and read a first time, 21st November, 1899, p. 91.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 9th January, 1900, p. 105.

Message from the Assembly notifying their agreement to the Bill, 14th February, p. 162. (Assented to 19th February. Act No. 1644.)

VERMIN DESTRUCTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Vermin Destruction Act 1890.'*"—(Hon. D. Melville.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 1st August, 1899, pp. 31-2.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported with amendments, 16th August, p. 44.

Recommitted for reconsideration; reconsidered in Committee and re-reported with a further amendment; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 16th August, p. 44.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they have agreed to the amendment of the Council with an amendment; amendment considered and agreed to, 30th August, p. 58. (Assented to 18th September. Act No. 1615.)

VICTORIAN MILITARY CONTINGENT BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty's Regular Forces in South Africa.*"—(Hon. W. McCulloch.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 24th October, 1899, p. 80.

Read a second time, by leave, and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 24th October, p. 80. (Assented to 27th October. Act No. 1619.)

VICTORIAN MILITARY CONTINGENT BILL (No. 2).—Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Second Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty's Regular Forces in South Africa.*"—(Hon. D. Melville.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time; read a second time, by leave, and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 9th January, 1900, pp. 105-6. (Assented to 12th January. Act No. 1627.)

VICTORIAN MILITARY CONTINGENT BILL (No. 3).—Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Third Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty's Regular Forces in South Africa.*"—(Hon. D. Melville.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time; read a

VICTORIAN MILITARY CONTINGENT BILL (No. 3)—
continued.

second time, by leave, and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 15th February, 1900 (morning), pp. 165-6. (Assented to 20th February. Act No. 1655.)

WANDO VALE ESTATE PURCHASE BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to sanction the acquisition by the State of certain land in the County of Dundas known as the Wando Vale Estate.*"—(Hon. J. M. Davies.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 7th February, 1900, pp. 139-40.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 8th February, p. 142. (Assented to 19th February. Act No. 1639.)

WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Water Act 1890.'*"—(Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 1st November, 1899, p. 84.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee, 21st November, p. 92.

Further considered in Committee and reported with amendments, 22nd November, p. 93.

Recommitted for the reconsideration of clauses 5, 6, 7, 10, and 19; reconsidered in Committee and re-reported with further amendments, 22nd November, p. 93.

Order for consideration of report discharged and Bill recommitted for the reconsideration of clauses 6, 20, 36, 58, 79, 126, 140, and 171; reconsidered in Committee and re-reported with further amendments, 28th November, p. 96.

Order for consideration of report discharged; motion—That this Bill be recommitted for the reconsideration of clauses 80, 130, and A; amendment to add clause 149 proposed, but not made; original motion resolved in the affirmative, and Bill recommitted for the reconsideration of clauses 80, 130, and A; reconsidered in Committee and re-reported with further amendments; report, by leave, considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 28th November, p. 96.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they have agreed to some of the amendments of the Council, have disagreed with others of the said amendments, and have agreed to others of the said amendments with amendments, 17th January, 1900, p. 113.

Amendments considered; the Council agree to some of the amendments made by the Assembly on certain amendments of the Council, disagree with others of the said amendments, insist on some of their amendments disagreed with by the Assembly, and do not insist on others of the said amendments, 24th January, pp. 122-5.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they insist on their amendments in new clause A disagreed with by the Council, but have made a further amendment in the said clause; that they insist on disagreeing with some of the amendments made and insisted on by the Council, but do not insist on disagreeing with others of the said amendments, and that they have made amendments in some of the amendments insisted on by the Council, 14th February, p. 157.

WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—continued.

Amendments considered; the Council agree to some of the amendments of the Assembly on amendments of the Council, agree to other amendments of the Assembly on amendments of the Council with amendments, and still insist on some of their amendments disagreed with by the Assembly, 14th February, pp. 160-2.

Message from the Assembly notifying that they do not now insist on disagreeing with certain of the amendments still insisted on by the Council, and that they have agreed to the further amendments of the Council in the amendments of the Assembly in new clause A and in clause 79, 15th February (morning), p. 165.

Message from the Assembly transmitting Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommending certain amendments in the Bill, to which the Assembly had agreed; His Excellency's amendments considered and agreed to, 20th February, pp. 168-9. (*Assented to 20th February. Act No. 1651.*)

WATER SUPPLY ADVANCES RELIEF BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to relieve certain Corporations of a part of their indebtedness for moneys borrowed from the State for Water Supply.*"—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 1st November, 1899, p. 84.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 28th November, p. 97. (*Assented to 7th December. Act No. 1625.*)

WATER SUPPLY LOANS APPLICATION BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to sanction the issue and application of certain sums of money for Water Supply in Country Districts.*"—(*Hon. D. Melville.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 16th January, 1900, p. 109.

Read a second time and committed; considered in Committee and reported without amendment; report considered and adopted; Bill read the third time and passed, 17th January, pp. 113-14. (*Assented to 8th February. Act No. 1629.*)

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE BILL.—Bill intituled "*An Act to remove the Disqualification of Women in the Elections of Members of the Legislative Assembly.*"—(*Hon. W. McCulloch.*)—Brought from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time, 23rd August, 1899, pp. 49-50.

Petition presented and referred to the Committee on the Bill, 30th August, p. 57.

Motion—That this Bill be now read a second time—debate adjourned, 5th September, p. 62; debate resumed; question—That this Bill be now read a second time—on division, negatived, 6th September, p. 63.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL.—Bill to provide Compensation to Workmen for Injuries sustained in the course of their Employment.—(*Hon. Sir H. J. Wrixon.*)—Initiated and read a first time, 4th July, 1899, p. 20.

Motion—That this Bill be now read a second time—debate adjourned, 30th August, p. 57; debate resumed; motion for the adjournment of the debate, on division, resolved in the affirmative, 18th October, p. 77; debate resumed and further adjourned, 1st November, p. 85; 9th January, 1900, p. 105.

Order for the resumption of debate on second reading discharged and Bill withdrawn, 8th February, p. 144.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS, ETC.

VICTORIA.

No. 1.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 27TH JUNE, 1899.

1. The Council met pursuant to the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor, bearing date the thirtieth day of May ultimo, which Proclamation was read by the Clerk, and is as follows:—

FURTHER PROROGUING PARLIAMENT AND FIXING THE TIME FOR HOLDING
THE THIRD SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH PARLIAMENT.

PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency the Right Honorable THOMAS, BARON BRASSEY, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath; Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Victoria and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c.

WHEREAS by *The Constitution Act* it was amongst other things enacted that it should be lawful for the Governor to fix such places within Victoria and, subject to the limitation therein contained, such times for holding the first and every other Session of the Council and Assembly, and to vary and alter the same respectively in such manner as he might think fit; and also from time to time to prorogue the said Council and Assembly, and to dissolve the said Assembly, by Proclamation or otherwise, whenever he should deem it expedient: And whereas the said Council and Assembly, called "The Parliament of Victoria," stand prorogued until Tuesday, the 6th day of June, 1899, and it is expedient further to prorogue the same, and to fix the time for holding the next Session thereof: Now therefore I, the Governor of Victoria, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Act, do by this my Proclamation further prorogue the said Parliament of Victoria until Tuesday, the 27th day of June, 1899; and also I do hereby fix Tuesday, the 27th day of June aforesaid, as the time for the commencement and holding of the next Session of the said Council and Assembly, called the Parliament of Victoria, for the despatch of business, at the hour of Two o'clock in the afternoon, in the Parliament Houses, situate in Parliament-place, Spring-street, in the City of Melbourne: And the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Council and the Members of the Legislative Assembly are hereby required to give their attendance at the said time and place accordingly.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony, at Melbourne, this thirtieth day of May, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, and in the sixty-second year of Her Majesty's reign.

(L.S.)

BRASSEY.

By His Excellency's Command,

GEORGE TURNER.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

(200 copies.)

2. APPROACH OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—The approach of His Excellency the Governor was announced by the Usher.

His Excellency came into the Council Chamber, and commanded the Usher to desire the immediate attendance of the Legislative Assembly, who, being come with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to speak as follows :—

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL :

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY :

The people of New South Wales having approved the Federal Constitution submitted to them, a measure will, at the earliest opportunity, be laid before you to enable the people of Victoria to decide whether they also will enter the Federation under such Constitution.

During the recess two notable meetings have been held in Melbourne. The Federal Council of Australasia met here for the first time, and their deliberations tended to maintain and strengthen the mutual good feeling of the Colonies represented. The Premiers of all the Australian Colonies also assembled here in the Conference which for some years past they have held annually. They dealt with a variety of questions of great public interest, but their meeting will be specially memorable, inasmuch as it led to Queensland taking an active part in the work of Federation, and also from the fact that the agreement then arrived at by the Premiers has greatly facilitated the acceptance of the proposed Constitution.

It is gratifying to be able to announce that the anticipation of a plentiful harvest has been more than realized, that the long continued drought from which the country has suffered appears to have come to an end, and that more fruitful seasons may now be confidently looked for. The increased production has stimulated trade and commerce, revived languishing industries, and added greatly to the revenue.

It is recognised that, to open up the country for settlement, railways must be constructed to the outlying and less accessible districts, and my Advisers will continue their policy of constructing such lines so far as is consistent with legitimate development and reasonable expenditure. Reports have been obtained and preliminary surveys made of several lines, and the question of their construction will be submitted in due course to the Standing Committee.

The valuable and exhaustive report of the Royal Commission upon Law Reform has engaged the earnest attention of the Government. As far as remedies can be applied by administration the necessary steps will be taken; and the comprehensive legislation that will be requisite on other points will be prepared in due course.

The advantages of technical training scientifically carried out have become so apparent in late years, that it is obvious that any community which desires to maintain its position in the march of progress must promote technical education. I have consequently appointed a Royal Commission for the purpose of investigating the subject and recommending for adoption a scheme which will provide for a systematic and graduated course of practical instruction.

Public opinion in all civilized lands is gradually awakening to the fact that the care of the aged and destitute is very inadequately undertaken by the community which has profited by their labours, and that those who have helped to build up and maintain a State are themselves entitled to support when no longer able to work. Whilst, however, this right may be readily admitted, the best method of giving effect to it is by no means easy to find, the whole question being surrounded by difficulties. My Advisers, assisted by the valuable labours of the Commission appointed to investigate the question, have prepared a measure which will be laid before you, and which is intended, as far as possible, to meet these difficulties and make suitable provision for the aged poor.

The Factories and Shops Act passed in 1896 will shortly expire by effluxion of time. This measure has been even a greater success than was anticipated in mitigating the evils under which a number of the more poorly paid workers were suffering. You will be asked to re-enact it as a permanent law, and at the same time extend its benefits and remedy such defects as have been discovered in its practical operation.

There will also be submitted to you an amendment of the Water Acts intended to alter the constitution and improve the position of Trusts which have unfortunately been unable to make proper provision for the payment of the interest on money advanced to them by the Government and to place them on a sounder financial footing for the future.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY :

The Estimates for the financial year will be laid before you. While framed with a due regard to economy, it has not been forgotten that the requirements of the country may be best met at this juncture by a judicious increase in expenditure, which was necessarily reduced during a period of depression.

A Bill will also be introduced for the re-enactment, revision, and reduction of the Income Tax.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL :

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY :

The important proposed amendments of the Constitution, abolishing plural voting and giving the franchise to women, which failed to become law during last Session, will be again placed before you.

A measure will be submitted for your consideration to facilitate the settlement of differences between the two Houses of Parliament.

The Bill passed by the Assembly last Session for the purpose of restricting the immigration of undesirable persons did not become law, but as the necessity for the proposed restriction still remains, my Advisers will again submit a measure for your approval.

The Act passed some years ago for the protection of infant life, though valuable, has been found in several respects to be inadequate, and a Bill intended to deal effectively with the evils which the present law cannot reach will be placed before you.

The absolute necessity of a strict supervision over the slaughtering of animals intended for human food has been long admitted. A measure will be submitted to you dealing with this important matter.

The advisableness of adequate inspection of steam-engines, which are now so extensively used in various industries throughout the country, has not escaped the attention of my Advisers. They have prepared a Bill in connexion with this subject, which will be proposed for your consideration.

A number of other proposals dealing with matters of importance will be submitted for your approval as the exigencies of public business permit. Amongst these will be a Bill to suppress the pernicious practice of Usury, and a Bill for the amendment of the law relating to Life Assurance, and also measures for the regulation of the sale of Poisons, the licensing of Hawkers and Pedlers, the eradication of diseases affecting Vegetation, the amendment of the Marriage Act, the effecting of necessary alterations in the Railways Acts, the lowering of Port Dues in certain cases, for Conciliation and Arbitration in Industrial Disputes, for the regulation of Coal Mining, for Compensation to Workmen, for the restriction of Gaming and Betting, and the suppression of Secret Commissions.

I humbly pray that in dealing with these measures, and all others in which the welfare of the country is concerned, your deliberations may, under the blessing of Divine Providence, advance the interests of the community and promote the happiness of the people.

Which being concluded, a copy of the Speech was delivered to the President, and a copy to Mr. Speaker, and His Excellency the Governor left the Chamber.

The Legislative Assembly then withdrew.

3. The President took the Chair and read the Prayer.

4. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS.—The Honorables the President, J. H. Abbott, S. Austin, J. Balfour, F. Brown, T. Brunton, J. C. Campbell, Sir R. T. H. Clarke, Bart., S. W. Cooke, E. J. Crooke, Sir H. Cuthbert, T. Dowling, Dr. W. H. Embling, N. FitzGerald, S. Fraser, G. Godfrey, F. S. Grimwade, C. J. Ham, D. Ham, W. Knox, N. Levi, W. McCulloch, J. Y. McDonald, D. Melville, E. Miller, E. Morey, W. H. S. Osmand, W. Pearson, P. Phillips, W. Pitt, R. Reid, A. O. Sachse, Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood, G. Simmie, Sir A. Snowden, N. Thornley, J. A. Wallace, S. Williamson, W. I. Winter-Irving, Sir H. J. Wrixon, and A. Wynne severally delivered to the Clerk the Declaration required by the thirty-seventh section of the Act No. 1075, as hereunder set forth:—

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, WILLIAM AUSTIN ZEAL, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Six hundred and forty pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal districts of Prahran and South Melbourne, and are known as—

“Parts of Crown portions 14, 17, 18, and 20, parish of Prahran, at Toorak; and part of Crown allotment 3, section I, and Crown allotment 4, section I, and Crown allotment 4, section L, city of South Melbourne, county of Bourke.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Prahran are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Three hundred and ninety-eight pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of South Melbourne are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Two hundred and forty-two pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“W. A. ZEAL.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, JOSEPH HENRY ABBOTT, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Three hundred and nineteen pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal districts of Sandhurst, Echuca, and Strathfieldsaye, and are known as—

“Firstly, part of Crown allotment nine of section twenty-four B, city of Bendigo, parish of Sandhurst, county of Bendigo, particularly described in certificate of title entered in the Register Book, vol. 2586, fol. 517022.

“Secondly, Crown allotment six and six A of section sixty-eight C, Olinda and Gladstone streets, city and parish of Sandhurst, county of Bendigo.

“Thirdly, Crown allotments one, two, and three, section nineteen, parish of Mandurang, county of Bendigo.

“Fourthly, part of allotment thirteen, section one, and part of Crown allotment six of section three, parish of Mandurang, county of Bendigo, particularly described in certificate of title entered in the Register Book, vol. 1353, fol. 270462.

“Fifthly, part of Crown allotment seventeen, section one, parish of Mandurang, county of Bendigo, particularly described in certificate of title entered in the Register Book, vol. 1140, fol. 227959.

“Sixthly, part of Crown allotment three, section six, town of Echuca, parish of Echuca North, county of Rodney, particularly described in certificate of title entered in the Register Book, vol. 1786, fol. 357001.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Bendigo are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and forty pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Strathfieldsaye are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and twenty-seven pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Echuca are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Fifty-two pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“JOSEPH HENRY ABBOTT.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, SIDNEY AUSTIN, of Geelong, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred and sixty-eight pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Winchelsea, and are known as ‘Karngun Paddocks.’

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Winchelsea are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and sixty-eight pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“SIDNEY AUSTIN.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, JAMES BALFOUR, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred and six pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Prahran, and are known as part of Crown portion 18, parish of Prahran.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Prahran are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and six pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“JAMES BALFOUR.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, FREDERICK BROWN, of Beechworth, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred and seven pounds ten shillings above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Beechworth, and are known as ‘Shrublands’—Allotments 2, 3, and 4 of section F, with dwelling-house and out-offices, occupied by me; also allotment 8 of section P¹, 17 of section 4, allotment 2, section 38, and part of allotment 3 of section D, all in the town and parish of Beechworth.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of United Shire of Beechworth are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and seven pounds ten shillings.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“FREDK. BROWN.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, THOMAS BRUNTON, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Four hundred and fifty pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the shire of Broadmeadows, and are known as ‘Roxburgh Park.’

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the shire of Broadmeadows are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Four hundred and fifty pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said land or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“THOMAS BRUNTON.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, JAMES CALLENDER CAMPBELL, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Two hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Brighton, and are known as Myrtle Grove, situate in New-street and North-road, town of Brighton, containing seven and one-half acres or thereabouts, on which is erected a two-storied brick house, containing sixteen rooms; also an allotment of land situate at Elwood-street, Brighton.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Brighton are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and ninety-five pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“JAS. C. CAMPBELL.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, SIR RUPERT TURNER HAVELOCK CLARKE, Bart., do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Two thousand one hundred and eighty-three pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Merriang, and are known as nine thousand seven hundred and five acres, in the parish of Darraweit Guim, No. 4 in the rate-book.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Merriang are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Two thousand one hundred and eighty-three pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“RUPERT T. H. CLARKE.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, SAMUEL WINTER COOKE, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Dundas, and are known as ‘Murudal.’

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Dundas are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One thousand four hundred and sixty pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“SAML. WINTER COOKE.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, EDWARD JOLLEY CROOKE, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Three hundred and sixty pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Rosedale, and are known as portion of ‘The Holy Plain Estate.’

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Rosedale are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Three hundred and sixty pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“E. J. CROOKE.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, HENRY CUTHBERT, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Two hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal districts of Ballarat and shire of Ballarat, and are known as—

- “Part of allotment 4 of sec. 9, city of Ballarat; and
- “Allotment 2 of sec. 14, parish of Ballarat, county of Grenville.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Ballarat are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Eighty pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of the shire of Ballarat are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and twenty pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“HENRY CUTHBERT.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, THOMAS DOWLING, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Two hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal districts of Hampden and Mortlake, and are known as ‘Jellalabad,’ situated on Mount Emu Creek, and bounded on the south by township of Darlington, on the east by lands belonging to Messrs. Cole and Dodds, on the north by station known as ‘Terrinallum,’ and on the west by station known as ‘Mount Fyans.’

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Mortlake are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One thousand seven hundred pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Hampden are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Five hundred and forty-six pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“THOMAS DOWLING.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, WILLIAM HENRY EMBLING, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Two hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of St. Kilda, and are known as ‘Elmwood,’ Chapel-street, St. Kilda.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of St. Kilda are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Two hundred pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“WILLIAM HENRY EMBLING.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, NICHOLAS FITZGERALD, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in St. Kilda, county of Bourke.

“And I further declare that the said lands or tenements are situate in the municipal district of St. Kilda and are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Two hundred and seventy-five pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“N. FITZGERALD.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, SIMON FRASER, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Three hundred and fifty pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Prahran, and are known as ‘Norla,’ Irving-road, Toorak.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Prahran are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Three hundred and fifty pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Prahran are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Three hundred and fifty pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“SIMON FRASER.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, GEORGE GODFREY, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of St. Kilda, and are known as all that piece of land being part of Crown portion 68A, parish of Prahran, at St. Kilda, county of Bourke, and situate in High-street, St. Kilda.

"And I further declare that the said lands or tenements are situate in the municipal district of St. Kilda, and are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Two hundred pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"GEO. GODFREY."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, FREDERICK SHEPPARD GRIMWADE, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Four hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Caulfield, and are known as 'Harleston,' situate at the corner of Balaclava and Orrong roads.

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Caulfield are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Four hundred pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Caulfield are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Four hundred pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"F. S. GRIMWADE."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, CORNELIUS JOB HAM, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred and fifteen pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Melbourne, and are known as tenements No. 70 and 71 Albert ward, in the city of Melbourne.

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Melbourne are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and fifteen pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Melbourne are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and fifteen pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"C. J. HAM."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, DAVID HAM, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Three hundred and fifty pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Ballarat East, and are known as the Exhibition Mart and dwelling-houses situated in Victoria and Main streets.

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Ballarat East are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Three hundred and eighty pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Ballarat East are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Three hundred and eighty pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"DAVID HAM."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, WILLIAM KNOX, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Six hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Malvern, and are known as 'Ranfurlie.'

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Malvern are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Six hundred pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Malvern are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Six hundred pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"WM. KNOX."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, NATHANIEL LEVI, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred and seventy-four pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal districts of city of Melbourne, city of St. Kilda, municipal district of city of South Melbourne, shire of Cranbourne, and shire of Moorabbin, and are known as Printing establishment, situated in Hosier-lane, off Flinders-street east, city of Melbourne; allotment 1 of section 9 x twenty-eight perches and nine-tenths, allotment 2 of section 9 x nineteen perches and eight-tenths, allotment 3 of section 9 x nineteen perches and six-tenths, city of St. Kilda, parish of South Melbourne, county of Bourke; allotments 1 and 2, section 57 c, allotments 1, 44, and 45, section 64 r, allotments 53 and 49, 43 q, and allotment 28, section 43 o, parish of South Melbourne, county of Bourke; allotment 10, village of Lang Lang, two roods; allotment 11, village of Lang Lang, two roods twenty-six perches, parish of Lang Lang, Yallock riding, shire of Cranbourne, county of Mornington; allotment 5, part of Crown portion 28, parish of Moorabbin, South riding, shire of Moorabbin, county of Bourke.

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of city of Melbourne are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Sixty-five pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of city of St. Kilda are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Thirty-two pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of city of South Melbourne are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Seventy-two pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district or shire of Cranbourne are rated in the rate-book of such district or shire upon a yearly value of Three pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district or shire of Moorabbin are rated in the rate-book of such district or shire upon a yearly value of Two pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"NATHL. LEVI."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, WILLIAM McCULLOCH, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Three hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal districts of Avoca, Stawell, and Ararat, and are known as 'Woodlands.'

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal districts of Avoca, Stawell, and Ararat are rated in the rate-book of such districts upon a yearly value of Five thousand five hundred and eighty-three pounds—

"Avoca	...	...	...	£550
"Stawell	...	...	...	4,319
"Ararat	...	...	...	714
				<hr/>
				£5,583

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"W. McCULLOCH."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, JOHN YOUNG McDONALD, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Two hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Ballarat West, and are known as the Edinburgh Buildings.

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Ballarat West are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Two hundred pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Ballarat West are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Two hundred pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"J. Y. McDONALD."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, DONALD MELVILLE, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred and thirty-seven pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal districts of Brunswick, Pyalong, and McIvor, and are known as—

"My residence, situated in Albion-street, West Brunswick, with twenty-eight and one-half acres land; two hundred and six acres land within the shire of Pyalong; and one hundred and forty acres land within the shire of McIvor.

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Brunswick are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Ninety-two pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Pyalong are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Thirty pounds, and that within the municipal district of McIvor at Fifteen pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"D. MELVILLE."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, EDWARD MILLER, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred and forty-five pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such land or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Kew, and are known as part of 'Findon' Estate, being land measuring four acres, situate corner of Barker's-road and Findon-street.

"And I further declare that such said land situate in the municipal district of Kew is rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and forty-five pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said land, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"EDWARD MILLER."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, EDWARD MOREY, of Ballarat, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred and forty-three pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of the city of Ballarat, and are known as assessment 89, Lydiard-street, Eighty pounds; assessment 1493, Armstrong-street, Sixty-three pounds; and are allotments six and nineteen, section nine, city and parish of Ballarat, county of Grenville.

"And I further declare that the said lands or tenements are situate in the municipal district of the city of Ballarat and are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and forty-three pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"E. MOREY."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, WILLIAM HENRY SEVILLE OSMAND, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Four hundred and forty-nine pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of the shire of Stawell, and are known as the Concongella Estate in the parishes of Stawell and Concongella, and 'The Sycamores,' in the parishes of Stawell and Watta Wella.

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Stawell Shire are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Four hundred and forty-nine pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"W. H. S. OSMAND."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, WILLIAM PEARSON, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Two hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of the shire of Wodonga, and are known as 'Bonegilla,' containing five thousand five hundred and eighteen acres or thereabouts.

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of the shire of Wodonga are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Seven hundred pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"WM. PEARSON."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, PHAREZ PHILLIPS, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred and forty-two pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Borung, and are known as land and tenements situate within the township of Warracknabeal.

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Borung are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and forty-two pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"PHAREZ PHILLIPS."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, WILLIAM PITT, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Collingwood, and are known as land, Trenergy-crescent, Collingwood.

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Collingwood are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and fifty pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"WILLIAM PITT."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, ROBERT REID, merchant, Melbourne, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred and twelve pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Beaconsfield, shire of Berwick, and are known as 'Mount Pleasant,' Pakenham, being lots 1, 12, 13, 20, and 47, Pakenham, 448 acres.

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Berwick are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and twelve pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"ROBERT REID."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, ARTHUR OTTO SACHSE, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Two hundred and ninety pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Prahran, and are known as 'Thrapston,' Toorak-road, South Yarra.

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Prahran are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Two hundred and ninety pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"A. O. SACHSE."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, FREDERICK THOMAS SARGOOD, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One thousand two hundred and thirty-five pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Caulfield, and are known as 'Rippon Lea'—

"Forty-six acres of land, with dwelling-house thereon.

"And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Caulfield are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One thousand two hundred and thirty-five pounds.

"And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

"F. T. SARGOOD."

"In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, GEORGE SIMMIE, of Cornelia Creek, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Echuca Shire, and are known as 'Cornelia Creek.'

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Echuca Shire are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One thousand pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“G. SIMMIE.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, ARTHUR SNOWDEN, of 433 Little Collins-street, in the city of Melbourne, barrister and solicitor, and of Saint Hellier’s-street, Abbotsford, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred and six pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Collingwood, and are known as the villa residence called ‘St. Helliers,’ situate in St. Hellier’s-street, Abbotsford, in the said municipal district, and grounds attached thereto, forming my residence, such lands having a frontage of two hundred and thirty-eight feet nine inches to St. Hellier’s-street by a depth of about three hundred feet.

“And I further declare that the said lands or tenements are situate in the municipal district of Collingwood and are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and six pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“ARTHUR SNOWDEN.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, NATHAN THORNLEY, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One thousand four hundred and three pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Minhamite, and are known as ‘Kangatong,’ about 8,000 acres.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Minhamite are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One thousand four hundred and three pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“N. THORNLEY.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, JOHN ALSTON WALLACE, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Two hundred and sixty pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal districts of Towong and Port Melbourne, and are known as—

“No. 1. Lands and tenements situate near Bethanga, electoral district of Benambra, shire of Towong, area six hundred and thirty-nine acres.

“No. 2. Lands and tenements—the Bay View Hotel, situate Beach-street, Port Melbourne.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Towong are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and forty pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Port Melbourne are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and twenty pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“JOHN A. WALLACE.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, SAMUEL WILLIAMSON, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Prabran, and are known as No. 252 Williams-road, Toorak.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Prahran are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and forty pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“SAML. WILLIAMSON.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, WILLIAM IRVING WINTER-IRVING, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Six thousand pounds and upwards above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal districts as hereunder named, and are known as—

“Noorilim, in the shire of Goulburn and Waranga.
 “Carpendeit, „ Heytesbury.
 “Tirrengower, „ Colac.
 “Allotments, „ Tambo.
 “Stanhope, „ Waranga and Deakin.
 “Allotments, in the city of Prahran.
 “Allotments, „ Hawthorn.
 “Allotments, in the shire of Boroondara.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Waranga are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Two thousand nine hundred and forty-six pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Carpendeit are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Five hundred and twenty-seven pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Colac are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Three hundred and ninety-eight pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Tambo are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Six pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Deakin are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Nine hundred pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Prahran are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Six hundred pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Hawthorn are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Three hundred and ninety pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Boroondara are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and twenty pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“WM. I. WINTER-IRVING.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, HENRY JOHN WRIXON, do declare and testify that I am legally seized of an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Two hundred and thirty-eight pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Kew, and are known as land and house, corner of Barker’s-road and Wrixon-street.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Kew are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Two hundred and thirty-eight pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“H. J. WRIXON.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, AGAR WYNNE, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Two hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal districts of Mortlake and Hampden, and are known as ‘Terinallum.’

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Mortlake are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Three thousand one hundred and forty-seven pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Hampden are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Three thousand two hundred and twenty-seven pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“AGAR WYNNE.”

5. DECEASE OF MEMBERS.—The President addressed the Council as follows:—

Since our last meeting death has removed from us two of our Members. I allude to the Honorable James Service and the Honorable J. H. Connor. Mr. Service’s death was an event which profoundly moved the entire community. He had been such a long time in this colony, and had filled the most important offices a subject of Her Majesty could hold. He showed during his term of office a thorough knowledge of parliamentary government in its best and widest sense, and his great financial skill and ability enabled him to frame measures well calculated to develop the resources of this great colony. He may truly be called the Father of Federation, as he initiated and gave life to the Federal Council—a body well fitted, had

all the colonies joined in its deliberations, to bring about that larger Federation all true colonists desire, and all of us hope and believe is now near its accomplishment. Advancing age and the infirmities attendant thereon prevented our departed friend from taking a place in the late Federal Convention, but he watched its proceedings with the attention and regard which was to be expected from one who had striven so much and done so much for the welfare of his adopted country. Mr. Service's labours in the Council did not assume that prominent position which they had done in the Legislative Assembly, but his advice was always at our command, and his never-failing and bright intelligence helped this Council towards legitimate conclusions and right ends. He has gone to his rest, like a shock of corn fully ripe, and he carries with him our most affectionate remembrances and our most sincere regard. As regards our late dear colleague, the Honorable J. H. Connor, he was with us but so short a time since we can hardly realize that he has gone for ever. The district which he so well, so faithfully, and so honestly represented will find the greatest difficulty to fill his place. From the least important question to those of vital interest to his district and to his constituents, Mr. Connor was ever to the fore, and he laboured unceasingly to the end of his life in proving that those who trusted him had chosen well, and had secured one who never neglected his duty. His reward is to be found in the large place he has found in our hearts, and his memory will remain green while life lasts. He goes down to the grave like the good and faithful servant and enters upon his rest, having truly earned his reward.

6. **ISSUE OF AND RETURN TO WRIT.**—The President announced that during the recess he had issued a Writ for the election of a Member to serve for the Melbourne Province, in the place of the Honorable J. Service, deceased; that there had been returned to him such Writ, and by the indorsement thereon it appeared that the Honorable John Mark Davies had been elected in pursuance thereof.

7. **SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER.**—The Honorable J. M. Davies, being introduced, took and subscribed the oath required by law, and delivered to the Clerk the Declaration required by the thirty-seventh section of the Act No. 1075, as hereunder set forth:—

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, JOHN MARK DAVIES, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Lilydale, and are known as Crown allotments fifty-six, fifty-seven, and fifty-eight, parish of Wandin Yallock, county of Evelyn, containing six hundred and twenty-five acres and twenty perches or thereabouts.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Lilydale are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Two hundred and ten pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“JNO. M. DAVIES.”

8. **EVIDENCE LAW AMENDMENT BILL.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Law of Evidence with regard to the Office of Deputy Registrar-General. Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert do prepare and bring in the Bill.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert then brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill to amend the Law of Evidence with regard to the Office of Deputy Registrar-General.*” and moved, That it be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.

9. **PAPERS.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor—

Report by His Honor Sir Hartley Williams, Judge of the Supreme Court, in pursuance of a Commission issued by His Excellency the Governor on 8th May, 1899, directing an Inquiry into certain matters with regard to Land Selection at Mount Macedon.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk:—

Savings Banks.—General Order No. 26.

Water Act 1890—

The Arapiles Shire Council and the Western Wimmera Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Application of Municipal Funds.

Bacchus Marsh Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—

Graduated Rate.—Regulation No. 6 (Draft Form).

Graduated Rate.—Regulation No. 6.

Bairnsdale Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Regulation No. 12.

Benjeroop and Murrabit Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—

Regulation for fixing Charges for Water for 1899.

Rating Regulation.

The Borung Shire Council and the Western Wimmera Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Application of Municipal Funds.

Campaspe Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Rating Regulation.

Water Act 1890—

Cohuna Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—

Additional Loan.

Regulation No. 17.

Regulation providing for the Sale of Water for the year 1899.—Regulation No. 18.

Water-right.

East Boort Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—

Rating Regulation.

Regulation No. 3.

Gunbower West Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—

Constituted.

Regulations for the Election of Commissioners.

Scheme and Plan of Works.

Loan.

Kerang East Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—

Rating Regulation.

Regulation for the Distribution of Water.

Regulation for the Sale of Water.

Proposed Kerang South Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Application under the provisions of the *Water Act* 1890 (No. 1156).—First Petition of Land-owners, together with Engineering Reports, Estimates, Plans, and Documents; as also the Declaration of the Minister of Water Supply thereon.

North Boort Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—

Regulation No. 1.

Rating Regulation.

Rodney Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—

Increase of Trust District.

Loan.

Regulation No. 17 (Draft Form).

Swan Hill Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Rating Regulation.

Tragowel Plains Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—

Rating Divisions.

Graduated Rate.—Regulation No. 15 (Draft Form).

Graduated Rate.—Regulation No. 15.

Twelve-Mile Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—

Rating Regulation.

Regulation.

Rights and Powers of the Western Wimmera Irrigation and Water Supply Trust and the Wimmera United Waterworks Trust in regard to the Division and Diversion of Water from the Wimmera River and Yarriambiack Creek.

Western Wimmera Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—

Regulation No. 25.

Supply of Water to Irrigation Colonies outside the Trust District.

The Wimmera Shire Council and the Western Wimmera Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Application of Municipal Funds.

10. SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—The President reported the Speech of His Excellency the Governor.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That a Committee be appointed to prepare an Address to His Excellency the Governor in reply to His Excellency's Opening Speech.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Committee consist of the Honorables J. M. Davies, J. C. Campbell, T. Dowling, F. S. Grimwade, W. Knox, J. Y. McDonald, and W. Pitt.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

The Committee retired to prepare the Address.

The Honorable J. M. Davies presented the Address which had been agreed to by the Committee, and the same was read by the Clerk, and is as follows:—

To His Excellency the Right Honorable THOMAS, BARON BRASSEY, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath; Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Victoria and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the Legislative Council of Victoria, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Council agree with the Committee in the said Address. Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor by the President and such Members of the Council as may wish to accompany him.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

11. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to amend the provisions of the *Companies Act* 1890 relating to Life Assurance and for other purposes.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert do prepare and bring in the Bill.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill to amend the provisions of the 'Companies Act 1890' relating to Life Assurance and for other purposes,*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.

12. **MEAT SUPERVISION BILL.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for the proper supervision of the Slaughtering of Animals and the Sale of Meat and for other purposes.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert do prepare and bring in the Bill.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for the proper supervision of the Slaughtering of Animals and the Sale of Meat and for other purposes,*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.

13. **ADJOURNMENT.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next at half-past four o'clock.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at fourteen minutes past nine o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 1.

TUESDAY, 4TH JULY, 1899.

Question.

1. The Hon. S. FRASER : To call attention to the non-publication of the Year-Book of Victoria and to impress upon the Government the urgent need for the immediate resumption of its publication.

NOTICES OF MOTION :—

1. The Hon. Sir H. CUTHBERT : To move, That Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in each week be the days on which the Council shall meet for despatch of business during the present Session, and that half-past Four o'clock be the hour of meeting on each day ; that on Tuesday and Thursday in each week the transaction of Government business shall take precedence of all other business ; and that on Wednesday in each week Private Members' business shall take precedence of Government business.
2. The Hon. Sir H. CUTHBERT : To move, That the Honorables the President, S. Austin, J. Balfour, J. Bell, S. W. Cooke, N. FitzGerald, Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood, Sir A. Snowden, N. Thornley, and Sir H. J. Wrixon be Members of the Select Committee on the Standing Orders of the House ; three to be the quorum.
3. The Hon. Sir H. CUTHBERT : To move, That the Honorables the President, J. H. Abbott, S. Fraser, W. Pitt, and W. I. Winter-Irving be Members of the Joint Committee to manage and superintend the Parliament Buildings.
4. The Hon. Sir H. CUTHBERT : To move, That the Honorables the President, C. J. Ham, D. Melville, Sir H. J. Wrixon, and the Mover be Members of the Joint Committee to manage the Library.
5. The Hon. Sir H. CUTHBERT : To move, That the Honorables Dr. W. H. Embling, E. Morey, J. M. Pratt, A. O. Sachse, and J. A. Wallace be Members of the Joint Committee to manage the Refreshment Rooms.
6. The Hon. Sir H. CUTHBERT : To move, That the Honorables the President, T. Brunton, Sir R. T. H. Clarke, Bart., G. Godfrey, D. Ham, W. Knox, N. Levi, P. Phillips, R. Reid, and J. Sternberg be Members of the Printing Committee ; three to be the quorum.
7. The Hon. Sir H. J. WRIXON : To move, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to provide Compensation to Workmen for injuries sustained in the course of their employment.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. EVIDENCE LAW AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
3. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 27TH JUNE, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 1.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 1.
Australasian Federation Enabling Bill—[47].

VICTORIA.

No. 2.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 4TH JULY, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS.—The Honorables J. Bell, T. Comrie, J. M. Pratt, and J. Sternberg severally delivered to the Clerk the Declaration required by the thirty-seventh section of the Act No. 1075, as hereunder set forth :—

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, JAMES BELL, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred and sixty-five pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment ; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Dunolly, and are known as my property, being allotments 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9 of section 26, and allotments 8^b and 9 of section 12, town of Dunolly.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Dunolly are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and sixty-five pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“JAMES BELL.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, THOMAS COMRIE, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred and forty pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment ; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Tarnagulla, and are known as Crown allotments 11 and 11A of section thirteen, township and parish of Tarnagulla, county of Gladstone.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Tarnagulla are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred and forty pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“THOMAS COMRIE.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, JOSEPH MAJOR PRATT, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of Two hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment ; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Melbourne, and are known as all that piece of land containing thirty-six perches and three-tenths of a perch or thereabouts, being part of Crown allotment four, section fourteen, city of Melbourne, parish of North Melbourne, at East Melbourne, county of Bourke.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Melbourne are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Two hundred pounds sterling.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“J. M. PRATT.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, JOSEPH STERNBERG, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seised of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of over One hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal districts of the shires of Deakin and Echuca, and are known as—firstly, Crown allotments 91, 92, 93, and 133, parish of Kyabram, county of Rodney, in the municipal district of the shire of Deakin; secondly, Crown allotments 39A, 39B, 40A, 40B, and 41B, parish of Carag Carag, county of Rodney, in the municipal district of the shire of Deakin; thirdly, Crown allotments 4 and 5, section 1A, township and parish of Rochester, county of Bendigo, in the municipal district of the shire of Echuca, particularly described in the certificate of title entered in the Register Book, vol. 1190, fol. 237802; fourthly, part of Crown allotment 3, section 3A, township of Rochester, parish of Rochester West, county of Bendigo, particularly described in the certificate of title entered in the Register Book, vol. 1828, fol. 365402, and which land is situated in the municipal district of the shire of Echuca; fifthly, allotment 64, parish of Rochester West, county of Bendigo, in the municipal district of the shire of Echuca.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of the shire of Deakin, and are firstly above described, are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Fifty-five pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of the shire of Deakin, and are secondly above described, are rated in the rate-book of such district upon the yearly value of Thirty-six pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of the shire of Echuca, and are thirdly above described, are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Thirty-five pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of the shire of Echuca, and are fourthly above described, are rated in the rate-book of such district upon the yearly value of Twenty pounds; and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of the shire of Echuca, and are fifthly above described, are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Ten pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“JOSEPH STERNBERG.”

5. PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—The President reported that he had, that day, waited upon His Excellency the Governor and had presented to him the Address of the Legislative Council agreed to on the 27th ultimo, and that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

In the name and on behalf of our Most Gracious Sovereign, I beg to thank you for the expression of loyalty contained in the Address which you have presented. I fervently hope that the outcome of your deliberations may tend to develop the welfare of this part of Her Majesty's dominions.

BRASSEY.

Government Offices,
Melbourne, 4th July, 1899.

6. PAPERS.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor—
- Australasian Statistics for the year 1897.
 - Annual Report on British New Guinea from 1st July, 1897, to 30th June, 1898; with Appendices.
 - Thirty-third Report of the Board of Visitors to the Observatory; together with the Report of the Government Astronomer for the period from 1st July, 1898, to 28th February, 1899.
 - Penal Establishments and Gaols.—Report of the Inspector-General for the year 1898.
 - Public Service Board.—Report.
 - Refrigerating Stores and Central Wine Depôt.—Interim Report of the Royal Commission on Refrigerating Stores and Central Wine Depôt.
 - Third Progress Report of the Royal Commission on State Forests and Timber Reserves.—The Redgum Forests of Barmah and Gunbower; their Resources, Management, and Control.
 - Statistical Register of the Colony of Victoria for the year 1897—
 - Appendix to Part IV.—Population.—Municipal Finances.
 - Part VII.—Accumulation.
 - Part VIII.—Law, Crime, &c.
 - Part IX.—Social Condition.
 - Statistical Register of the Colony of Victoria for the year 1898.—Part I.—Blue Book.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk:—

Agricultural Education.—Accounts of the Trustees of Agricultural Colleges and the Council of Agricultural Education from 1st July, 1898, to 31st December, 1898.

- Defences and Discipline Act 1890—
 Victorian Military Forces—
 Alteration of Regulations.—Part VII.—Section II.
 Alteration of Regulations.—Part I.—Section II.
 Victorian Naval Forces—
 Addition to Regulations.—Part II.—Section VII.
 Alteration of Regulations.—Part II.—Sections III. and VII.
 Victorian Naval and Military Forces—
 Addition to Financial and Store Regulations.—Part II.—Section I.
 Alteration of Financial and Store Regulations.—Part VII.—Section III.
 Alteration of Financial and Store Regulations.—Part IV.—Section I.
 Volunteer Cadet Corps.—Alteration of Regulations.
 Dental Board of Victoria.—Regulations.
 Education Act 1890.—Alteration of Regulations.
 Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Work-rooms, and Shops for the year ended 31st December, 1898.
 Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.—Statements of Accounts and Balance-sheet, together with Schedule of Contracts for year ended 30th June, 1898.
 Report of the Country Fire Brigades Board for the year ended 31st December, 1898, together with Statement of Receipts and Expenditure and Assets and Liabilities for that period.
 Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board—
 Report for the year ended 31st December, 1898.
 Alteration of Regulations.
 Twentieth Annual Report on Friendly Societies.—Report of the Actuary for Friendly Societies for the year 1897, to which are appended the Valuations, Contributions, and Benefits, Statistics of Friendly Societies, &c.
 Land Act 1890.—Section 85.—Schedule of Swamp Leases containing Special Conditions.
 Land Act 1890.—Part I.—
 Alteration of Regulations.—Chapter V. and Schedule 70.
 Alteration of Regulations.—Chapters XI., XIII. and Schedule 71.
 Additional Regulation.—Chapter XI.
 Land Acts—
 Alteration of Regulations under the *Mallee Lands Act* 1896.
 Alteration of Regulations under the *Mallee Lands Act* 1896.
 Department for Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools.—Report of the Secretary and Inspector for the year 1898.
 Post Office Acts 1890 and 1897—
 Certificate of Posting.—Intercolonial Parcels.
 Rates on Parcels exchanged between Victoria and Germany by German Steamers.
 Rates on Telegrams from Victoria to Queensland.
 Insurance of Parcels.
 Regulations in connexion with the Insurance of Parcels.
 Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria—
 Report of the Trustees of the—for 1898, with a Statement of Income and Expenditure for the financial year 1897–8.
 Regulations.
 Public Service Acts.—Regulations.
 The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways.—Seventh General Report.
 Victorian Railways—
 Report of the Victorian Railways Commissioner for the quarter ending 31st December, 1898.
 Report of the Victorian Railways Commissioner for the quarter ending 31st March, 1899.
 Thirteenth Annual Report on Trade Unions.—Report of the Actuary for Friendly Societies for the year 1898, with an Appendix.
 Settlement on Lands Act 1893.—Regulations.
 Water Act 1890—
 Koondrook and Myall Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—
 Rating Regulation.
 Regulation for fixing Charges for Water for 1899.
 Rodney Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Graduated Rate.—Regulation No. 17.
 Wattles Act 1890.—Section 10.—Issue of a Lease.

7. DAYS OF BUSINESS.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in each week be the days on which the Council shall meet for despatch of business during the present Session, and that Half-past Four o'clock be the hour of meeting on each day; that on Tuesday and Thursday in each week the transaction of Government business shall take precedence of all other business; and that on Wednesday in each week Private Members' business shall take precedence of Government business.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

8. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Honorables the President, S. Austin, J. Balfour, J. Bell, S. W. Cooke, N. FitzGerald, Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood, Sir A. Snowden, N. Thornley, and Sir H. J. Wrixon be Members of the Select Committee on the Standing Orders of the House; three to be the quorum.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

9. **PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS COMMITTEE.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Honorables the President, J. H. Abbott, S. Fraser, W. Pitt, and W. I. Winter-Irving be Members of the Joint Committee to manage and superintend the Parliament Buildings.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
10. **LIBRARY COMMITTEE.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, pursuant to amended notice, That the Honorables the President, F. S. Grimwade, C. J. Ham, D. Melville, and Sir H. J. Wrixon be Members of the Joint Committee to manage the Library.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
11. **REFRESHMENT ROOMS COMMITTEE.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Honorables Dr. W. H. Embling, E. Morey, J. M. Pratt, A. O. Sachse, and J. A. Wallace be Members of the Joint Committee to manage the Refreshment Rooms.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
12. **PRINTING COMMITTEE.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Honorables the President, T. Brunton, Sir R. T. H. Clarke, Bart., G. Godfrey, D. Ham, W. Knox, N. Levi, P. Phillips, R. Reid, and J. Sternberg be Members of the Printing Committee; three to be the quorum.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
13. **WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL.**—The Honorable Sir H. J. Wrixon moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to provide Compensation to Workmen for Injuries sustained in the course of their Employment.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the Honorable Sir H. J. Wrixon do prepare and bring in the Bill.
The Honorable Sir H. J. Wrixon then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill to provide Compensation to Workmen for Injuries sustained in the course of their Employment,*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Wednesday, 12th July instant.
14. **DECEASE OF MEMBER.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That this House desires to place on record its deep sense of the loss which it has sustained through the death of the Honorable James Service. The high character which distinguished him as a Minister of the Crown and Member of Parliament during the whole of his long and useful political career, his devoted labours in Parliament and in the great offices of State, and the valuable services rendered by him to this colony caused him to be regarded by all classes of the community with honour and respect. His death is most deeply deplored, by none more than by this Council, whose deliberations were so greatly aided by his long experience and matured wisdom.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
15. **EVIDENCE LAW AMENDMENT BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.
On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—
"*An Act to amend the Law of Evidence with regard to the Office of Deputy Registrar-General.*"
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the Bill be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly with a Message desiring their concurrence therein.
16. **LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.
Resolved—That the Council will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

17. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Order of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—

Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading.

18. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to amend the ‘ Australasian Federation Enabling Act (Victoria) 1896,’*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 4th July, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

19. AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION ENABLING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to amend the ‘ Australasian Federation Enabling Act (Victoria) 1896,’*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.

And then the Council, at two minutes past six o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 2.

WEDNESDAY, 5TH JULY, 1899.

Questions.

1. The Hon. J. BALFOUR: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the extract from the *London Gazette*, dated 10th April, 1897, which was presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command, and which is as follows:—

“Downing-street, 10th April, 1897.

“The Queen has been graciously pleased to signify Her approval that Members of the Legislative Councils in certain Colonies possessing Responsible Government may, on retirement or resignation after a continuous service in such Councils of not less than ten years, be eligible to be recommended by the Governors of such Colonies for Her Majesty's permission to retain the title of ‘Honorable;’”

and to ask whether the Ministry will, in accordance therewith, advise the Governor to recommend that Mr. James Buchanan should be permitted to retain the title “Honorable” in recognition of his long and valuable services as a Member of this House.

2. The Hon. G. GODFREY: To call the attention of the House to the recent proceedings in the Coroner's Court, Melbourne, in the O'Callaghan case, and to ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General whether the Government will bring in a Bill to limit the powers of the Coroner's Court to the same powers as are exercised by other courts of justice in the colony.
3. The Hon. J. STERNBERG: To ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General whether, in view of the great damage done by the late flood-waters in the various parts of the colony, the Government will make arrangements whereby full information in regard to the rainfall and state of the rivers will be registered at all police stations during times of likely floods in order that such information may be telegraphed to townships situated on such rivers as may be affected by these floods.
4. The Hon. G. GODFREY: To call the attention of the House to the recent prosecutions in the courts of one Joseph Flanagan for embezzlement, and to his acquittal by two juries; and to ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General why, in view of the circumstances, the Government have allowed a third prosecution to be proceeded with.

General Business.

NOTICE OF MOTION:—

1. The Hon. Sir A. SNOWDEN: To move, That the question of the proper procedure to be observed in dealing with Bills which amend *The Constitution Act*, or which amend Acts amending that Act, and the question raised on the third reading of the Plural Voting Abolition Bill, last Session, as to whether that Bill came within the meaning of section 60 of *The Constitution Act*, be referred to the Standing Orders Committee for consideration and report.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION ENABLING ACT AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.

TUESDAY, 11TH JULY.

Question.

1. The Hon. S. FRASER: To call attention to the non-publication of the Year-Book of Victoria and to impress upon the Government the urgent need for the immediate resumption of its publication.

(120 copies.)

WEDNESDAY, 12TH JULY.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY:—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 29TH JUNE, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 2.

Australasian Federation Enabling Bill—[47]. (To Members of Council only.)

Life Assurance Companies Bill.—Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. J. M. Pratt. (To Members of Council only.)

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 4.

Weekly Report of Divisions. No. 1.

Railway Lands Acquisition Bill—[2].

Local Government Bill—[10].

The Constitution Act Amendment Bill—[14].

Woman Suffrage Bill—[15].

Usury Prevention Bill—[16].

Hawkers and Pedlers Bill—[24].

Boilers Inspection Bill—[29].

Metropolitan Hackney Carriages Bill—[30].

Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company's Bill—[39].

Kerang Agricultural Show Yards Sale Bill—[42].

Geelong Market Site Bill—[56].

Vermin Destruction Bill—[58].

Law of Libel Amendment Bill—[59].

Australasian Federation Enabling Bill—Amendments and New Clauses to be proposed by Sir George Turner. (To Members only.)

VICTORIA.

No. 3.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 5TH JULY, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Sir H. J. Wrixon having stated his desire to move, That the House do now adjourn, six Members rose in their places and required the motion to be proposed. The Honorable Sir H. J. Wrixon then said that he proposed to speak on the subject of the powers of the Coroner's Court, and moved, That the House do now adjourn. Question—put and negatived.
5. PAPER.—The following Paper, pursuant to the directions of an Act of Parliament, was laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—
Hospitals for the Insane.—Report of the Inspector of Lunatic Asylums for the year ended 31st December, 1898.
6. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable D. Melville having stated his desire to move, That the House do now adjourn, six Members rose in their places and required the motion to be proposed. The Honorable D. Melville then said that he proposed to speak on the subject of the recent prosecution of Joseph Flanagan, and moved, That the House do now adjourn. Question—put and negatived.
7. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT.—The Honorable Sir A. Snowden moved, That the question of the proper procedure to be observed in dealing with Bills which amend *The Constitution Act*, or which amend Acts amending that Act, and the question raised on the third reading of the Plural Voting Abolition Bill, last Session, as to whether that Bill came within the meaning of section 60 of *The Constitution Act*, be referred to the Standing Orders Committee for consideration and report. Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
8. POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to further amend the *Poisons Act 1890*. Question—put and resolved in the affirmative. Ordered—That the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert do prepare and bring in the Bill. The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill to further amend the 'Poisons Act 1890,'*" and moved, That it be now read a first time. Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.
9. AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION ENABLING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time. Debate ensued. Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time. The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole. Question—put and resolved in the affirmative. And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee. The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a third time.

The President said :—It has been suggested to me by Mr. Knox that it would be interesting to have the names of the honorable Members voting for the third reading of the Bill recorded. It will not be necessary to take a division. If honorable Members who are in favour of the Bill will pass to the right of the Chair, I will instruct the Clerk to record their names.

Question—put.

The Clerk having reported that the names of the following Members had been recorded as having voted for the third reading of the Bill, viz.:—The Honorables J. H. Abbott, J. Balfour, J. Bell, F. Brown, J. C. Campbell, T. Comrie, S. W. Cooke, Sir H. Cuthbert, J. M. Davies, T. Dowling, Dr. W. H. Embling, N. FitzGerald, G. Godfrey, F. S. Grimwade, D. Ham, W. Knox, N. Levi, J. Y. McDonald, D. Melville, E. Miller, E. Morey, W. H. S. Osmand, W. Pitt, J. M. Pratt, R. Reid, A. O. Sachse, Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood, Sir A. Snowden, N. Thornley, W. I. Winter-Irving, Sir H. J. Wrixon, and A. Wynne—

The President declared the question to have been resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a third time and passed.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ *An Act to amend the Australasian Federation Enabling Act (Victoria) 1896.* ”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next :—

Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading.

11. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at thirty-one minutes past six o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,

Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 3.

TUESDAY, 11TH JULY, 1899.

Questions.

1. The Hon. S. FRASER : To call attention to the non-publication of the Year-Book of Victoria and to impress upon the Government the urgent need for the immediate resumption of its publication.
2. The Hon. J. STERNBERG : To ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General whether, in view of the great damage done by the late flood-waters in the various parts of the colony, the Government will make arrangements whereby full information in regard to the rainfall and state of the rivers will be registered at all police stations during times of likely floods, in order that such information may be telegraphed to townships situated on such rivers as may be affected by these floods.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 12TH JULY.

Question.

1. The Hon. N. LEVI : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to some of the papers and books supplied to pupils in State schools, which re-introduce sectarian and dogmatic religious teachings ; and to ask if it is not an indirect violation, and contrary to the express terms and spirit, of the present Education Act, as approved by the people and Parliament of Victoria, which Act distinctly sets forth it is to be a national system based upon a purely free, secular, and compulsory education.

General Business.

NOTICE OF MOTION :—

1. The Hon. F. S. GRIMWADE : To move, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to regulate cremation and for other purposes.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 5TH JULY, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 3.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 5.

Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company's Bill—[39]. (To Members only)

Local Government Bill—[48].

Constitution Act Amendment Bill—[49].

Mines Bill—[60].

Statistical Register of Colony of Victoria for Year 1897—

Part VII.—Accumulation. No. 2.

Part VIII.—Law, Crime, &c. No. 3.

Appendix to Part IV.—Population. Municipal Finances. No. 4.

Part IX.—Social Condition. No. 5.

Australasian Statistics for Year 1897. No. 7.

Statistical Register of Colony of Victoria for Year 1893.—Part I.—Blue Book. No. 10.

Thirty-third Report of Board of Visitors to Observatory, &c., from 1st July, 1898, to 28th February, 1899.
No. 12.

Agricultural Education.—Accounts of Trustees of Agricultural Colleges, &c., from 1st July to 31st
December, 1898. No. 19.

Report of Chief Inspector of Factories, &c., for Year 1898. No. 27.

VICTORIA.

No. 4.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 11TH JULY, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. ISSUE OF WRIT.—The President announced that, since the adjournment of the Council, he had issued a Writ for the election of a Member to serve for the South-Western Province, in the place of the Honorable Joseph Henry Connor, deceased.
5. THE COMMITTEE OF ELECTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS.—The President laid upon the Table the following Warrant, appointing the Committee of Elections and Qualifications:—

VICTORIA.

Pursuant to the provisions of *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1890*, I do hereby appoint—

The Honorable Joseph Henry Abbott,
 The Honorable James Bell,
 The Honorable Frederick Brown,
 The Honorable Sir Henry Cuthbert,
 The Honorable Edward Miller,
 The Honorable Pharez Phillips, and
 The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir Frederick Thomas Sargood

to be Members of a Committee to be called "The Committee of Elections and Qualifications."

Given under my hand this eleventh day of July, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine.

W. A. ZEAL,
 President of the Legislative Council.

6. PAPERS.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor—
 - Land Selection at Mount Macedon.—Commission, Report, and Evidence.
 - Report on the System of dealing with the Unemployed, the Co-operative Works System, Improved Farm Settlements, Workmen's Homes, the State Farm, Conciliation and Arbitration Act, Resumption, Subdivision, and Settlement of Estates under *Land for Settlements Act 1894* of New Zealand, by the Honorable R. W. Best, M.L.A. (Minister for Lands), and W. A. Trenwith, Esq., M.L.A.
 - Fourth Progress Report of the Royal Commission on State Forests and Timber Reserves.—Wombat Forest: its Resources, Management, and Control.
 - Law Reform.—Report of Royal Commission for inquiring as to the means of avoiding unnecessary delay and expense, and of making Improvements in the Administration of Justice and in the working of the Law; together with Minutes of Evidence and Appendices.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—

- Defences and Discipline Act 1890.—Victorian Naval and Military Forces.—Alteration of Financial and Store Regulations.—Part VII.
- Water Act 1890.—The Dimboola Shire Council and the Western Wimmera Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Application of Municipal Funds.
- Customs Act 1890.—Schedules 1 and 2 to Drawback Regulations Amended.
- Customs and Excise Duties Act 1890—
Alteration of Regulations relating to the Sale of Tobacco, Cigars, and Snuff.
Minor Articles.—Wire Springs for attaching Metal Covers to ordinary Jugs.
Surgical Appliances or Instruments.—Adjustable Fountain Spittoons (Dentists’).
- Customs and Excise Duties Act 1895—
Minor Articles.—Push Pieces.
Surgical Appliances or Instruments.—“Tallerman Hot Air Apparatus” for Gout, Rheumatism, &c.
- Fisheries Act 1890.—Close Season.—Wombat Creek, Parish of Wombat.
- Marine Act 1890—
Amended Regulations relating to Pilots and Pilotage.
Equipment of Ships with Life-saving Appliances.—Amended Regulations.
Ports in Victoria.—Additional Regulation.—Navigation of South Channel, Port Phillip.
Ports in Victoria.—Additional Regulation.—Navigation of South Channel, Port Phillip.
Ports in Victoria.—Additional Regulation.—Port of Port Phillip.
- Marine Acts.—Additional and Amended Regulations for the Licensing of Boats and Boatmen and the Equipment of Boats.
- Marine Act 1897 and the Merchant Shipping Act 1894—Forms for use under the.
- Explosives Act 1890—
Keeping of Explosives.—Alteration of Regulations.
Addition to List of Explosives authorized for Importation into and Manufacture in Victoria.—Nitro-Compounds.

7. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor was presented by the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, and the same was read by the Honorable the President :—

BRASSEY,
Governor.

Message No. 1.

The Governor informs the Legislative Council that he has, on this day, at the Government Offices, given the Royal Assent to the undermentioned Act of the present Session, presented to him by the Clerk of the Parliaments, viz.:—

“ *An Act to amend the ‘ Australasian Federation Enabling Act (Victoria) 1896.’* ”

Government Offices,
Melbourne, 7th July, 1899.

8. PETITION.—The Honorable Dr. W. H. Embling presented a Petition from the President and Councillors of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye, praying that the Council would reject the Meat Supervision Bill or would amend it by striking out all reference to the Board of Public Health, and leaving the administration of purely local matters to local authority.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Committee on the Meat Supervision Bill.

9. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “ *An Act to amend the Local Government Acts with regard to Valuations,* ” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 11th July, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

10. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “ *An Act to amend the Local Government Acts with regard to Valuations,* ” be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 1st August next.

11. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “ *An Act to further amend the ‘ Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1890,’* ” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 11th July, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

12. MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to further amend the ‘Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1890,’*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 1st August next.

13. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to provide for the Incorporation and Government of the Prahran Mechanics’ Institute,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 11th July, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

14. PRAHRAN MECHANICS’ INSTITUTE BILL.—The Honorable G. Godfrey moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to provide for the Incorporation and Government of the Prahran Mechanics’ Institute,*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 1st August next.

15. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to provide for the Sale of the Show Yards at Kerang,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 11th July, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

16. KERANG SHOW YARDS SALE BILL.—The Honorable J. Bell moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to provide for the Sale of the Show Yards at Kerang,*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 1st August next.

17. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to prohibit Indecent or Obscene Advertisements,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 11th July, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

18. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL.—The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to prohibit Indecent or Obscene Advertisements,*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 1st August next.

19. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act for the Incorporation of the Mechanics’ Institute at Geelong and for other purposes,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 11th July, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

20. GEELONG MECHANICS’ INSTITUTE BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. J. Wrixon moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act for the Incorporation of the Mechanics’ Institute at Geelong and for other purposes,*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 1st August next.

21. **MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
 The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “ *An Act to further amend the ‘Local Government Act 1890,’*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.
 Legislative Assembly,
 Melbourne, 11th July, 1899.
 F. C. MASON,
 Speaker.
22. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1).**—The Honorable J. H. Abbott moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “ *An Act to further amend the ‘Local Government Act 1890,’*” be now read a first time.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 1st August next.
23. **ADJOURNMENT.**—The Honorable N. Thornley having stated his desire to move, That the House do now adjourn, six Members rose in their places and required the motion to be proposed.
 The Honorable N. Thornley then said that he proposed to speak on the subject of Proportional Voting in Elections for the Senate under the Commonwealth Constitution Bill, and moved, That the House do now adjourn.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and negatived.
24. **POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate ensued.
 The Honorable A. O. Sachse moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
 Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, 1st August next.
25. **MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
 The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “ *An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Five hundred and eighty-four thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.
 Legislative Assembly,
 Melbourne, 11th July, 1899.
 F. C. MASON,
 Speaker.
26. **CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 1).**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “ *An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Five hundred and eighty-four thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred,*” be now read a first time.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.
 The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
 The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
 The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.
 On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
 The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—
 “ *An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Five hundred and eighty-four thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred.*”
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.
27. **MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
 The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “ *An Act to amend the Railway Lands Acquisition Acts,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.
 Legislative Assembly,
 Melbourne, 11th July, 1899.
 F. C. MASON,
 Speaker.

28. RAILWAY LANDS ACQUISITION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to amend the Railway Lands Acquisition Acts*,” be now read a first time.
- Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.
- The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
- Debate ensued.
- Question—put and resolved in the affirmative—Bill read a second time.
- The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
- Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
- And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
- The President resumed the Chair ; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.
- On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
- And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
- The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—
- “*An Act to amend the Railway Lands Acquisition Acts.*”
- Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
- Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.
29. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday, 1st August next :—
- Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—To be further considered in Committee.*
- Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading.*
30. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 1st August next.
- Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at thirty-one minutes past six o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday, 1st August next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 4.

TUESDAY, 1ST AUGUST, 1899.

Questions.

1. The Hon. J. STERNBERG : To ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General whether, in view of the great damage done by the late flood-waters in the various parts of the colony, the Government will make arrangements whereby full information in regard to the rainfall and state of the rivers will be registered at all police stations during times of likely floods, in order that such information may be telegraphed to townships situated on such rivers as may be affected by these floods.
2. The Hon. A. O. SACHSE : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to an account in the *Argus* and *Age* newspapers, published on 24th June, of an arrest of two housebreakers by a police sergeant named Rogerson, an officer connected with the Armadale Police Station ; and to ask whether the Government will cause some special reward or special promotion to be given to Sergeant Rogerson in recognition of the heroic conduct and bravery shown by him, the successful capture of the offenders, and the painful injuries suffered by that gallant man.
3. The Hon. N. LEVI : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to some of the papers and books supplied to pupils in State schools, which re-introduce sectarian and dogmatic religious teachings ; and to ask if it is not an indirect violation, and contrary to the express terms and spirit, of the present Education Act, as approved by the people and Parliament of Victoria, which Act distinctly sets forth it is to be a national system based upon a purely free, secular, and compulsory education.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.

General Business.

NOTICE OF MOTION :—

1. The Hon. F. S. GRIMWADE : To move, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to regulate cremation and for other purposes.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—Second reading.
2. MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
3. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
4. KERANG SHOW YARDS SALE BILL—Second reading.
5. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.
6. GEELONG MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)—Second reading.
8. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 6TH JULY, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 4.

Local Government Bill No. 1—[10]. (To Members of Council only.)

Indecent Publications Bill—[32]. (To Members of Council only.)

Prahran Mechanics' Institute Bill—[37]. (To Members of Council only.)

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Bill—[38]. (To Members of Council only.)

Geelong Mechanics' Institute Bill.—[40]. (To Members of Council only.)

Kerang Agricultural Show Yards Sale Bill—[42]. (To Members of Council only.)

Local Government Bill No. 2—[54]. (To Members of Council only.)

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 4, 5, and 6.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 7.

Land Bill—[65].

VICTORIA.

No. 5.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 1ST AUGUST, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. DECLARATION OF MEMBER.—The Honorable J. Hoddinott delivered to the Clerk the Declaration required by the thirty-seventh section of the Act No. 1075, as hereunder set forth :—

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, JOSEPH HODDINOTT, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of over One hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai, and are known as Crown allotments eleven, twelve, and thirteen, in the parish of Woolamai, county of Mornington.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Phillip Island and Woolamai are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Three hundred and eighty pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“J. HODDINOTT.”

5. RETURN TO WRIT.—The President announced that there had been returned to him the Writ he had issued for the election of a Member to serve for the South-Western Province, in the place of the Honorable J. H. Connor, deceased; and by the indorsement on such Writ it appeared that Thomas Charles Harwood had been elected in pursuance thereof.
6. SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER.—The Honorable T. C. Harwood, being introduced, took and subscribed the oath required by law, and delivered to the Clerk the Declaration required by the thirty-seventh section of the Act No. 1075, as hereunder set forth :—

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, THOMAS CHARLES HARWOOD, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred pounds and upwards above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal districts of Newtown and Chilwell and Queenscliff, and are known respectively as ‘Hawthorn,’ Skene-street, Newtown, Geelong, and ‘Graylings,’ Swanston-street, Queenscliff.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Newtown and Chilwell are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of One hundred pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Queenscliff are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Eighty pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or hereditaments, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“THOS. C. HARWOOD.”

7. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to amend the ‘Vermin Destruction Act 1890,’*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 1st August, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

8. VERMIN DESTRUCTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to amend the ‘Vermin Destruction Act 1890,’*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.

9. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor was presented by the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, and the same was read by the Honorable the President :—

BRASSEY,

Governor.

Message No. 2.

The Governor informs the Legislative Council that he has, on this day, at the Government Offices, given the Royal Assent to the undermentioned Act of the present Session, presented to him by the Clerk of the Parliaments, viz :—

“*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Five hundred and eighty-four thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred.*”

Government Offices,
Melbourne, 12th July, 1899.

10. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor was presented by the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, and the same was read by the Honorable the President :—

BRASSEY,

Governor.

Message No. 3.

The Governor informs the Legislative Council that he has, on this day, at the Government Offices, given the Royal Assent to the undermentioned Act of the present Session, presented to him by the Clerk of the Parliaments, viz :—

“*An Act to amend the Railway Lands Acquisition Acts.*”

Government Offices,
Melbourne, 17th July, 1899.

11. PAPERS.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor—

Statistical Register of the Colony of Victoria for the year 1898—

Part II.—Interchange.

Part III.—Finance, &c.

Part IV.—Population (exclusive of Municipal Finances).

Royal Commission on Technical Education.—Progress Report on Primary Instruction.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—

Water Act 1890—

Leaghur and Meering Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—

Regulation for the Sale and Distribution of Water.

Rating Regulation.

Mooroopna Waterworks Trust.—Application for Additional Loan of £300.

Wodonga Waterworks Trust.—Application for Additional Loan of £500.

Yatchaw Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Rating Regulation.

Defences and Discipline Act 1890—

Victorian Military Forces.—Alteration of Regulations, Part VII.

Victorian Naval and Military Forces.—Alteration of Financial and Store Regulations, Part VII.

Bank Liabilities and Assets.—Summary of Sworn Returns for the quarter ended 30th September, 1898.

12. PETITION.—The Honorable Sir A. Snowden presented a Petition from certain news agents in the colony of Victoria praying that the Council would make certain amendments in clauses 4 and 5 of the Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill.

Ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Committee on the Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill.

13. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at five o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,

Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 5.

TUESDAY, 8TH AUGUST, 1899.

Questions.

1. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the statement made by him at the end of last Session in reference to certain correspondence between the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies and Sir Thomas Sutherland relative to the Immigration Restriction Bill.
2. The Hon. N. LEVI: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to some of the papers and books supplied to pupils in State schools, which re-introduce sectarian and dogmatic religious teachings; and to ask if it is not an indirect violation, and contrary to the express terms and spirit, of the present Education Act, as approved by the people and Parliament of Victoria, which Act distinctly sets forth it is to be a national system based upon a purely free, secular, and compulsory education.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.

General Business.

NOTICE OF MOTION :—

1. The Hon. F. S. GRIMWADE: To move, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to regulate cremation and for other purposes.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. VERMIN DESTRUCTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—Second reading.
3. MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
4. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
5. KERANG SHOW YARDS SALE BILL—Second reading.
6. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.
7. GEELONG MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)—Second reading.
9. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 11TH JULY, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 5.

Vermin Destruction Bill—[58]. (To Members of Council only.)

Life Assurance Companies Bill.—Amendments and New Clause to be proposed by the Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert. Amendments and New Sub-sections to be proposed by the Hon. J. M. Davies. (To Members of Council only.)

Poisons Bill.—Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. F. S. Grimwade. (To Members of Council only.)

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. No. 7.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 8.

Twentieth Annual Report on Friendly Societies. No. 1.

Report of Victorian Railways Commissioner for Quarter ending 31st December, 1898. No. 6.

Report of Trustees of Public Library, &c., for 1898. No. 13.

Public Service Board—Report. No. 14.

Law Reform—Report, &c., of Royal Commission. No. 15.

Report of Secretary and Inspector of Department for Neglected Children, &c., for 1898. No. 18.

Thirteenth Annual Report on Trade Unions, &c., for 1898. No. 20.

Report of Inspector-General of Penal Establishments and Gaols for 1898. No. 22.

Fourth Progress Report of Royal Commission on State Forests, &c.—Wombat Forest. No. 25.

Report on the System of dealing with the Unemployed, &c., of New Zealand. No. 32.

Land Selection at Mount Macedon—Commission, Report, and Evidence. No. 33.

Progress Report from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways on Proposed Central Railway Station at Flinders-street, &c. Report No. 1.

VICTORIA.

No. 6.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 8TH AUGUST, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood having stated his desire to move, That the House do now adjourn, six Members rose in their places and required the motion to be proposed. The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood then said that he proposed to speak on the subject of the statement made by the Honorable the Solicitor-General at the end of last Session, in reference to certain correspondence between the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies and Sir Thomas Sutherland relative to the Immigration Restriction Bill, and moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.

5. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to abolish Plural Voting in the Elections of Members of the Legislative Assembly*," with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 8th August, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

6. PLURAL VOTING ABOLITION BILL.—The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to abolish Plural Voting in the Elections of Members of the Legislative Assembly*," be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.
7. PETITIONS.—The Honorable W. McCulloch presented a Petition from the President, Councillors, and Ratepayers of the Shire of Mirboo, praying that the Council would make certain amendments in the Meat Supervision Bill.
The Honorable J. H. Abbott presented a Petition from the President and Councillors of the Shire of Echuca, praying that the Council would reject the Meat Supervision Bill in its present form.
Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Committee on the Meat Supervision Bill.
8. PAPERS.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor—
Report of Proceedings taken under the provisions of the *Settlement on Lands Act 1893*, during the financial year ended 30th June, 1899.
Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—

Defences and Discipline Act 1890.—Victorian Naval and Military Forces.—Alteration of Financial and Store Regulations, Part VII.

Land Act 1890, Part I.—Alteration of Regulations, Chapter XIII.

Regulations under the Land Acts.

Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria.—Regulations.

Public Service Acts.—Regulations.

Rules under Part VII. of *Companies Act 1896*.

Australasian Federation Enabling Act 1896 and the Australasian Federation Enabling Act 1899—

Copy of the Certificate of the Result of the Poll taken in Victoria on the 27th day of July, 1899.

Regulations.

9. POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question, That this Bill be now read a second time, having been read—
 Debate resumed.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
 The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
 The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments.
 Ordered—That the Bill as amended be printed, and taken into consideration on Tuesday next.

10. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council an Address to Her Majesty the Queen, praying for the establishment of the Commonwealth of Australia, and also an Address to His Excellency the Governor, requesting that His Excellency will forward the first-mentioned Address to the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies for presentation to Her Majesty, which Addresses have been adopted this day by the Legislative Assembly, and with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
 Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
 Melbourne, 8th August, 1899.

The Address to Her Majesty the Queen was read by the Clerk, and is as follows :—

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY—

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, in Parliament assembled, approach Your Majesty with assurances of loyal attachment to Your Throne and Person. We humbly desire to lay before Your Majesty :—

1. That, pursuant to legislation passed by the Parliaments of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia, a Convention of representatives of the colonies named met during the years 1897 and 1898 and framed a Draft Federal Constitution in the form of a Bill for enactment by the Imperial Parliament.

2. That in the beginning of the present year the Prime Ministers of the colonies named and the Prime Minister of Queensland in Conference assembled amended the said Draft Federal Constitution in certain respects.

3. That subsequently Federation Enabling Acts were passed by the Parliaments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania, and those Acts provided for the submission of the Federal Constitution, drafted and amended as aforesaid, to the electors of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania for acceptance or rejection.

4. That the electors of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania have accepted the said Constitution as amended, and a vote of the people of Queensland will be taken on the 2nd September next.

5. That the *Victorian Australasian Federation Enabling Act 1896*, No. 1443, provides as follows :—

Section 37—

“If two colonies in addition to Victoria accept the Constitution the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of Victoria may adopt a Joint Address to the Queen praying that the Constitution may be passed into law by the Imperial Parliament upon receipt from the Parliaments of such two colonies either of similar joint or separate Addresses from each House of such Parliaments.”

Section 38—

“When such Joint Address has been agreed to pursuant to the preceding section the same shall be transmitted to the Queen with a certified copy of the Constitution.”

6. That by the *Victorian Australasian Federation Enabling Act 1899*, No. 1603, which amended Act No. 1443, called therein the Principal Act, it is provided as follows :—

“This Act shall be incorporated with the Principal Act, and, except so far as inconsistent with this Act or inapplicable thereto, the provisions of the Principal Act relating to the submission of the Constitution to the electors and its transmission to the Queen for legislative enactment by the Imperial Parliament shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the Constitution as proposed to be amended in the particulars appearing in the First Schedule to this Act.

“The Constitution as proposed to be amended in the particulars appearing in the First Schedule to this Act, and as set forth in the Second Schedule to this Act, shall—

(a) be submitted to the electors for the Legislative Assembly in Victoria for acceptance or rejection by direct vote, and, if accepted by a majority of the electors voting, may afterwards

(b) be transmitted by both Houses of Parliament to the Queen for legislative enactment by the Imperial Parliament.”

7. In pursuance of these powers we, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, transmit to Your Majesty the said Constitution and the said Constitution amended as aforesaid, and pray that, upon the transmission to Your Majesty of joint or separate Addresses from the Houses of Parliament of two or more of the other colonies, namely, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia, Your Majesty may be pleased to cause the accompanying Constitution, amended as aforesaid, to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament, that it may be passed into law by the Imperial Parliament for the establishment of an Australian Commonwealth composed of those colonies which unite with Victoria in a similar prayer to Your Majesty.

All of which we, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, humbly pray Your Majesty to take into Your gracious and favorable consideration.

The Address to His Excellency the Governor was read by the Clerk, and is as follows :—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, in Parliament assembled, respectfully request that Your Excellency will be pleased to transmit to the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen, the accompanying Address praying that the Draft Bill to Constitute the Commonwealth of Australia, as accepted by a direct vote of the electors of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, may be submitted to and passed into law by the Imperial Parliament.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration to-morrow and take precedence of all other business.

11. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—

Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading.

Vermin Destruction Act 1890 Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Municipal Valuations Bill—Second reading.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Prahran Mechanics' Institute Bill—Second reading.

Kerang Show Yards Sale Bill—Second reading.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

Geelong Mechanics' Institute Bill—Second reading.

Local Government Act 1890 further Amendment Bill (No. 1)—Second reading.

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Second reading.

And then the Council, at forty-five minutes past nine o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 6.

WEDNESDAY, 9TH AUGUST, 1899.

Question.

1. The Hon. G. GODFREY : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the following statement made in several of the London newspapers in the case of *McGregor v. McGregor* in the South-Western Police Court :—“ Mr. Hoskins mentioned that since the adjournment he had seen the representative of the Agent-General of Victoria in London, and he informed him that, while it was perfectly true that a Bill was introduced into the Victorian Parliament annulling marriages solemnized by the Rev. Nathaniel Kinsman, yet for the sake of public policy such marriages were looked upon as valid ”; and to ask whether the attention of the Government has been called to such statement, and whether the Government will instruct the Agent-General to correct such statement.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY (*to take precedence*) :—

1. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

{	ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN	}
{	ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR	}

—To be taken into consideration.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY—

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, in Parliament assembled, approach Your Majesty with assurances of loyal attachment to Your Throne and Person. We humbly desire to lay before Your Majesty :—

1. That, pursuant to legislation passed by the Parliaments of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia, a Convention of representatives of the colonies named met during the years 1897 and 1898 and framed a Draft Federal Constitution in the form of a Bill for enactment by the Imperial Parliament.

2. That in the beginning of the present year the Prime Ministers of the colonies named and the Prime Minister of Queensland in Conference assembled amended the said Draft Federal Constitution in certain respects.

3. That subsequently Federation Enabling Acts were passed by the Parliaments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania, and those Acts provided for the submission of the Federal Constitution, drafted and amended as aforesaid, to the electors of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania for acceptance or rejection.

4. That the electors of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania have accepted the said Constitution as amended ; and a vote of the people of Queensland will be taken on the 2nd September next.

5. That the *Victorian Australasian Federation Enabling Act* 1896, No. 1443, provides as follows :—

Section 37—

“ If two colonies in addition to Victoria accept the Constitution, the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of Victoria may adopt a Joint Address to the Queen praying that the Constitution may be passed into law by the Imperial Parliament upon receipt from the Parliaments of such two colonies either of similar joint or separate Addresses from each House of such Parliaments.”

Section 38—

“When such Joint Address has been agreed to pursuant to the preceding section the same shall be transmitted to the Queen with a certified copy of the Constitution.”

6. That by the *Victorian Australasian Federation Enabling Act* 1899, No. 1603, which amended Act No. 1443, called therein the Principal Act, it is provided as follows:—

“This Act shall be incorporated with the Principal Act, and, except so far as inconsistent with this Act or inapplicable thereto, the provisions of the Principal Act relating to the submission of the Constitution to the electors and its transmission to the Queen for legislative enactment by the Imperial Parliament, shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the Constitution as proposed to be amended in the particulars appearing in the First Schedule to this Act.

“The Constitution as proposed to be amended in the particulars appearing in the First Schedule to this Act, and as set forth in the Second Schedule to this Act, shall—

- (a) be submitted to the electors for the Legislative Assembly in Victoria for acceptance or rejection by direct vote, and, if accepted by a majority of the electors voting, may afterwards
- (b) be transmitted by both Houses of Parliament to the Queen for legislative enactment by the Imperial Parliament.”

7. In pursuance of these powers we, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, transmit to Your Majesty the said Constitution and the said Constitution amended as aforesaid, and pray that, upon the transmission to Your Majesty of joint or separate Addresses from the Houses of Parliament of two or more of the other colonies, namely, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia, Your Majesty may be pleased to cause the accompanying Constitution, amended as aforesaid, to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament, that it may be passed into law by the Imperial Parliament for the establishment of an Australian Commonwealth composed of those colonies which unite with Victoria in a similar prayer to Your Majesty.

All of which we, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, humbly pray Your Majesty to take into Your gracious and favorable consideration.

To His Excellency the Governor.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, in Parliament assembled, respectfully request that Your Excellency will be pleased to transmit to the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen, the accompanying Address praying that the Draft Bill to Constitute the Commonwealth of Australia, as accepted by a direct vote of the electors of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, may be submitted to and passed into law by the Imperial Parliament.

General Business.

NOTICE OF MOTION:—

1. The Hon. F. S. GRIMWADE: To move, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to regulate Cremation and for other purposes.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. VERMIN DESTRUCTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—Second reading.
3. MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
4. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
5. KERANG SHOW YARDS SALE BILL—Second reading.
6. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.
7. GEELONG MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)—Second reading.
9. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
2. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.

TUESDAY, 15TH AUGUST.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. PLURAL VOTING ABOLITION BILL—Second reading.
2. POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Consideration of Report.

WEDNESDAY, 16TH AUGUST.

Question.

1. The Hon. E. J. CROOKE : To ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General if it is intended to have any more of the unroofed cattle trucks constructed; and, if so, whether stock-owners have been consulted in the matter.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 3RD AUGUST, 1899.

- Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. No. 5.
 Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 10.
 The Constitution Act Amendment Bill—[14]. (To Members of Council only.)
 Life Assurance Companies Bill.—New Clause to be proposed by the Hon. Agar Wynne. (To Members of Council only.)
 Poisons Bill.—Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. F. S. Grimwade. (To Members of Council only.)
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- Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 8 and 9.
 Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 11.
 Marine Bill—[6].
 Melbourne Sailors' Home Bill—[19].
 Ararat Land Bill—[20].
 Moorpanyal Bill—[36].
 Third Progress Report of Royal Commission on State Forests, &c.—Redgum Forests of Barmah and Gunbower, &c. No. 8.
 Report of Inspector of Lunatic Asylums for Year 1898. No. 29.
 Mooroopna Waterworks Trust.—Application for Additional Loan of £200. No. 30.
 Wodonga Waterworks Trust.—Application for Additional Loan of £500. No. 31.
 Royal Commission on Technical Education.—Progress Report on Primary Instruction. No. 34.
 Report of Proceedings taken under Provisions of *Settlement on Lands Act* 1893 during Financial Year ended 30th June, 1899. No. 40.

VICTORIA.

No. 7.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 9TH AUGUST, 1899.

- 1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
- 2. The President took the Chair.
- 3. The President read the Prayer.
- 4. PAPERS.—The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—
 - Australasian Federation Enabling Act 1896 and the Australasian Federation Enabling Act 1899.—Regulation.
 - Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1898.
- 5. ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN—COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of the Message from the Legislative Assembly requesting the concurrence of the Legislative Council in an Address to Her Majesty the Queen, praying for the establishment of an Australian Commonwealth, having been read—the said Address was read and is as follows :—

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY—

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, in Parliament assembled, approach Your Majesty with assurances of loyal attachment to Your Throne and Person. We humbly desire to lay before Your Majesty :—

- 1. That, pursuant to legislation passed by the Parliaments of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia, a Convention of representatives of the colonies named met during the years 1897 and 1898 and framed a Draft Federal Constitution in the form of a Bill for enactment by the Imperial Parliament.
- 2. That in the beginning of the present year the Prime Ministers of the colonies named and the Prime Minister of Queensland in Conference assembled amended the said Draft Federal Constitution in certain respects.
- 3. That subsequently Federation Enabling Acts were passed by the Parliaments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania, and those Acts provided for the submission of the Federal Constitution, drafted and amended as aforesaid, to the electors of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania for acceptance or rejection.
- 4. That the electors of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania have accepted the said Constitution as amended, and a vote of the people of Queensland will be taken on the 2nd September next.
- 5. That the *Victorian Australasian Federation Enabling Act* 1896, No. 1443, provides as follows :—

Section 37—

“ If two colonies in addition to Victoria accept the Constitution the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of Victoria may adopt a Joint Address to the Queen praying that the Constitution may be passed into law by the Imperial Parliament upon receipt from the Parliaments of such two colonies either of similar joint or separate Addresses from each House of such Parliaments.”

Section 38—

“ When such Joint Address has been agreed to pursuant to the preceding section the same shall be transmitted to the Queen with a certified copy of the Constitution.”

6. That by the *Victorian Australasian Federation Enabling Act* 1899, No. 1603, which amended Act No. 1443, called therein the Principal Act, it is provided as follows:—

“This Act shall be incorporated with the Principal Act, and, except so far as inconsistent with this Act or inapplicable thereto, the provisions of the Principal Act relating to the submission of the Constitution to the electors and its transmission to the Queen for legislative enactment by the Imperial Parliament shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the Constitution as proposed to be amended in the particulars appearing in the First Schedule to this Act.

“The Constitution as proposed to be amended in the particulars appearing in the First Schedule to this Act, and as set forth in the Second Schedule to this Act, shall—

- (a) be submitted to the electors for the Legislative Assembly in Victoria for acceptance or rejection by direct vote, and, if accepted by a majority of the electors voting, may afterwards
- (b) be transmitted by both Houses of Parliament to the Queen for legislative enactment by the Imperial Parliament.”

7. In pursuance of these powers we, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, transmit to Your Majesty the said Constitution and the said Constitution amended as aforesaid, and pray that, upon the transmission to Your Majesty of joint or separate Addresses from the Houses of Parliament of two or more of the other colonies, namely, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia, Your Majesty may be pleased to cause the accompanying Constitution, amended as aforesaid, to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament, that it may be passed into law by the Imperial Parliament for the establishment of an Australian Commonwealth composed of those colonies which unite with Victoria in a similar prayer to Your Majesty.

All of which we, the

Members of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, humbly pray Your Majesty to take into Your gracious and favorable consideration.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this House agree with the Legislative Assembly in the foregoing Address.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the blanks in the said Address be filled up by the insertion of the words “Members of the Legislative Council and the.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Address, and have filled up the blanks therein by the insertion of the words “Members of the Legislative Council and the.”

6. ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of the Message from the Legislative Assembly requesting the concurrence of the Legislative Council in an Address to His Excellency the Governor, requesting that His Excellency will transmit to the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies the foregoing Address to Her Majesty the Queen, having been read—the said Address was read and is as follows:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, in Parliament assembled, respectfully request that Your Excellency will be pleased to transmit to the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen, the accompanying Address praying that the Draft Bill to Constitute the Commonwealth of Australia, as accepted by a direct vote of the electors of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, may be submitted to and passed into law by the Imperial Parliament.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this House agree with the Legislative Assembly in the foregoing Address.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the blank in the said Address be filled up by the insertion of the words “Members of the Legislative Council and the.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Address, and have filled up the blank therein by the insertion of the words “Members of the Legislative Council and the.”

7. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next:—

Vermin Destruction Act 1890 Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Municipal Valuations Bill—Second reading.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Prahran Mechanics' Institute Bill—Second reading.

Kerang Show Yards Sale Bill—Second reading.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

Geelong Mechanics' Institute Bill—Second reading.

Local Government Act 1890 further Amendment Bill (No. 1)—Second reading.

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Second reading.

Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading.

8. PETITION.—The Honorable C. J. Ham, by leave, presented a Petition from the Corporation of the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors, and Citizens of the City of Melbourne, praying that the Council would reject the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1890 further Amendment Bill. Ordered to lie on the Table.
9. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at forty minutes past six o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 7.

TUESDAY, 15TH AUGUST, 1899.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. PLURAL VOTING ABOLITION BILL—Second reading.
2. POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Consideration of Report.
3. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
4. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. VERMIN DESTRUCTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—Second reading.
3. MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—
Second reading.
4. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
5. KERANG SHOW YARDS SALE BILL—Second reading.
6. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.
7. GEELONG MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)—Second reading.
9. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 16TH AUGUST.

Question.

1. The Hon. E. J. CROOKE : To ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General if it is intended to have any more of the unroofed cattle trucks constructed ; and, if so, whether stock-owners have been consulted in the matter.

General Business.

NOTICE OF MOTION :—

1. The Hon. F. S. GRIMWADE : To move, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to regulate Cremation and for other purposes.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Tuesday, 15th August.

LIBRARY (JOINT)—at three o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 9TH AUGUST, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 7.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 12.

By Authority: ROBT. S. BRAIN, Government Printer, Melbourne.

(160 copies.)

VICTORIA.

No. 8.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 15TH AUGUST, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. **PETITION.**—The Honorable J. Balfour presented a Petition from the President and Councillors of the Shire of Mulgrave, praying that the Council would either reject the Meat Supervision Bill or amend it by eliminating all the arbitrary powers given to the Board of Public Health, and leaving the administration of a purely local matter to the local authorities.
Petition read, ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Committee on the Meat Supervision Bill.
5. **PAPERS.**—The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk:—
Water Act 1890.—Kerang East Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Direction to Trust to construct a Subway for No. 2A Channel.
Bank Liabilities and Assets.—Summary of Sworn Returns for the quarter ended 31st December, 1898.
Victorian Mining Accident Relief Fund.—Balance-sheet, 1898.
6. **PLURAL VOTING ABOLITION BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
Question—put.
The Council divided.

Ayes, 30.

The Hon. J. H. Abbott
J. Balfour
J. Bell
T. Brunton
Sir R. T. H. Clarke, Bart.
T. Comrie
S. W. Cooke
E. J. Crooke
Sir H. Cuthbert
J. M. Davies
N. FitzGerald
S. Fraser
C. J. Ham
T. C. Harwood
J. Hoddinott
W. Knox
N. Levi
W. McCulloch
J. Y. McDonald
D. Melville
E. Miller
W. Pitt
J. M. Pratt
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
G. Simmie
J. Sternberg
Sir H. J. Wrixon
A. Wynne.

Tellers.

G. Godfrey
F. S. Grimwade.

Noes, 8.

The Hon. S. Austin
F. Brown
J. C. Campbell
T. Dowling
A. O. Sachse
J. A. Wallace.

Tellers.

Dr. W. H. Embling
Sir A. Snowden.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:—

“An Act to abolish Plural Voting in the Elections of Members of the Legislative Assembly.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

7. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow:—

Poisons Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Consideration of Report.

Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading.

Vermin Destruction Act 1890 Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Municipal Valuations Bill—Second reading.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Prahran Mechanics' Institute Bill—Second reading.

Kerang Show Yards Sale Bill—Second reading.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

Geelong Mechanics' Institute Bill—Second reading.

Local Government Act 1890 further Amendment Bill (No. 1)—Second reading.

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Second reading.

And then the Council, at twenty-five minutes past ten o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 8.

WEDNESDAY, 16TH AUGUST, 1899.

Questions.

1. The Hon. E. J. CROOKE : To ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General if it is intended to have any more of the unroofed cattle trucks constructed; and, if so, whether stock-owners have been consulted in the matter.
2. The Hon. W. KNOX : To call the attention of the Honorable the Minister of Defence to the desirability of tenders being called forthwith for the construction of the remaining four sections of the new trenches and targets at the North Williamstown Rifle Ranges; and to ask if he will cause the work to be promptly proceeded with, in order that all competitors may be able to use the new Martini-Enfield rifle (.303 bore) during the Intercolonial Rifle Matches to be held in November next.
3. The Hon. N. THORNLEY : To ask the Honorable the Acting Minister of Agriculture if he will lay on the Table of the House the Return quoted from by him to a deputation on the 4th instant *re* the losses incurred by the Government in conducting the freezing for export.

General Business.

NOTICE OF MOTION :—

1. The Hon. F. S. GRIMWADE : To move, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to regulate Cremation and for other purposes.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. VERMIN DESTRUCTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—Second reading.
3. MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
4. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
5. KERANG SHOW YARDS SALE BILL—Second reading.
6. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.
7. GEELONG MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)—Second reading.
9. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Consideration of Report.
2. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 10TH AUGUST, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. Nos. 6 and 7.
Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 8.
Poisons Bill—[26]. (To Members of Council only.)

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 11, 12, and 13.
Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 14.
Traction Engine Bill—[71].
Supplementary Estimates, 1898-9. B.—No. 6.
Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Year ending 30th June, 1900. B.—No. 7.

VICTORIA.

No. 9.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 16TH AUGUST, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—The President reported that, accompanied by the Honorable the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and honorable Members of both Houses, he had, that day, waited upon His Excellency the Governor, and had presented to him the Joint Address, relating to the establishment of an Australian Commonwealth, which had been agreed to by the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, and that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply :—

Government House,
16th August, 1899.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL :

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY :

Departing from formal precedent, I shall venture on this historic occasion to say a few words not officially inspired, but which will perhaps the better give utterance to the feelings which lie deep in all our hearts.

The Address which you ask me in your name to transmit marks a turning point in your national history. It closes an era in which great things have been done. In no other country, not in the most advanced of the communities of the old world, are law and order more assured, the public tranquillity less disturbed, the standard of living for the whole people higher, the provision for education more liberal. In none is that self-government, which is the distinctive gift of our race, more admirably illustrated. Statesmanship, eloquence, sound common sense, lofty patriotism have never been wanting even in the smallest of the Australian Parliaments.

And now, looking forward to the future, and remembering all that you have done in the past under the difficult circumstances of rivalry and separation, who shall measure the achievements which may be accomplished by your united efforts? You will be greatly strengthened for defence. Your trade will grow by leaps and bounds. The common credit will sensibly lighten the public charge. All petty jealousies will disappear. Time would fail me were I to attempt to enumerate all the advantages which are certain to accrue in the near future from Federation. I rejoice that the closing stage of my public life has been associated with a movement which, as far as in me lay, I have earnestly striven to help forward. It has had from Lady Brassey and myself the heartiest good wishes. Unless it had been so I should have been no fitting representative of the Queen and Her people in the United Kingdom. All your hopes for the future are fully shared in your old motherland, and as in the coming years you become, in an increasing degree, a powerful and prosperous State, the possession of a happy and contented people, supreme in these Southern seas, there will be no envious feelings. It will be felt that your own greatness reflects glory on the home of your fathers, and there, as here, it will be said—"Now and for all time, Advance Australia!"

BRASSEY.

5. PAPERS.—The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—

Customs and Excise Duties Act 1895.—Surgical Appliances or Instruments.—Cauteries.
Report of the Chief Inspector of Explosives to the Honorable the Commissioner for Trade and Customs on the working of the Explosives Act during the year 1898.

6. **CREMATION BILL.**—The Honorable F. S. Grimwade moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to regulate Cremation and for other purposes.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 Ordered—That the Honorable F. S. Grimwade do prepare and bring in the Bill.
 The Honorable F. S. Grimwade then brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill to regulate Cremation and for other purposes,*” and moved, That it be now read a first time.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Wednesday next.
7. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.**—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Order of the Day be postponed until Wednesday, 30th August instant :—
Workmen’s Compensation Bill—Second reading.
8. **VERMIN DESTRUCTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative—Bill read a second time.
 The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
 The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments.
 The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for reconsideration.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
 The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had reconsidered the Bill and agreed to the same with a further amendment.
 The Honorable D. Melville moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 On the motion of the Honorable D. Melville the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
 The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—
 “*An Act to amend the ‘Vermin Destruction Act 1890.’*”
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with an amendment, and requesting their concurrence therein.
9. **MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate ensued.
 The Honorable A. Wynne moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
 Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until Wednesday next.
10. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.**—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Order of the Day be postponed until Wednesday next :—
Prahran Mechanics’ Institute Bill—Second reading.
11. **KERANG SHOW YARDS SALE BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. Bell moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
 The Honorable J. Bell moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. Bell, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
 The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.
 On the motion of the Honorable J. Bell the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. Bell, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
 The Honorable J. Bell moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—
 “*An Act to provide for the Sale of the Show Yards at Kerang.*”
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.
12. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.**—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Order of the Day be postponed until Wednesday next :—
Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

13. **GEELONG MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable T. C. Harwood moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable T. C. Harwood moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable T. C. Harwood, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the Council will, on Wednesday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

14. **MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable C. J. Ham moved, That the Petition presented to this House on the 9th August instant, from the Corporation of the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors, and Citizens of the City of Melbourne, be now read.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Petition read by the Clerk.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived.

15. **MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Moorpanyal Land Act 1897,'*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 16th August, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

16. **MOORPANYAL LAND ACT 1897 AMENDMENT BILL.**—The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Moorpanyal Land Act 1897,'*" be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.

17. **MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the Resumption by the Crown of certain Land in the parish of Ararat,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 16th August, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

18. **ARARAT LAND RESUMPTION BILL.**—The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to provide for the Resumption by the Crown of certain Land in the parish of Ararat,*" be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.

19. **MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Marine Act 1890,'*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 16th August, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

20. **MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.**—The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Marine Act 1890,'*" be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.

21. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the Law of Evidence with regard to the Office of Deputy Registrar-General,*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the same with an amendment, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 16th August, 1899.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration on Tuesday next.

22. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next :—

Local Government Act 1890 further Amendment Bill (No. 1)—Second reading.

Poisons Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Consideration of Report.

Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading.

23. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at fifty-five minutes past nine o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 9.

TUESDAY, 22ND AUGUST, 1899.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. MOORPANYAL LAND ACT 1897 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. ARARAT LAND RESUMPTION BILL—Second reading.
3. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
4. EVIDENCE LAW AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—To be taken into consideration.
5. POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Consideration of Report.
6. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
7. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.

General Business.

NOTICE OF MOTION :—

1. The Hon. J. M. DAVIES : To move, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to amend the *Hospitals and Charities Act 1890.*

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 23RD AUGUST.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. CREMATION BILL—Second reading.
2. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
3. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
4. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.
5. GEELONG MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—To be further considered in Committee.

WEDNESDAY, 30TH AUGUST.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 16TH AUGUST, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 9.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 15.

Water Supply Advances Relief Bill.—Amendments to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Outtrim. (To Members only.)

By Authority: ROBT. S. BRAIN, Government Printer, Melbourne.

(160 copies.)

VICTORIA.

No. 10.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 22ND AUGUST, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—
 - Report of the Council of Defence.
 - Report respecting Applications and Proceedings under the *Electric Light and Power Act 1896* for the year 1898.
 - Bank Liabilities and Assets.—Summary of Sworn Returns for the quarter ended 31st March, 1899.
5. DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the following Order of the Day was read and discharged :—
 - Poisons Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Consideration of Report.*
6. POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for reconsideration.
 - Debate ensued.
 - Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 - And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
 - The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had reconsidered the Bill and agreed to the same with further amendments.
 - Ordered—That the Bill as amended be printed, and taken into consideration to-morrow.
7. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—
 - Moorpanyal Land Act 1897 Amendment Bill—Second reading.*
 - Ararat Land Resumption Bill—Second reading.*
 - Marine Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Second reading.*
 - Evidence Law Amendment Bill—Message from the Legislative Assembly—To be taken into consideration.*
 - Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—To be further considered in Committee.*
 - Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading.*
 - Local Government Act 1890 further Amendment Bill (No. 1)—Second reading.*
8. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
 - MR. PRESIDENT—
 - The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act relating to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland at Geelong,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 22nd August, 1899.
9. GEELONG REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRELAND BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act relating to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland at Geelong,*” be now read a first time.
 - Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.

10. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to amend the Law relating to Hawkers and Pedlers*,” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 22nd August, 1899.

11. HAWKERS AND PEDLERS LAW AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to amend the Law relating to Hawkers and Pedlers*,” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.

And then the Council, at fifty-five minutes past nine o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 10.

WEDNESDAY, 23RD AUGUST, 1899.

General Business.

NOTICE OF MOTION :—

1. The Hon. J. M. DAVIES : To move, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to amend the *Hospitals and Charities Act 1890*.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. CREMATION BILL—Second reading.
2. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate*.
3. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
4. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.
5. GEELONG MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)—Second reading.
7. GEELONG REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRELAND BILL—Second reading.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Consideration of Report.
2. MOORPANYAL LAND ACT 1897 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
3. ARARAT LAND RESUMPTION BILL—Second reading.
4. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
5. EVIDENCE LAW AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—To be taken into consideration.
6. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
7. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.

TUESDAY, 29TH AUGUST.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. HAWKERS AND PEDLERS LAW AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 30TH AUGUST.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Wednesday, 30th August.

STANDING ORDERS—at half-past two o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 17TH AUGUST, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. Nos. 8 and 9.
 Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 10.
 Hawkers and Pedlers Bill—[24]. (To Members of Council only.)
 Poisons Bill—[26]. (To Members of Council only.)
 Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland Bill—[43]. (To Members of Council only.)
 Cremation Bill—[69].
 Local Government Bill No. 1.—New Clause to be proposed by the Hon. A. O. Sachse. (To Members of Council only.)
 Life Assurance Companies Bill.—New Clauses to be proposed by the Hon. Sir F. T. Sargood and the Hon. J. M. Davies. (To Members of Council only.)

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 14, 15, and 16.
 Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 17.
 Weekly Report of Divisions. No. 2.
 Coal Mines Regulation Bill—[31].

VICTORIA.

No. 11.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 23RD AUGUST, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to amend the *Hospitals and Charities Act 1890*.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the Honorable J. M. Davies do prepare and bring in the Bill.
The Honorable J. M. Davies then brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill to amend the ‘Hospitals and Charities Act 1890,’*” and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Wednesday next.
5. PAPERS.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor—
Mine Ventilation.—Progress Report of the Mine Ventilation Bonus Board.
Report of the Board appointed to inquire into the question of the Treatment of Habitual Drunkards, with Appendices and Synopsis of Evidence.
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Paper, pursuant to the directions of an Act of Parliament, was laid upon the Table by the Clerk:—
Wimmera United Waterworks Trust.—Application for Additional Loan of £3,200.
6. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Order of the Day be postponed until Wednesday next:—
Cremation Bill—Second reading.
7. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question, That this Bill be now read a second time, having been read—
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.
Resolved—That the Council will, on Wednesday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.
8. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—
MR. PRESIDENT—
The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to remove the Disqualification of Women in the Elections of Members of the Legislative Assembly,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 23rd August, 1899.

9. **WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE BILL.**—The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to remove the Disqualification of Women in the Elections of Members of the Legislative Assembly,*" be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 5th September next.

10. **MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of One hundred and sixty-seven thousand seven hundred and sixty-six pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight and ninety-nine,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 23rd August, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

11. **CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 2).**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of One hundred and sixty-seven thousand seven hundred and sixty-six pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight and ninety-nine,*" be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.

12. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Wednesday next:—

Prahran Mechanics' Institute Bill—Second reading.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

13. **GEELONG MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments.

The Honorable Sir A. Snowden moved, That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for reconsideration.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived.

The Honorable T. C. Harwood moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable T. C. Harwood the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable T. C. Harwood, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable T. C. Harwood moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:—

"An Act for the Incorporation of the Mechanics' Institute at Geelong and for other purposes."

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with amendments, and requesting their concurrence therein.

14. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1).**—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. H. Abbott moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable J. H. Abbott moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. H. Abbott, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the Council will, on Wednesday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

15. **GEELONG REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRELAND BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable T. C. Harwood moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable T. C. Harwood moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable T. C. Harwood, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair ; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable T. C. Harwood the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable T. C. Harwood, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable T. C. Harwood moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ An Act relating to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland at Geelong.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

16. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered, after debate, That the consideration of the following Order of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next :—

Poisons Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Consideration of Report.

17. MOORPANYAL LAND ACT 1897 AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair ; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ An Act to amend the ‘ Moorpanyal Land Act 1897.’ ”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

18. ARARAT LAND RESUMPTION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair ; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ An Act to provide for the Resumption by the Crown of certain Land in the parish of Ararat.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

19. EVIDENCE LAW AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of the amendment made in this Bill by the Legislative Assembly having been read—the said amendment was read and is as follows :—

Clause 2, line 11, omit “purports to” and insert “is or shall.”

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Council agree to the said amendment.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the amendment made in this Bill by the Legislative Assembly.

20. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next :—

Marine Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading.

21. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at one minute past nine o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 11.

TUESDAY, 29TH AUGUST, 1899.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 2)—Second reading.
2. HAWKERS AND PEDLERS LAW AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
3. POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Consideration of Report.
4. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
5. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
6. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 30TH AUGUST.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading.
2. HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
3. CREMATION BILL—Second reading.
4. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
5. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
6. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.
7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)—To be further considered in Committee.

TUESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETINGS OF SELECT COMMITTEES.

Tuesday, 29th August.

REFRESHMENT ROOMS (JOINT)—at half-past three o'clock.

Wednesday, 30th August.

STANDING ORDERS—at half-past two o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 23RD AUGUST, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. No. 10.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 11.

Woman Suffrage Bill—[15]. (To Members of Council only.)

Consolidated Revenue Bill No. 2—[73]. (To Members of Council only.)

Hospitals and Charities Amending Bill—[74].

Local Government Bill No. 2—

New Clause to be proposed by the Hon. N. Levi. (To Members of Council only.)

New Clause to be proposed by the Hon. Agar Wynne. (To Members of Council only.)

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 18.

Water Supply Advances Relief Bill.—Amendments to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Outtrim. (To Members only.)

Annual Report on British New Guinea from 1st July, 1897, to 30th June, 1898, with Appendices. No. 28.

Report of Chief Inspector of Explosives for 1898. No. 41.

Interim Report of Royal Commission on Refrigerating Stores and Central Wine Depôt. No. 47.

Report from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways on Coliban Upper Reservoir, &c. Report No. 2.

VICTORIA.

No. 12.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 29TH AUGUST, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PETITION.—The Honorable G. Godfrey presented a Petition from certain members of the Syrian community residing in the colony of Victoria, praying that the Council would be pleased to eliminate any clause in the Hawkers and Pedlers Law Amendment Bill which shall compel hawkers to be natural-born or naturalized British subjects.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Committee on the Hawkers and Pedlers Law Amendment Bill.
5. PAPERS.—The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk:—
Water Act 1890.—The Carrum Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Rating Regulation.
Land Act 1890.—Section 85.—Schedule of Swamp Lease containing Special Conditions.
Report upon the Affairs of the Post Office and Telegraph Department for the year 1898.
The Post Office Acts.—Regulations governing the Issue of Licences to Persons not being Subscribers to a Telephone Exchange to use the Telephone of a Subscriber.
Audit Act 1890.—Addition to General Regulations respecting Public Accounts.
6. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 2).—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.
On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:—
“An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of One hundred and sixty-seven thousand seven hundred and sixty-six pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight and ninety-nine.”
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

7. **HAWKERS AND PEDLERS LAW AMENDMENT BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Council divided.

Ayes, 20.

The Hon. S. Austin
J. Bell
Sir R. T. H. Clarke, Bart.
E. J. Croke
Sir H. Cuthbert
J. M. Davies
G. Godfrey
C. J. Ham
T. C. Harwood
J. Hoddinott
W. Knox
W. McCulloch
W. H. S. Osmand
P. Phillips
J. M. Pratt
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
G. Simmie
Sir H. J. Wrixon.

Tellers.

J. Balfour
S. Fraser.

Noes, 16.

The Hon. J. H. Abbott
F. Brown
T. Comrie
S. W. Cooke
T. Dowling
N. Levi
J. Y. McDonald
D. Melville
E. Morey
W. Pitt
R. Reid
N. Thornley
J. A. Wallace
A. Wynne.

Tellers.

Dr. W. H. Embling
F. S. Grimwade.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole. Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments.

The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ An Act to amend the Law relating to Hawkers and Pedlers.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with amendments, and requesting their concurrence therein.

8. **MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “ *An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of One million one hundred and seventy-eight thousand five hundred and thirty-one pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 29th August, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

9. **CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 3).**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “ *An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of One million one hundred and seventy-eight thousand five hundred and thirty-one pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred,*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair ; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of One million one hundred and seventy-eight thousand five hundred and thirty-one pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

10. DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the following Order of the Day was read and discharged :—

Poisons Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Consideration of Report.

11. POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for reconsideration.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair ; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had reconsidered the Bill and agreed to the same with further amendments.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ An Act to further amend the ‘Poisons Act 1890.’ ”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly with a Message desiring their concurrence therein.

12. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—

Marine Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading.

And then the Council, at forty-five minutes past nine o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 12.

WEDNESDAY, 30TH AUGUST, 1899.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading.
2. HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
3. CREMATION BILL—Second reading.
4. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
5. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
6. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.
7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)—To be further considered in Committee.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
 2. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
 3. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.
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TUESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER.

Question.

1. The Hon. Dr. W. H. EMBLING : To call the attention of the Honorable the Minister of Defence to the Report of the Council of Defence, and to ask him if the Government intend to carry out the recommendations of the Commandant.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETINGS OF SELECT COMMITTEES.

Wednesday, 30th August.

STANDING ORDERS—at three o'clock.

Tuesday, 5th September.

LIBRARY (JOINT)—at three o'clock.

REFRESHMENT ROOMS (JOINT)—at half-past three o'clock.

(120 copies.)

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 23RD AUGUST, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. No. 11.
 Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 12.
 Workmen's Compensation Bill—[75].
 Hawkers' and Pedlers Bill.—Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood.
 (To Members of Council only.)
 Life Assurance Companies Bill.—New Clause and Schedule to be proposed by the Hon. Lieut.-Col.
 Sir F. T. Sargood and the Hon. J. M. Davies. (To Members of Council only.)
 Poisons Bill.—Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood on recommitment.
 (To Members of Council only.)

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 17 and 18.
 Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 19.
 Weekly Report of Divisions. No. 3.
 Geelong Mechanics' Institute Bill.—Amendments of the Legislative Council. (To Members only.)
 Report of the Council of Defence. No. 39.
 Bank Liabilities and Assets.—Summary of Sworn Returns for Quarter ended 31st March, 1899. No. 42.
 Report of Registrar of Friendly Societies for Year 1898. No. 43.
 Wimmera United Waterworks Trust.—Application for Additional Loan of £3,200. No. 44.
 Report respecting Applications and Proceedings under *Electric Light and Power Act 1896* for Year 1898
 No. 46.
 Report of Board appointed to inquire into Treatment of Habitual Drunkards, &c. No. 49.

VICTORIA.

No. 13.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 30TH AUGUST, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PETITIONS.—The Honorable F. Brown presented a Petition from certain women resident in the town and district of Numurkah, praying that the Council would pass the Women's Suffrage Bill.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Committee on the Women's Suffrage Bill.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert presented a Petition from William Robinson, styling himself parliamentary agent, of Royal Park, in the colony of Victoria, praying that the Council would appoint a Select Committee to inquire into the subject of the reading books used in State schools, and that, in the event of the allegations set forth in the Petition being substantiated, the Council would pass a resolution approving of the removal of the Nelson Series of reading books from such schools, and the reinstatement of the series of reading books containing Scripture history supervised by the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
5. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to amend the *Infant Life Protection Act 1890*.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert do prepare and bring in the Bill.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill to amend the 'Infant Life Protection Act 1890,'*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 12th September next.
6. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. J. Wrixon moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Debate continued.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until Wednesday, 13th September next.
7. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act for the Incorporation of the Mechanics' Institute at Geelong and for other purposes,*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the amendments made in such Bill by the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 30th August, 1899.

WM. D. BEAZLEY,
Deputy-Speaker.

8. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Vermin Destruction Act 1890,'*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the amendment made in such Bill by the Legislative Council with an amendment, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

WM. D. BEAZLEY,
Deputy-Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 30th August, 1899.

And the said amendment was read, and is as follows :—

Amendment made by the Legislative Council.

How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.

Insert the following new clause—

A. Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained the council of any municipality may out of the municipal fund thereof from time to time pay such larger sums than Two shillings and sixpence by way of bonus or reward for the destruction of foxes as to such council shall seem fit.

Agreed to with the addition of the following proviso :—“ Provided however that the Governor in Council shall not pay to the council of any municipality any sum exceeding One shilling and threepence for any fox destroyed.”

On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council agreed to the amendment made by the Legislative Assembly on the amendment of the Legislative Council in this Bill, and ordered that a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them therewith.

9. HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed. The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ *An Act to amend the 'Hospitals and Charities Act 1890.'*”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly with a Message desiring their concurrence therein.

10. CREMATION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable F. S. Grimwade moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable F. S. Grimwade moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable F. S. Grimwade, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with an amendment.

Ordered, after debate—That the Bill as amended be printed, and taken into consideration on Wednesday next.

11. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL.—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the Council will, on Wednesday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

12. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Wednesday next :—

Prahran Mechanics' Institute Bill—Second reading.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

Local Government Act 1890 further Amendment Bill (No. 1)—To be further considered in Committee.

13. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next :—

Marine Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading.

14. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at thirty minutes past six o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 13.

TUESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

Questions.

1. The Hon. Dr. W. H. EMBLING : To call the attention of the Honorable the Minister of Defence to the Report of the Council of Defence, and to ask him if the Government intend to carry out the recommendations of the Commandant.
2. The Hon. J. C. CAMPBELL : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the great delay and expense attending the delivery of telegrams to telephone subscribers, and to ask whether arrangements cannot be made whereby telegrams could be at once sent on by telephone to all telephone subscribers who are connected with the telegraph office receiving the telegrams, thus avoiding both delay and expense in delivering telegraphic messages.
3. The Hon. E. J. CROOKE : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the recommendation of the Members for the Gippsland Province that Mr. G. W. Anderson of Warragul be appointed a justice of the peace, and to ask why such recommendation has not been given effect to.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE BILL—Second reading.
2. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
3. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
4. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. CREMATION BILL—Consideration of Report.
2. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
4. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.
5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)—To be further considered in Committee.

TUESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETINGS OF SELECT COMMITTEES.

Tuesday, 5th September.

LIBRARY (JOINT)—at three o'clock.

REFRESHMENT ROOMS (JOINT)—at half-past three o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 30TH AUGUST, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 13.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 20.

Trading Coupons Abolition Bill—[76].

VICTORIA.

No. 14.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PAPERS.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor—
Fifth Progress Report of the Royal Commission on State Forests and Timber Reserves.—The
Otway Forest: Its Resources, Management, and Control.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the
Table by the Clerk :—
Mansfield Waterworks Trust.—Application for Additional Loan of £1,000.
Defences and Discipline Act 1890—
Victorian Military Forces.—Alteration of Regulations.—Part VII.—Section I.
Victorian Naval and Military Forces.—Alteration of Financial and Store Regulations.—
Part IV.—Section I.
Statements of Receipts and Disbursements of the Marine Board of Victoria on Pilotage
Account from the 1st January to 31st December, 1898.
5. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—The following Message from His Excellency
the Governor was presented by the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, and the same was read by the
Honorable the President :—

BRASSEY,
Governor.

Message No. 4.

The Governor informs the Legislative Council that he has, on this day, at the Government
Offices, given the Royal Assent to the undermentioned Acts of the present Session, presented to
him by the Clerk of the Parliaments, viz.:—

- “An Act to provide for the Sale of the Show Yards at Kerang.”
 “An Act to abolish Plural Voting in the Elections of Members of the Legislative Assembly.”
 “An Act to amend the Law of Evidence with regard to the Office of Deputy Registrar-General.”
 “An Act to provide for the Resumption by the Crown of certain Land in the parish of Ararat.”
 “An Act to amend the ‘Moorpanyal Land Act 1897.’”
 “An Act relating to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland at Geelong.”
 “An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of One hundred and sixty-seven
thousand seven hundred and sixty-six pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight
hundred and ninety-eight and ninety-nine.”
 “An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of One million one hundred and seventy-
eight thousand five hundred and thirty-one pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight
hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred.”

Government Offices,
Melbourne, 30th August, 1899.

6. WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

The Honorable F. S. Grimwade moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until to-morrow, and take precedence of all other business.

7. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow:—

Marine Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading.

And then the Council, at fifty-nine minutes past nine o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 14.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY (to take precedence):—

1. WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. CREMATION BILL—Consideration of Report.
2. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
4. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.
5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)—To be further considered in Committee.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.

TUESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY:—

1. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY:—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 31ST AUGUST, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. Nos. 12 and 13.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 14.

Cremation Bill—[69]. (To Members of Council only.)

Marine Bill.—Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. W. McCulloch. (To Members of Council only.)

Meat Supervision Bill.—Amendments and New Clause to be proposed by the Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert. (To Members of Council only.)

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 19, 20, and 21.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 22.

Local Government Bill No. 2—[62]. (To Members only.)

By Authority: ROBT. S. BRAIN, Government Printer, Melbourne.

(120 copies.)



VICTORIA.

No. 15.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question, That this Bill be now read a second time, having been read—
Debate resumed.
The Honorable N. Levi moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and negatived.
Debate continued.
Question—That this Bill be now read a second time—put.
The Council divided.

Ayes, 17.

The Hon. J. H. Abbott
T. Brunton
Sir R. T. H. Clarke, Bart.
E. J. Crooke
Sir H. Cuthbert
J. M. Davies
G. Godfrey
F. S. Grimwade
C. J. Ham
D. Ham
W. McCulloch
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
G. Simmie
Sir A. Snowden
A. Wynne.

Tellers.

J. Balfour
D. Melville.

Noes, 27.

The Hon. S. Austin
F. Brown
J. C. Campbell
T. Comrie
S. W. Cooke
Dr. W. H. Embling
S. Fraser
T. C. Harwood
J. Hoddinott
N. Levi
J. Y. McDonald
E. Miller
E. Morey
W. H. S. Osmand
W. Pearson
P. Phillips
W. Pitt
J. M. Pratt
R. Reid
A. O. Sachse
J. Sternberg
N. Thornley
J. A. Wallace
W. I. Winter-Irving
Sir H. J. Wrixon.

Tellers.

J. Bell
W. Knox.

And so it passed in the negative.

5. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next :—

Cremation Bill—Consideration of Report.

Municipal Valuations Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Prahran Mechanics' Institute Bill—Second reading.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

Local Government Act 1890 further Amendment Bill (No. 1)—To be further considered in Committee.

Marine Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading.

6. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at forty-nine minutes past ten o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,

Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 15.

TUESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
3. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
4. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. CREMATION BILL—Consideration of Report.
2. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
4. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.
5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)—To be further considered in Committee.

WEDNESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY:—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 6TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. No. 14.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 15.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 23.

Poisons Bill—[26]. (To Members only.)

Hospitals and Charities Amending Bill—[74]. (To Members only.)

Hawkers and Pedlers Bill. — Amendments of the Legislative Council. (To Members only.)

Report upon the Affairs of the Post Office and Telegraph Department for the Year 1898. No. 23.

Progress Report of the Mine Ventilation Bonus Board. No. 48.

Mansfield Waterworks Trust.—Application for Additional Loan of £1,000. No. 50.

VICTORIA.

No. 16.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PAPERS.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor—
Statistical Register of the Colony of Victoria for the year 1898—
Part V.—Vital Statistics, &c.
Part VI.—Law, Crime, &c.
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Paper, pursuant to the directions of an Act of Parliament, was laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—
Victorian Railways.—Report of the Victorian Railways Commissioner for the year ending 30th June, 1899.
5. PETITION.—The Honorable J. H. Abbott presented a Petition from the Mayor, Councillors, and Citizens of the City of Bendigo, praying that the Council would pass the Local Government Act 1890 further Amendment Bill (No. 1) without further delay.
Petition read, ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Committee of the whole on the Local Government Act 1890 further Amendment Bill (No. 1).
6. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
The Honorable C. J. Ham moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until Tuesday next.
7. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments, and had amended the title thereof, which title is as follows :—
“ A Bill to amend the provisions of the Companies Acts relating to Life Assurance and for other purposes.”
Ordered—That the Bill as amended be printed, and taken into consideration on Tuesday, 26th September instant.

8. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Order of the Day be postponed until Tuesday, 26th September instant :—

Infant Life Protection Act 1890 Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Marine Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Cremation Bill—Consideration of Report.

Municipal Valuations Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Prahran Mechanics' Institute Bill—Second reading.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

Local Government Act 1890 further Amendment Bill (No. 1)—To be further considered in Committee.

9. **ADJOURNMENT.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 26th September instant.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at fifteen minutes past ten o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday, 26th September instant.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,

Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 16.

TUESDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
3. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—Consideration of Report.
4. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. CREMATION BILL—Consideration of Report.
2. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
4. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.
5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)—To be further considered in Committee.
6. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 6TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. No. 15.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 16.

Infant Life Protection Bill—[4].

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 22 and 23.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 24.

National Water Supply Works.—Expenditure on Maintenance and Repairs. C.—No 1.

Water Supply and Irrigation Trusts.—Expenditure on Maintenance and Repairs. C.—No. 2.

VICTORIA.

No. 17.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—

Water Act 1890—

Bacchus Marsh Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Regulation for the Sale of Water.
Kerang East Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Rating Regulation.
Macorna North Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Graduated Rate (Draft Form).—
Regulation No. 7.

Public Service Act 1890.—Regulations.

Education Act 1890 and Teachers Act 1893.—Alteration of Regulations.

Fisheries Act 1890.—Close Season in the Wombat Creek.

Fisheries Acts.—Notice of Proclamations under the Fisheries Acts to be revoked, and Proclamations to be made under the *Fisheries Act* 1890 relating to the Merri River, Lady Bay, and Hopkins River, near Warrnambool.

Explosives Act 1890.—Keeping of Explosives.—Alteration of Regulations.

Customs and Excise Duties Act 1890—

Minor Articles—

Cards, "Sambo," for making Necktie Bows.

Metal Ornaments commonly known in the trade as "Shoe Slides or Stars."

5. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor was presented by the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, and the same was read by the Honorable the President :—

BRASSEY,

*Governor.**Message No. 5.*

The Governor informs the Legislative Council that he has, on this day, at the Government Offices, given the Royal Assent to the undermentioned Acts of the present Session, presented to him by the Clerk of the Parliaments, viz. :—

"An Act for the Incorporation of the Mechanics' Institute at Geelong and for other purposes."

"An Act to amend the 'Vermin Destruction Act 1890.'"

Government Offices,

Melbourne, 18th September, 1899.

6. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments.

Ordered—That the Bill as amended be printed, and taken into consideration to-morrow.

7. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—

Marine Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—Consideration of Report.

Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

Cremation Bill—Consideration of Report.

Municipal Valuations Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Prahran Mechanics' Institute Bill—Second reading.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

Local Government Act 1890 further Amendment Bill (No. 1)—To be further considered in Committee.

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

And then the Council, at ten o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,

Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 17.

WEDNESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

Question.

1. The Hon. G. GODFREY : To call the attention of the House to the case of Mr. Robert Russell, the surveyor who laid out the streets in the City of Melbourne ; and to ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General if the Government will make some small provision for his declining years.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. CREMATION BILL—Consideration of Report.
2. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL—Second reading.
4. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.
5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)—To be further considered in Committee.
6. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—Consideration of Report.
3. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
4. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Consideration of Report.

TUESDAY, 3RD OCTOBER.

Question.

1. The Hon. N. LEVI : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the inefficiency of accommodation at the Graving Dock, Williamstown, for the large steamers and other vessels now visiting this port ; and to ask whether the Government will take into early consideration the necessity of increasing such accommodation in order that facilities may be provided for repairs and examination of such steamers and vessels should same be required.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Tuesday, 3rd October.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS (JOINT)—at three o'clock.

(120 copies.)

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 21ST SEPTEMBER, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 17.

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 27, 28, and 29.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 30.

Dairying Companies Bill—[82].

Irrigation and Waterworks Trusts.—Return to an Order of the House. C.—No. 4.

Rating in Water Supply and Irrigation Trust Districts.—Return to an Order of the House. C.—No. 5.

VICTORIA.

No. 18.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood having stated his desire to move, That the House do now adjourn, six Members rose in their places and required the motion to be proposed. The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood then said that he proposed to speak on the subject of the Government making some provision for Mr. Robert Russell, and moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.
5. CREMATION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of the Report on this Bill having been read—on the motion of the Honorable F. S. Grimwade the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable F. S. Grimwade, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
The Honorable F. S. Grimwade moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—
“ *An Act to regulate Cremation and for other purposes.*”
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the Bill be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, with a Message desiring their concurrence therein.
6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1).—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.
On the motion of the Honorable J. H. Abbott the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. H. Abbott, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
The Honorable J. H. Abbott moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—
“ *An Act to further amend the ‘Local Government Act 1890.’*”
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.
7. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL.—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments, and had amended the title thereof, which title is as follows :—
“ *An Act to amend the Local Government Acts with regard to Valuations and for other purposes.*”
Ordered—That the Bill as amended be printed, and taken into consideration on Tuesday, 10th October next.

8. PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“*An Act to provide for the Incorporation and Government of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute.*”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with amendments, and requesting their concurrence therein.

9. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, after debate, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday, 10th October next :—

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

Marine Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—Consideration of Report.

Meat Supervision Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

Infant Life Protection Act 1890 Amendment Bill—Consideration of Report.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered, after debate, That the consideration of the following Order of the Day be postponed until Wednesday, 18th October next :—

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

11. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 10th October next.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at forty-five minutes past six o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday, 10th October next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 18.

TUESDAY, 10TH OCTOBER, 1899.

Questions.

1. The Hon. N. LEVI : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the inefficiency of accommodation at the Graving Dock, Williamstown, for the large steamers and other vessels now visiting this port ; and to ask whether the Government will take into early consideration the necessity of increasing such accommodation in order that facilities may be provided for repairs and examination of such steamers and vessels should same be required.
2. The Hon. W. PEARSON : To call the attention of the Honorable the Minister of Defence to the necessity of some provision being made for the registration of brands as suggested by various agricultural and pastoral societies, and to ask whether the Government will at an early date bring in a Bill dealing with this question.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL—Consideration of Report.
3. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
4. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Consideration of Report.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—Consideration of Report.
2. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH OCTOBER.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 27TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. No. 17.
Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 18.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 31.
County Court Bill—[83].

By Authority: ROBT. S. BRAIN, Government Printer, Melbourne.

(160 copies.)

VICTORIA.

No. 19.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 10TH OCTOBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS BILL.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill relating to the observance of certain Public and Bank Holidays.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood do prepare and bring in the Bill.
The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill relating to the observance of certain Public and Bank Holidays,*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.
5. PAPERS.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor—
Reports, &c., on the Beet Sugar Industry at Maffra.
Sixth Progress Report of the Royal Commission on State Forests and Timber Reserves.—The Stanley and Chiltern Forests: Their Resources, Management, and Control.
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk:—
Constitution Statute.—Statement of Expenditure under Schedule D to Act 18 & 19 Vict., cap. 55, during the year 1898-9.
Land Act 1890.—Section 85.—Schedule of Swamp Lease containing Special Conditions.
Water Act 1890—
North Boort Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Rating Regulation.
Cohuna Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—
Alteration of Trust District.
Increase of Trust District.
South Kerang Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—
Constituted.
Scheme and Plan of Works.
Regulations for the Election of Commissioners.
The Borung Shire Council and the Western Wimmera Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Application of Municipal Funds.

6. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the resumption by the Crown of a portion of the Romsey Public Park,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 10th October, 1899.

7. ROMSEY PUBLIC PARK BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to provide for the resumption by the Crown of a portion of the Romsey Public Park,*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.

8. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments.

The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“*An Act to further amend the ‘Marine Act 1890.’*”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with amendments, and requesting their concurrence therein.

9. DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the following Order of the Day was read and discharged :—

Life Assurance Companies Amendment Bill—Consideration of Report.

10. LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for reconsideration.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had reconsidered the Bill and agreed to the same with further amendments.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“*An Act to amend the provisions of the Companies Acts relating to Life Assurance and for other purposes.*”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, with a Message desiring their concurrence therein.

11. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question, That this Bill be now read a second time, having been read—

Debate resumed.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

Debate continued.

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until to-morrow, and take precedence of all other business.

12. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—

Infant Life Protection Act 1890 Amendment Bill—Consideration of Report.

Municipal Valuations Bill—Consideration of Report.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

And then the Council, at ten o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 19.

WEDNESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER, 1899.

Questions.

1. The Hon. J. H. ABBOTT : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the fact that the Report of the Railways Standing Committee on the Upper Coliban Reservoir was presented to the Legislative Assembly on the 1st day of August last ; and to ask when the Government intend to proceed with the work.
2. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the following statements in the *Argus* :—
 1. That the Commissioners of Savings Banks have decided that they will not hold a ballot of mortgage bonds this half-year.
 2. That the Commissioners have decided that there will be no ballot of bonds for five years from this date ;
 and to ask what sections of Act No. 1481 give the Commissioners power to so suspend the ballot.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY (to take precedence) :—

1. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—Consideration of Report.
2. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Consideration of Report.

TUESDAY, 17TH OCTOBER.

Question.

1. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD : To ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General—
 1. The number of children at present boarded out with their parents or relations.
 2. The date when the old rule was abolished of refusing to board out children with their parents or relations.
 3. The total amount paid during last financial year to parents for children so boarded out.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. ROMSEY PUBLIC PARK BILL—Second reading.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS BILL—Second reading.

(120 copies.)

WEDNESDAY, 18TH OCTOBER.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY:—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—
- Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 5TH OCTOBER, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 19.
Romsey Park Bill—[67]. (To Members of Council only.)
Public and Bank Holidays Bill—[84].

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 33, 34, and 35.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 36.

Weekly Report of Divisions. No. 4.

Railways Bill—[18].

Water Bill—

New Clauses in Part II. to be proposed in Committee by Mr. McColl. (To Members only.)

New Clauses, &c., to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Foster. (To Members only.)

New Clauses to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Keys. (To Members only.)

Water Supply Advances Relief Bill (No. 2)—

Amendments to be proposed in Committee. (To Members only.)

Amendment to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Morrissey. (To Members only.)

Coal Mines Regulation Bill.—Amendments and New Clauses to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Downward. (To Members only.)

Appropriation of Revenue Bill.—Amendment to be proposed in Committee of Supply by Mr. Maloney. (To Members only.)

Telegraph Messengers.—Return to an Order of the House. C.—No. 6.

VICTORIA.

No. 20.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT.—The Clerk having announced that the Honorable the President was unavoidably absent, the Honorable F. Brown, on the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, was chosen to fill temporarily the office and perform all the duties of the President during his absence.
3. The Acting President took the Chair.
4. The Acting President read the Prayer.
5. MILITARY FORCE FOR SERVICE IN THE TRANSVAAL.—The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, by leave, That this House desires to express its loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty the Queen and its sympathy with Her Majesty's Imperial Government in the difficulties that have arisen in South Africa, and is of opinion that Victoria should equip and despatch a military force for service with the Imperial army in the Transvaal.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the Clerk be directed to enter in the Journals of the Council that the foregoing resolution was adopted unanimously.
6. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The Acting President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the Incorporation and Government of the Prahran Mechanics' Institute,*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the amendments made in such Bill by the Legislative Council.
Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 11th October, 1899.
F. C. MASON,
Speaker.
7. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question, That this Bill be now read a second time, having been read—
Debate resumed.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Acting President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The Acting President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable R. Reid reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.
Resolved—That the Council will, on Tuesday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

8. **TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL.**—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to prevent the use of Trading Stamps Coupons and other Devices on the Sale or Exchange of Property.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 Ordered—That the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood do prepare and bring in the Bill.
 The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood then brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill to prevent the use of Trading Stamps Coupons and other Devices on the Sale or Exchange of Property,*” and moved, That it be now read a first time.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Wednesday next.
9. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered, after debate, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next :—
Municipal Valuations Bill—Consideration of Report.
Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.
10. **DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.**—On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the following Order of the Day was read and discharged :—
Infant Life Protection Act 1890 Amendment Bill—Consideration of Report.
11. **INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for the consideration of a proposed new clause and the reconsideration of the Schedule.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Acting President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
 The Acting President resumed the Chair ; and the Honorable R. Reid reported that the Committee had reconsidered the Bill and agreed to the same with further amendments.
 The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
 The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—
 “*An Act to amend the ‘Infant Life Protection Act 1890.’*”
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 Ordered—That the Bill be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly with a Message desiring their concurrence therein.
12. **ADJOURNMENT.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at thirty-five minutes past nine o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 20.

TUESDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 1899.

Questions.

1. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD : To ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General—
 1. The number of children at present boarded out with their parents or relations.
 2. The date when the old rule was abolished of refusing to board out children with their parents or relations.
 3. The total amount paid during last financial year to parents for children so boarded out.
2. The Hon. J. H. ABBOTT : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the fact that the Report of the Railways Standing Committee on the Upper Coliban Reservoir was presented to the Legislative Assembly on the 1st day of August last ; and to ask when the Government intend to proceed with the work.
3. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the following statements in the *Argus* :—
 1. That the Commissioners of Savings Banks have decided that they will not hold a ballot of mortgage bonds this half-year.
 2. That the Commissioners have decided that there will be no ballot of bonds for five years from this date ;
 and to ask what sections of Act No. 1481 give the Commissioners power to so suspend the ballot.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. ROMSEY PUBLIC PARK BILL—Second reading.
2. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—To be further considered in Committee.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS BILL—Second reading.
2. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—Consideration of Report.
3. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH OCTOBER.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Tuesday, 17th October.

LIBRARY (JOINT)—at three o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 11TH OCTOBER, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. No. 19.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 20.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 37.

Cremation Bill—[69]. (To Members only.)

Water Supply Advances Relief Bill (No. 2).—Amendment to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Morrissey
(To Members only.)

VICTORIA.

No. 21.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable G. Godfrey having stated his desire to move, That the House do now adjourn, six Members rose in their places and required the motion to be proposed. The Honorable G. Godfrey then said that he proposed to speak on the subject of the legality of the action of the Government in suspending the provisions of Act No. 1481 relating to the ballot of bonds, and moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.
5. PAPERS.—The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk:—
Education Act 1890 and Teachers Act 1893.—Alteration of Regulations.
Water Act 1890.—Gunbower West Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Regulation No. 1.
Bank Liabilities and Assets.—Summary of Sworn Returns for the quarter ended 30th June, 1899.
6. ROMSEY PUBLIC PARK BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable C. J. Ham having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.
On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:—
“*An Act to provide for the resumption by the Crown of a portion of the Romsey Public Park.*”
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.
7. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable R. Reid reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.
Resolved—That the Council will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.
8. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow:—
Public and Bank Holidays Bill—Second reading.
Municipal Valuations Bill—Consideration of Report.
Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

And then the Council, at fifty-five minutes past nine o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Tuesday, 17th October.

LIBRARY (JOINT)—at three o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 11TH OCTOBER, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. No. 19.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 20.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 37.

Cremation Bill—[69]. (To Members only.)

Water Supply Advances Relief Bill (No. 2).—Amendment to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Morrissey
(To Members only.)

VICTORIA.

No. 21.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable G. Godfrey having stated his desire to move, That the House do now adjourn, six Members rose in their places and required the motion to be proposed. The Honorable G. Godfrey then said that he proposed to speak on the subject of the legality of the action of the Government in suspending the provisions of Act No. 1481 relating to the ballot of bonds, and moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.
5. PAPERS.—The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk:—
Education Act 1890 and Teachers Act 1893.—Alteration of Regulations.
Water Act 1890.—Gunbower West Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Regulation No. 1.
Bank Liabilities and Assets.—Summary of Sworn Returns for the quarter ended 30th June, 1899.
6. ROMSEY PUBLIC PARK BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable C. J. Ham having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.
On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:—
“An Act to provide for the resumption by the Crown of a portion of the Romsey Public Park.”
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.
7. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable R. Reid reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.
Resolved—That the Council will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.
8. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow:—
Public and Bank Holidays Bill—Second reading.
Municipal Valuations Bill—Consideration of Report.
Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

And then the Council, at fifty-five minutes past nine o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 21.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH OCTOBER, 1899.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—Second reading.
3. PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS BILL—Second reading.
4. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—Consideration of Report.
5. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY:—

1. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—To be further considered in Committee.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 12TH OCTOBER, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. No. 20.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 21.

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 36, 37, and 38.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 39.

Infant Life Protection Bill—[4]. (To Members only.)

Companies Bill—[25]. (To Members only.)

Victorian Military Contingent Bill—[89].

Marine Bill.—Amendments of the Legislative Council. (To Members only.)

VICTORIA.

No. 22.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH OCTOBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PAPERS.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor—
Charitable Institutions.—Report of Inspector for the year ended 30th June, 1899.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Paper, pursuant to the directions of an Act of Parliament, was laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—
Public Service Acts.—Regulations.
5. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question, That this Bill be now read a second time, having been read—
Debate resumed.
The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Debate continued.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put.
The Council divided.

Ayes, 21.

The Hon. J. C. Campbell
T. Comrie
Sir H. Cuthbert
J. M. Davies
T. Dowling
G. Godfrey
F. S. Grimwade
C. J. Ham
D. Ham
W. McCulloch
D. Melville
E. Miller
W. Pearson
J. M. Pratt
R. Reid
A. O. Sachse
Sir A. Snowden
J. A. Wallace
S. Williamson.

Tellers.

W. Knox
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood.

Noes, 4.

The Hon. T. C. Harwood
N. Levi.

Tellers.

Sir H. J. Wrixon
A. Wynne.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until Wednesday, 1st November next.

6. PETITION.—The Honorable G. Godfrey, by leave, presented a Petition from P. M. Scott, Manager of the Co-operative Coupon Company, Limited, praying that the Council would reject the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill, or appoint a Select Committee to inquire into and report upon the said Bill, and in any case would grant the said company such relief as may appear just to the Council should the Bill become law.

Ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.

7. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That this Bill be committed.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That the Bill be committed to a Select Committee.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Select Committee consist of the Honorables T. Comrie, J. M. Davies, G. Godfrey, D. Ham, T. C. Harwood, W. Knox, W. McCulloch, D. Melville, A. O. Sachse, and the Mover; such Committee to have power to send for persons, papers, and records; three to be the quorum.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

8. PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable R. Reid reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the Council will, on Tuesday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

9. DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the following Order of the Day was read and discharged:—

Municipal Valuations Bill—Consideration of Report.

10. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for the reconsideration of clauses 2, B, and C.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable R. Reid reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the Council will, on Tuesday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

11. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next:—

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

Meat Supervision Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

12. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at ten minutes past ten o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 22.

TUESDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 1899.

Question.

1. The Hon. R. REID : To ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General whether any and what steps have been taken by the Government with a view to effect being given to the recommendations of the late Commission on Legal Procedure—
 1. Those for effecting reforms of administration that need only the action of the Law Department and the Judicial Bench ; or
 2. Whether the attention of their Honours the Judges has been called to the reforms which the late Commission suggested should be accomplished by new Rules of Procedure as provided for by the Judicature Act ; or
 3. Whether preliminary or any steps have been taken by the Government to give effect to such of the Commission's recommendations as require fresh legislation.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—To be further considered in Committee.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
2. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Tuesday, 24th October.

TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—at half-past three o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 18TH OCTOBER, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. No. 21.
Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 22.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 40.

Railway and Public Works Loan Application Bill—[80].

Pilots' Advance Repayment Bill—[81].

Sixth Progress Report of the Royal Commission on State Forests and Reserves.—The Stanley and Chiltern Forests : Their Resources, Management, and Control. No. 53.

Constitution Statute.—Statement of Expenditure under Schedule D to Act 18 and 19 Vict., Cap. 55, during Year 1898-9. No. 55.

By Authority: ROBT. S. BRAIN, Government Printer, Melbourne.

(160 copies.)

No. 23.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PETITIONS.—The Honorable J. M. Davies presented a Petition from certain retail traders of Melbourne, praying that the Council would pass the Public and Bank Holidays Bill. Petition read, ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Committee of the whole on the Public and Bank Holidays Bill.

Similar Petitions were presented as under :—

- By the Honorable A. Wynne—
From certain retail traders of Ballarat.
- By the Honorable N. Thornley—
From certain retail drapers of Warrnambool.
- By the Honorable Sir A. Snowden—
From certain retail traders of Melbourne.
- By the Honorable F. S. Grimwade—
From certain retail traders of Melbourne.
- By the Honorable R. Reid—
From certain retail drapers of Melbourne.
- By the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood—
From certain retail drapers of Geelong.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Committee of the whole on the Public and Bank Holidays Bill.

5. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—POWER TO HEAR COUNSEL.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill have power to hear counsel (to such extent as they shall think fit) on behalf of persons interested in the Bill.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

6. PAPERS.—The Honorable W. McCulloch presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor—
Report on Direct Trade with Manchester, by the Hon. J. W. Taverner, M.P., Minister of Agriculture.
Central Depôt.—Report on a proposed Central Depôt for the reception of Australian Products, to be erected in London.—To the Colonies represented at the Agricultural Conferences held in Melbourne and Hobart in 1899.—By the Hon. J. W. Taverner, the Chairman of the Conference.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—

Agricultural Education.—Accounts of the Trustees of Agricultural Colleges and the Council of Agricultural Education from 1st January, 1899, to 30th June, 1899.

Explosives Act 1890—

Keeping of Explosives.—Additional Regulation.—Manufacture or keeping, &c., of Fire-works.

Definition and Classification of Explosives Amended.—Rendite.

7. **MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty’s Regular Forces in South Africa,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 24th October, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

8. **VICTORIAN MILITARY CONTINGENT BILL.**—The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty’s Regular Forces in South Africa,*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.

9. **PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable J. Bell reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the Council will, on Tuesday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

10. **MEAT SUPERVISION BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable J. Bell reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the Council will, on Tuesday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

11. **VICTORIAN MILITARY CONTINGENT BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable J. Bell having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable W. McCulloch, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“*An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty’s Regular Forces in South Africa.*”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

12. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next :—

Municipal Valuations Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

13. **ADJOURNMENT.**—The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at forty minutes past six o’clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 23.

TUESDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 1899.

Questions.

1. The Hon. R. REID : To ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General whether any and what steps have been taken by the Government with a view to effect being given to the recommendations of the late Commission on Legal Procedure—
 1. Those for effecting reforms of administration that need only the action of the Law Department and the Judicial Bench ; or
 2. Whether the attention of their Honours the Judges has been called to the reforms which the late Commission suggested should be accomplished by new Rules of Procedure as provided for by the Judicature Act ; or
 3. Whether preliminary or any steps have been taken by the Government to give effect to such of the Commission's recommendations as require fresh legislation.
2. The Hon. J. STERNBERG : To call the attention of the Honorable the Minister of Defence to the lengthened period the rifle butts at Bendigo have been closed ; and to ask when they will be again opened and available for the use of the Fifth Battalion.
3. The Hon. S. AUSTIN : To ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General if, under the Income Tax Act, where a person is engaged in business pursuits here and has to leave the colony on business only for more than six months, it is the intention that he should be classed as an absentee and deprived of the £200 exemption allowed to other residents under this Act.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—To be further considered in Committee.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
2. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Tuesday, 31st October.

TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—at half-past two o'clock.

(160 copies.)

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 19TH OCTOBER, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 23.

Public and Bank Holidays Bill.—New Clause to be proposed by the Hon. Agar Wynne. (To Members of Council only.)

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 39, 40, and 41.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 42.

Weekly Report of Divisions. No. 5.

Water Bill.—New Clauses to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Irvine and Mr. McColl. (To Members only.)

Pensions and Gratuities.—Return to an Order of the House. C.—No. 7.

VICTORIA.

No. 24.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PETITIONS.—The following Petitions, praying that the Council would pass the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill, were presented as under :—

By the Honorable C. J. Ham—

From the President and Members of Council of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce.

By the Honorable Sir A. Snowden—

From certain shopkeepers and citizens of the Metropolitan District.

From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.

From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.

From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.

By the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert—

From certain business people of Maryborough.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.

The following Petitions, praying that the Council would pass the Public and Bank Holidays Bill, were presented as under :—

By the Honorable C. J. Ham—

From the President, Vice-Presidents, and Members of Committee of the Victorian Soft-goods Association.

By the Honorable J. M. Davies—

From W. H. Jarrett and E. A. Baldwin, styling themselves Chairman and Acting Secretary respectively of the Marine Underwriters' Association of Victoria, Limited.

From James Davies, styling himself Secretary of the Commercial Travellers' Association of Victoria.

From W. H. Jarrett and Alex. H. Young, styling themselves Chairman and Secretary respectively of the Fire Underwriters' Association of Victoria.

By the Honorable Sir A. Snowden—

From the President and Members of the Council of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce.

By the Honorable D. Melville—

From certain retail traders of Melbourne.

By the Honorable Dr. W. H. Embling—

From certain retail traders of Melbourne.

By the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood—

From the President and Secretary of the Victorian Hardware Association.

By the Honorable R. Reid—

From the President and Committee of the Melbourne Warehousemen's Association.

The Honorable T. C. Harwood presented a Petition from certain purveyors, retail traders, and others of the Town of Geelong, praying that the Council would withhold its consent from the Public and Bank Holidays Bill.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Committee of the whole on the Public and Bank Holidays Bill.

5. PAPERS.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor—
 Report on the Butter Trade, by the Hon. J. W. Taverner, M.P., Minister of Agriculture.
 Report of Proceedings taken under the provisions of the Land Acts and the Wattles Act 1890,
 during the year ending 31st December, 1898.
 Thirty-fifth Report of the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—

Savings Banks.—Statements and Returns for the year ended 30th June, 1899.

Water Act 1890—

Macorna North Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Graduated Rate.—Regulation No. 7.

Kerang East Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Direction to Board of Land and Works to construct a Subway for No. 2A Channel.

Twelve-Mile Irrigation and Water Supply Trust—

Regulation for the Sale of Water.

Rating Regulation for 1899.

Exhibition Trustees.—Report of Proceedings and Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1899.

Land Act 1890.—Section 85.—Schedule of Swamp Lease containing Special Conditions.

6. POLICE OFFENCES ACT 1890 (PART IV.) FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to further amend Part IV. of the *Police Offences Act 1890* and for other purposes.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert do prepare and bring in the Bill.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill to further amend Part IV. of the 'Police Offences Act 1890' and for other purposes,*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.

7. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments.

Ordered—That the Bill as amended be printed, and taken into consideration to-morrow.

8. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—

Public and Bank Holidays Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Municipal Valuations Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

And then the Council, at twenty-eight minutes past ten o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
 Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 24.

WEDNESDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER, 1899.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
4. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Consideration of Report.

TUESDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER.

Questions.

1. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the statement made in a report circulated by the Public Works Department—
 1. That the drainage of the Moe Swamp had cost to date £54,182 ;
 2. That the disposal of this swamp will realize £63,000 ;
 and to ask if this amount of £54,182 includes interest on the sums expended ; if not, what will the total cost to date amount to, adding 4 per cent. interest with yearly rests.
2. The Hon. J. STERNBERG : To call the attention of the Honorable the Minister of Defence to the lengthened period the rifle butts at Bendigo have been closed ; and to ask when they will be again opened and available for the use of the Fifth Battalion.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. POLICE OFFENCES ACT 1890 (PART IV.) FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETINGS OF SELECT COMMITTEES.

Wednesday, 1st November.

TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—at half-past two o'clock.
STANDING ORDERS—at three o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 26TH OCTOBER, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 24.

Meat Supervision Bill—[28]. (To Members of Council only.)

Police Offences Bill—[44].

Public and Bank Holidays Bill.—New Clauses to be proposed by the Hon. Robert Reid. (To Members of Council only.)

Notes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 42, 43, and 44.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 45.

Weekly Report of Divisions. No. 6.

Water Bill—[3]. (To Members only.)

Factories and Shops Bill.—New Clauses to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Wilkins. (To Members only.)

VICTORIA.

No. 25.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PETITIONS.—The following Petitions, praying that the Council would pass the Public and Bank Holidays Bill, were presented as under :—
 - By the Honorable C. J. Ham—
From certain bank managers.
 - By the Honorable J. M. Davies—
From the Members of the Council of the Law Institute of Victoria.
 - By the Honorable Sir A. Snowden—
From the Victorian Chamber of Manufactures.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Committee of the whole on the Public and Bank Holidays Bill.

The following Petitions, praying that the Council would pass the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill, were presented as under :—

- By the Honorable C. J. Ham—
From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.
From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.

5. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor was presented by the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, and the same was read by the Honorable the President :—

BRASSEY,
Governor.

Message No. 6.

The Governor informs the Legislative Council that he has, on this day, at the Government Offices, given the Royal Assent to the undermentioned Acts of the present Session, presented to him by the Clerk of the Parliaments, viz. :—

- “ An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty’s Regular Forces in South Africa.”
- “ An Act to provide for the Incorporation and Government of the Prahran Mechanics’ Institute.”
- “ An Act to provide for the resumption by the Crown of a portion of the Romsey Public Park.”

Government Offices,
Melbourne, 27th October, 1899.

6. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable A. O. Sachse having stated his desire to move, That the House do now adjourn, six Members rose in their places and required the motion to be proposed. The Honorable A. O. Sachse then said that he proposed to speak on the subject of the offer of the Union Steam-ship Company to place the *Monowai* at the disposal of Members of Parliament on the occasion of the departure of the Victorian Military Contingent for South Africa, and moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.

7. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to relieve certain Corporations of a part of their indebtedness for moneys borrowed from the State for Water Supply,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 1st November, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

8. WATER SUPPLY ADVANCES RELIEF BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to relieve certain Corporations of a part of their indebtedness for moneys borrowed from the State for Water Supply,*" be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 14th November instant.

9. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Water Act 1890,'*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 1st November, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

10. WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Water Act 1890,'*" be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 14th November instant.

11. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Marine Act 1890,'*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to some of the amendments made in such Bill by the Legislative Council, have disagreed with one of the said amendments, and have agreed to another of the said amendments with an amendment, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 1st November, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration on Tuesday, 14th November instant.

12. PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS BILL.—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

"*An Act relating to the observance of certain Public and Bank Holidays.*"

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly with a Message desiring their concurrence therein.

13. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Pilots' Advance Repayment Act 1898,'*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 1st November, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

14. PILOTS' ADVANCE REPAYMENT ACT 1898 AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Pilots' Advance Repayment Act 1898,'*" be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 14th November instant.

15. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Railway and Public Works Loan Application Act 1898,'*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 1st November, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

16. RAILWAY AND PUBLIC WORKS LOAN APPLICATION ACT 1898 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Railway and Public Works Loan Application Act 1898,'*" be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 14th November instant.

17. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor was presented by the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, and the same was read by the Honorable the President :—

BRASSEY,
Governor.

Message No. 7.

The Governor informs the Legislative Council that he has, on this day, at the Government Offices, given the Royal Assent to the undermentioned Act of the present Session, presented to him by the Clerk of the Parliaments, viz :—

"*An Act to further amend the 'Local Government Act 1890.'*"

Government Offices,
Melbourne, 16th October, 1899.

18. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question, That this Bill be now read a second time, having been read—

Debate resumed.

The Honorable C. J. Ham moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

Debate continued.

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until Wednesday, 15th November instant.

19. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL.—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had reconsidered clauses 2, B, and C, and agreed to the same with further amendments.

Ordered—That the Bill as amended be printed, and taken into consideration on Tuesday, 14th November instant.

20. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act relating to the Surplus Revenue of the Financial Year ended on the thirtieth day of June One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 1st November, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

21. SURPLUS REVENUE BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act relating to the Surplus Revenue of the Financial Year ended on the thirtieth day of June One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine,*" be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 14th November instant.

22. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to authorize the raising of Money for certain purposes by increasing the amount of Victorian Government Three per cent. Stock,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 1st November, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

23. **GOVERNMENT THREE PER CENT. STOCK BILL.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to authorize the raising of Money for certain purposes by increasing the amount of Victorian Government Three per cent. Stock,*” be now read a first time.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday, 14th November instant.
24. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.**—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Order of the Day be postponed until Wednesday, 15th November instant :—
Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.
25. **DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.**—On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the following Order of the Day was read and discharged :—
Meat Supervision Bill—Consideration of Report.
26. **MEAT SUPERVISION BILL.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for the reconsideration of clauses 2, 3, 4, 5, A, 7, 16, 30, 32, and 43.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
 The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had reconsidered clauses 2, 3, 4, 5, A, 7, 16, 30, 32, and 43, and agreed to the same with further amendments.
 The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
 The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—
 “*An Act for the proper supervision of the Slaughtering of Animals and the Sale of Meat and for other purposes.*”
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 Ordered—That the Bill be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly with a Message desiring their concurrence therein.
27. **ADJOURNMENT.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 14th November instant.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at fifty-five minutes past ten o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday, 14th November instant.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 25.

TUESDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

Questions.

1. The Hon. F. S. GRIMWADE : To ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General if he will be good enough to inform this House—
 1. If it is a fact that the directors of the Union Steam-ship Company placed at the disposal of the Government the steamer *Monowai* for the purpose of enabling Members of Parliament to accompany the *Medic* down the Bay on the occasion of the departure of the Victorian Contingent for South Africa; if so,
 2. To which member of the Government was the courteous offer of the Union Steam-ship Company addressed; and
 3. Why was the offer of the directors not communicated to Members of the Legislative Council.
2. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the statement made in a report circulated by the Public Works Department—
 1. That the drainage of the Moe Swamp had cost to date £54,182 ;
 2. That the disposal of this swamp will realize £63,000 ;
 and to ask if this amount of £54,182 includes interest on the sums expended ; if not, what will the total cost to date amount to, adding 4 per cent. interest with yearly rests.
3. The Hon. J. STERNBERG : To call the attention of the Honorable the Minister of Defence to the lengthened period the rifle butts at Bendigo have been closed ; and to ask when they will be again opened and available for the use of the Fifth Battalion.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WATER SUPPLY ADVANCES RELIEF BILL—Second reading.
2. WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
3. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—
To be taken into consideration.
4. PILOTS' ADVANCE REPAYMENT ACT 1898 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
5. RAILWAY AND PUBLIC WORKS LOAN APPLICATION ACT 1898 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—
Second reading.
6. POLICE OFFENCES ACT 1890 (PART IV.) FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
7. SURPLUS REVENUE BILL—Second reading.
8. GOVERNMENT THREE PER CENT. STOCK BILL—Second reading.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—Consideration of report.

WEDNESDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETINGS OF SELECT COMMITTEES.

Tuesday, 14th November.

TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—at eleven o'clock.

STANDING ORDERS—at a quarter to three o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 1st NOVEMBER, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 25.

Water Bill—[3]. (To Members of Council only.)

Water Supply Advances Relief Bill—[21]. (To Members of Council only.)

Surplus Revenue Bill—[79]. (To Members of Council only.)

Railway and Public Works Loan Application Bill—[80]. (To Members of Council only.)

Pilots' Advance Repayment Bill—[81]. (To Members of Council only.)

Victorian Government Three per cent. Stock Bill—[93]. (To Members of Council only.)

Marine Bill.—Amendments made by the Legislative Council—How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly. (To Members of Council only.)

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 46.

Report on the Butter Trade by the Hon. J. W. Taverner, M.P., Minister of Agriculture. No. 65.

VICTORIA.

No. 26.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. CORRECTION IN MEAT SUPERVISION BILL.—The President announced that he had received the following Report from the Clerk :—

Parliament House,
Melbourne, 14th November, 1899.

MR. PRESIDENT—

I have the honour to report that, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 299, I have made the following correction in the Bill intituled "*An Act for the proper supervision of the Slaughtering of Animals and the Sale of Meat and for other purposes*":—

In clause 31, page 10, line 9, before the word "in" the words "with the words" have been omitted.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

GEO. H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

The Honorable
The President of the Legislative Council,
&c., &c., &c.

5. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable F. S. Grimwade having stated his desire to move, That the House do now adjourn, six Members rose in their places and required the motion to be proposed. The Honorable F. S. Grimwade then said that he proposed to speak on the subject of the reply of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to a question respecting the invitation of the Union Steam-ship Company, and moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.
6. PAPERS.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor :—
Report on the Fresh, Canned, and Dried Fruit and Tinned Meat Trades, by the Hon. J. W. Taverner, M.P., Minister of Agriculture.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—
Municipalities' Loans Extension Act 1898.—Alteration of Regulations.
The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1890, Part IX., Section 356.—Statement of Temporary Appointments in the Department of the Library.
The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1890, Part IX.—Statement showing the Names, Remuneration, Duties, &c., of all Persons temporarily employed in the Department of the Legislative Assembly under the authority of Part IX. of *The Constitution Act Amendment Act* 1890 during the period from 16th November, 1898, to 14th November, 1899.
7. PILOTS' ADVANCE REPAYMENT ACT 1898 AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole. Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed. The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ An Act to amend the ‘ Pilots’ Advance Repayment Act 1898.’ ”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

8. RAILWAY AND PUBLIC WORKS LOAN APPLICATION ACT 1898 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ An Act to further amend the ‘ Railway and Public Works Loan Application Act 1898.’ ”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

9. SURPLUS REVENUE BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ An Act relating to the Surplus Revenue of the Financial Year ended on the thirtieth day of June One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

10. GOVERNMENT THREE PER CENT. STOCK BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ *An Act to authorize the raising of Money for certain purposes by increasing the amount of Victorian Government Three per cent. Stock.*”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

11. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next :—

Water Supply Advances Relief Bill—Second reading.

Water Act 1890 Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Marine Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Message from the Legislative Assembly—To be taken into consideration.

Police Offences Act 1890 (Part IV.) further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

12. **MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the consideration of the Report on this Bill having been read—on the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council, after debate, adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ *An Act to amend the Local Government Acts with regard to Valuations and for other purposes.*”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with amendments, and requesting their concurrence therein.

13. **ADJOURNMENT.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at thirty-nine minutes past nine o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,

Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 26.

TUESDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER, 1899.

Questions.

1. The Hon. P. PHILLIPS : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the dissatisfaction which exists throughout the Mallee districts in connexion with sub-section (e) of section 134 of the *Land Act* 1898, which debars the lessee of a mallee allotment from transferring or mortgaging such allotment during the first six years' currency of his lease; and to ask if it is the intention of the Government to introduce an amending Bill this Session to provide for the amendment of this section.
2. The Hon. J. BALFOUR : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to his promise on 5th July last, that he would recommend to the Cabinet that the necessary action should be taken to enable Mr. James Buchanan, who had been for 23 years a Member of this House, to retain the title of "Honorable" in accordance with the Queen's regulation, as gazetted on 10th April, 1897; and to ask if such necessary action has been taken.
3. The Hon. Dr. W. H. EMBLING : To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence—
 1. Is it true that the Government have decided to appoint Major-General Downes to the command of the Forces *vice* Major-General Sir Charles Hotted Smith.
 2. Seeing that the rank of Major-General is only an honorary rank conferred upon Major-General Downes in recognition of his long service, is not Colonel Bingham his senior by the rules of the service.
 3. Will the Minister state the reasons why the Government passed over a Colonel in active service in favour of an officer on the retired list.
4. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the fact—
 1. That when the Melbourne and Collingwood Railway Bill was under the consideration of the Legislative Council the words "and such line shall be constructed on the system usually called the butty-gang system" were struck out of clause 5 of the Bill;
 2. That the omission of these words was concurred in by the Legislative Assembly;
 3. That the words were omitted because Parliament was of opinion that such a special railway work could not advantageously be carried out by day labour, but should be let to responsible contractors;
 and to ask whether it is a fact that the work is being carried out by day labour.
5. The Hon. D. MELVILLE : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the fact that on the 25th of October last the Right Honorable the Premier communicated to another place an important Message from Her Majesty the Queen, thanking the people of Victoria for sending troops to co-operate with the Imperial Forces in South Africa; and to ask why the Message in question was not also communicated to this House in accordance with the usual practice.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WATER SUPPLY ADVANCES RELIEF BILL—Second reading.
2. WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
3. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—
To be taken into consideration.
4. POLICE OFFENCES ACT 1890 (PART IV.) FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.

TUESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER.

Question.

1. The Hon. J. STERNBERG: To call the attention of the Honorable the Minister of Defence to the lengthened period the rifle butts at Bendigo have been closed; and to ask when they will be again opened and available for the use of the Fifth Battalion.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Tuesday, 21st November.

TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—at half-past eleven o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 2ND NOVEMBER, 1899.

- Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 26.
 Local Government Bill No. 2—[54]. (To Members of Council only.)
 Marine Bill.—Amendments made by the Legislative Council and how dealt with by the Legislative Assembly. (To Members of Council only.)
 Police Offences Bill.—Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood and the Hon. J. M. Davies. (To Members of Council only.)
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- Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 45, 46, and 47.
 Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 48.
 Meat Supervision Bill—[28]. (To Members only.)
 Public and Bank Holidays Bill—[84]. (To Members only.)
 Congregational College Bill—[97].
 Poisons Bill.—New Clause to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Craven. (To Members only.)
 Factories and Shops Bill—
 New Clause to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Maloney. (To Members only.)
 New Clauses and Amendments to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Gray and Mr. Gurr. (To Members only.)
 Report of Proceedings taken under Provisions of Land Acts and *Wattles Act* 1890 during Year ending 31st December, 1898. No. 9.
 Savings Banks.—Statements and Returns for Year ended 30th June, 1899. No. 57.
 Thirty-fifth Report of Board for Protection of Aborigines. No. 59.
 Accounts of Trustees of Agricultural Colleges and Council of Agricultural Education from 1st January, 1899, to 30th June, 1899. No. 60.
 Exhibition Trustees.—Report of Proceeding and Statement of Income and Expenditure for Year ended 30th June, 1899. No. 62.

VICTORIA.

No. 27.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor was presented by the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, and the same was read by the Honorable the President:—

BRASSEY,

*Governor.**Message No. 8.*

The Governor transmits to the Legislative Council a copy of a despatch received from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, relative to the Joint Address from the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of this Colony, praying that Her Majesty would be pleased to cause to be introduced into the Imperial Parliament a measure for the establishment of an Australian Commonwealth.

Government House,
Melbourne, 15th November, 1899.

Colonial Office, Downing-street,
27th September, 1899.

Victoria.—No. 61.

MY LORD,

I have duly received and have had much pleasure in laying before the Queen the Joint Address from the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Victoria, praying that Her Majesty would cause to be introduced into Parliament a measure for passing into law the Federal Constitution of an Australian Commonwealth, and I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty was pleased to receive the Address very graciously.

Upon the receipt of similar Addresses from the Legislatures of the other Colonies proposing to join in Federal Union, the matter will receive the immediate attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I have the honour to be, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

(Sd.) J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor

The Right Honorable Lord Brassey, K.C.B.,
&c., &c., &c.

5. CRIMES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Crimes Acts.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert do prepare and bring in the Bill.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill to amend the Crimes Acts,*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.
6. VEGETATION DISEASES ACT 1896 CONTINUATION BILL.—The Honorable W. McCulloch moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill to continue the *Vegetation Diseases Act 1896*.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the Honorable W. McCulloch do prepare and bring in the Bill.
The Honorable W. McCulloch then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill to continue the 'Vegetation Diseases Act 1896,'*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.

7. PETITIONS.—The following Petitions, praying that the Council would pass the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill, were presented as under :—

By the Honorable C. J. Ham—

From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.
From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.
From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.
From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.

By the Honorable S. Williamson—

From certain traders of Beaufort and elsewhere.
From certain traders of Stawell and elsewhere.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.

8. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable D. Melville having stated his desire to move, That the House do now adjourn, six Members rose in their places and required the motion to be proposed.

The Honorable D. Melville then said that he proposed to speak on the subject of the Queen's Regulation respecting the retaining of the title of "Honorable" by ex-Members of the Legislative Council, and moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, as an amendment, That the words "until a quarter to eight o'clock this day" be added to the motion.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the House do now adjourn until a quarter to eight o'clock this day—put and resolved in the affirmative.

9. THE PRESIDENT RESUMED THE CHAIR AT A QUARTER TO EIGHT O'CLOCK.

10. PETITIONS.—The following Petitions, praying that the Council would pass the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill, were presented by the Honorable J. Y. McDonald :—

From certain traders of Ballarat.
From certain traders of Ballarat.
From certain traders of Ballarat.
From certain traders of Ballarat.
From certain traders of Ballarat.
From certain traders of Ballarat.
From certain traders of Ballarat.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.

11. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Dr. W. H. Embling having stated his desire to move, That the House do now adjourn, six Members rose in their places and required the motion to be proposed.

The Honorable Dr. W. H. Embling then said that he proposed to speak on the subject of the position of Colonel Bingham in the Defence Force, and moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived.

12. WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.— Bill read a second time.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the Council will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

13. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—

Water Supply Advances Relief Bill—Second reading.

Marine Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Message from the Legislative Assembly—To be taken into consideration.

Police Offences Act 1890 (Part IV.) further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.

And then the Council, at three minutes past ten o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,

Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 27.

WEDNESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 1899.

Question.

1. The Hon. D. MELVILLE : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the fact that on the 25th of October last the Right Honorable the Premier communicated to another place an important Message from Her Majesty the Queen, thanking the people of Victoria for sending troops to co-operate with the Imperial Forces in South Africa ; and to ask why the Message in question was not also communicated to this House in accordance with the usual practice.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
2. WATER SUPPLY ADVANCES RELIEF BILL—Second reading.
3. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—
To be taken into consideration.
4. POLICE OFFENCES ACT 1890 (PART IV.) FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.

TUESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER.

Questions.

1. The Hon. J. STERNBERG : To call the attention of the Honorable the Minister of Defence to the lengthened period the rifle butts at Bendigo have been closed ; and to ask when they will be again opened and available for the use of the Fifth Battalion.
2. The Hon. W. KNOX : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to some of the amendments in and additions to the Local Government Act made since its enactment in 1891, and to some of the Supreme Court decisions in interpretation thereof, which appear to show the necessity existing for a review of the present law, with a view of securing uniformity in the application of the Act ; and to ask if the Government will, by appointing a Royal Commission or by Act of Parliament, enlarge the number of the Select Committee now sitting in another place by adding thereto a proportionate number of honorable Members of the Legislative Council, and give to such Joint Committee power during the recess to inquire into the working of the Local Government Acts and into any other amendments proposed, and to report to Parliament.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. CRIMES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. VEGETATION DISEASES ACT 1896 CONTINUATION BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Wednesday, 22nd November.

TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—at half-past eleven o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 16TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. No. 26.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 27.

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 48, 49, 50, and 51.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 51.

Weekly Report of Divisions. No. 7.

Preston Loan Bill—[99].

Factories and Shops Bill—

Amendments to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Gray, Mr. Deakin, Mr. Cook, Mr. Watt, and Mr. A. Harris. (To Members only.)

Amendment to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Peacock. (To Members only.)

Amendment to be proposed by Mr. Peacock. (To Members only.)

New Clause to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Moule. (To Members only.)

Report from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways on Question of Increasing Limit of Expenditure for Colac and Beech Forest Railway, &c. Report No. 4.

VICTORIA.

No. 28.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. **MILITARY FORCE FOR SERVICE IN THE TRANSVAAL.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert informed the Council that His Excellency the Governor had received the following cablegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies on 25th October last:—

“ Her Majesty the Queen desires to thank the people of Victoria for their striking manifestation of loyalty and patriotism in their voluntary offer to send troops to co-operate with Her Majesty’s Imperial Forces in maintaining her position and the rights of British subjects in South Africa.

“ She wishes the troops God-speed and a safe return.”
5. **PETITION.**—The Honorable J. Y. McDonald presented a Petition from certain traders of Ballarat, praying that the Council would pass the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.
6. **WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for the reconsideration of clauses 5, 6, 7, 10, and 19.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had reconsidered clauses 5, 6, 7, 10, and 19, and agreed to the same with further amendments.
Ordered—That the Bill as amended be printed, and taken into consideration on Tuesday next.
7. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.**—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Order of the Day be postponed until Wednesday, 6th December next:—
Workmen’s Compensation Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.
8. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.**—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Order of the Day be postponed until Wednesday next:—
Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading.
9. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next:—
Water Supply Advances Relief Bill—Second reading.
Marine Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Message from the Legislative Assembly—To be taken into consideration.
Police Offences Act 1890 (Part IV.) further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

10. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at fifty-eight minutes past eight o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,

Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 28.

TUESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

Questions.

1. The Hon. J. STERNBERG : To call the attention of the Honorable the Minister of Defence to the lengthened period the rifle butts at Bendigo have been closed ; and to ask when they will be again opened and available for the use of the Fifth Battalion.
2. The Hon. W. KNOX : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to some of the amendments in and additions to the Local Government Act made since its enactment in 1891, and to some of the Supreme Court decisions in interpretation thereof, which appear to show the necessity existing for a review of the present law, with a view of securing uniformity in the application of the Act ; and to ask if the Government will, by appointing a Royal Commission or by Act of Parliament, enlarge the number of the Select Committee now sitting in another place by adding thereto a proportionate number of honorable Members of the Legislative Council, and give to such Joint Committee power during the recess to inquire into the working of the Local Government Acts and into any other amendments proposed, and to report to Parliament.
3. The Hon. G. GODFREY : To call the attention of the House to the continued anomalies in the administration of the Income Tax Act ; and to ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General whether it is the intention of the Government to bring in the promised Bill this Session to deal with such anomalies.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—Consideration of Report.
2. WATER SUPPLY ADVANCES RELIEF BILL—Second reading.
3. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—
To be taken into consideration.
4. POLICE OFFENCES ACT 1890 (PART IV.) FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
5. CRIMES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
6. VEGETATION DISEASES ACT 1896 CONTINUATION BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETINGS OF SELECT COMMITTEES.

Tuesday, 28th November.

TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—at half-past eleven o'clock.
STANDING ORDERS—at three o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 22ND NOVEMBER, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 28.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 52.

VICTORIA.

No. 29.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PETITIONS.—The Honorable Sir A. Snowden presented a Petition from certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria, praying that the Council would pass the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.
The Honorable Sir A. Snowden presented a Petition from certain persons residing in the colony praying that the Council would reject the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.
Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.
5. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor was presented by the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, and the same was read by the Honorable the President :—

BRASSEY,

Governor.

Message No. 9.

The Governor informs the Legislative Council that he has, on this day, at the Government Offices, given the Royal Assent to the undermentioned Acts of the present Session, presented to him by the Clerk of the Parliaments, viz.:—

“An Act to amend the ‘Pilots’ Advance Repayment Act 1898.’”

“An Act to further amend the ‘Railway and Public Works Loan Application Act 1898.’”

“An Act relating to the Surplus Revenue of the Financial Year ended on the thirtieth day of June One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine.”

“An Act to authorize the raising of Money for certain purposes by increasing the amount of Victorian Government Three per cent. Stock.”

Government Offices,
Melbourne, 27th November, 1899.

6. PAPERS.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor :—
Education.—Report of the Minister of Public Instruction for the year 1898–9.
Report on Phylloxera, by the Hon. J. W. Taverner, M.P., Minister of Agriculture.
Greater Britain Exhibition at London, 1899.—Progress Report of the Commissioners for Victoria, to the Right Hon. the Premier.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—

The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1890.—Part IX.—Statement showing the Names; Remuneration, Duties, &c., of all Persons temporarily employed in the Departments of the Legislative Council and the Parliament Gardens.

Victorian Railways.—Report of the Victorian Railways Commissioner for the quarter ending 30th September, 1899.

Defences and Discipline Act 1890—

Victorian Naval and Military Forces.—Alteration of Financial and Store Regulations.—Part VII.

Victorian Military Forces.—Alteration of Regulations.—Part II.

Victorian Naval Forces.—Alteration of Regulations.—Part II.

Summary of Statements for year 1898 made by Companies transacting Life Assurance Business in Victoria.

7. DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the following Order of the Day was read and discharged :—

Water Act 1890 Amendment Bill—Consideration of Report.

8. WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for the reconsideration of clauses 6, 20, 36, 58, 79, 126, 140, and 171.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had reconsidered clauses 6, 20, 36, 58, 79, 126, 140, and 171, and agreed to the same with further amendments.

Ordered—That the Bill as amended be printed, and taken into consideration this day.

9. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Three hundred and ninety-one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 28th November, 1899.

10. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 4).—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Three hundred and ninety-one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred,*" be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.

11. DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the following Order of the Day was read and discharged :—

Water Act 1890 Amendment Bill—Consideration of Report.

12. WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for the reconsideration of clauses 80, 130, and A.

Debate ensued.

The Honorable T. C. Harwood moved, as an amendment, That the figures "149" be inserted after the figures "130."

Debate continued.

Question—That the figures proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put and negatived.

Question—That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for the reconsideration of clauses 80, 130, and A—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had reconsidered clauses 80, 130, and A, and agreed to the same with further amendments.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

"*An Act to amend the 'Water Act 1890.'*"

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with amendments, and requesting their concurrence therein.

13. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 4).—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Three hundred and ninety-one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

14. WATER SUPPLY ADVANCES RELIEF BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council, after debate, ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“An Act to relieve certain Corporations of a part of their indebtedness for moneys borrowed from the State for Water Supply.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

15. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—

Marine Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Message from the Legislative Assembly—To be taken into consideration.

Police Offences Act 1890 (Part IV.) further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Crimes Acts Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Vegetation Diseases Act 1896 Continuation Bill—Second reading.

And then the Council, at thirteen minutes past ten o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 29.

WEDNESDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

Question.

1. The Hon. S. FRASER: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the non-publication of the *Victorian Year-Book*, and to urge upon the Government the advisability of giving instructions for the immediate issue of this valuable work.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY:—

1. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—
To be taken into consideration.
2. POLICE OFFENCES ACT 1890 (PART IV.) FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
3. CRIMES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
4. VEGETATION DISEASES ACT 1896 CONTINUATION BILL—Second reading.

TUESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER.

Question.

1. The Hon. W. KNOX: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to some of the amendments in and additions to the Local Government Act made since its enactment in 1891, and to some of the Supreme Court decisions in interpretation thereof, which appear to show the necessity existing for a review of the present law, with a view of securing uniformity in the application of the Act; and to ask if the Government will, by appointing a Royal Commission or by Act of Parliament, enlarge the number of the Select Committee now sitting in another place by adding thereto a proportionate number of honorable Members of the Legislative Council, and give to such Joint Committee power during the recess to inquire into the working of the Local Government Acts and into any other amendments proposed, and to report to Parliament.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY:—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Wednesday, 29th November.

TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—at half-past two o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 23RD NOVEMBER, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. Nos. 27 and 28.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 29.

Water Bill—[3]. (To Members of Council only.)

Vegetation Diseases Bill—[8].

Crimes Bill—[90].

Water Bill.—Amendment to be proposed by the Hon. Sir A. Snowden on Recommittal. (To Members of Council only.)

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 52, 53, and 54.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 54.

Weekly Report of Divisions. No. 8.

Teachers Bill—[33].

Factories and Shops Bill—[35]. (To Members only.)

Income Tax Bill.—Amendments to be proposed by Sir George Turner in Committee of Ways and Means. (To Members only.)

Factories and Shops Bill—

Amendments to be proposed on the Third Reading. (To Members only.)

Amendments to be proposed by Mr. Peacock. (To Members only.)

Local Government Bill No. 3.—Amendments of the Legislative Council. (To Members only.)

VICTORIA.

No. 30.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to place certain Restrictions on Immigration,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.
Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 29th November, 1899.
F. C. MASON,
Speaker.
5. IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION BILL.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to place certain Restrictions on Immigration,*” be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.
6. PAPERS.—The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—
Netting in the Murray River and its Tributaries.
Fisheries Act 1890.—Notice of Intention regarding Fishing in the Barwon River.
Customs and Excise Duties Act 1890—
Minor Articles—
Shoe Counters (paper).
Steel Hubs.
7. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
The Honorable N. Levi moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until Wednesday next.
8. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at three minutes past five o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 30.

TUESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER, 1899.

Questions.

1. The Hon. G. GODFREY : To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence—
 1. Whether his attention has been called to the recommendations of the late Military Commandant that the battalions of metropolitan militia should be increased to their original strength of eight companies.
 2. How long he proposes to allow the battalions to remain skeleton battalions of four companies each.
 3. Does the Government intend at any time to return the battalions to their old strength ; and, if so, when.
 4. Has it been brought under his notice that many suitable men have recently volunteered for service in the infantry militia and cannot be recruited, as the present battalions are full.
 5. Does he propose to make any provision by which every man who desires to train himself to serve his country when required shall have reasonable opportunity of doing so.
2. The Hon. W. KNOX : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to some of the amendments in and additions to the Local Government Act made since its enactment in 1891, and to some of the Supreme Court decisions in interpretation thereof, which appear to show the necessity existing for a review of the present law, with a view of securing uniformity in the application of the Act ; and to ask if the Government will, by appointing a Royal Commission or by Act of Parliament, enlarge the number of the Select Committee now sitting in another place by adding thereto a proportionate number of honorable Members of the Legislative Council, and give to such Joint Committee power during the recess to inquire into the working of the Local Government Acts and into any other amendments proposed, and to report to Parliament.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION BILL—Second reading.
2. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—
To be taken into consideration.
3. POLICE OFFENCES ACT 1890 (PART IV.) FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
4. CRIMES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
5. VEGETATION DISEASES ACT 1896 CONTINUATION BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Tuesday, 5th December.

TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—at half-past two o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 29TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 30.

Immigration Restriction Bill—[27]. (To Members of Council only.)

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 55.

Water Supply Loans Application Bill—[98].

Water Bill.—Amendments of the Legislative Council. (To Members only.)

Greater Britain Exhibition at London, 1899.—Progress Report of Commissioners for Victoria to the Right Hon. the Premier. No. 66.

Report from Select Committee upon Transfer of J. R. Jackson to Lands Department, together with Proceedings of Committee, &c. D.—No. 1.

Railway Loan Application Bill.—Detailed Statement of Proposed Expenditure. (To Members only.)

VICTORIA.

No. 31.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER, 1899.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. HORWITZ'S VICTORIAN STATUTES.—The President said:—I desire to inform honorable Members that I have received from Mr. Louis Horwitz a very valuable gift, a complete copy of *Horwitz's Victorian Statutes* which has been placed in the Chamber for the use of honorable Members; and I take this opportunity of thanking the donor for the valuable present he has made to the Council.
5. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Three hundred and seventy-six thousand six hundred and fifty-nine pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 5th December, 1899.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

6. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 5).—The Honorable J. Balfour moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Three hundred and seventy-six thousand six hundred and fifty-nine pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred,*" be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.
The Honorable J. Balfour moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
The Honorable J. Balfour moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. Balfour, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.
On the motion of the Honorable J. Balfour the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. Balfour, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
The Honorable J. Balfour moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:—
"*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Three hundred and seventy-six thousand six hundred and fifty-nine pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred.*"
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.
7. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable J. Balfour moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 9th January next.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at twenty minutes past five o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday, 9th January next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 31.

TUESDAY, 9TH JANUARY, 1900.

Questions.

1. The Hon. G. GODFREY : To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence—
 1. Whether his attention has been called to the recommendations of the late Military Commandant that the battalions of metropolitan militia should be increased to their original strength of eight companies.
 2. How long he proposes to allow the battalions to remain skeleton battalions of four companies each.
 3. Does the Government intend at any time to return the battalions to their old strength ; and, if so, when.
 4. Has it been brought under his notice that many suitable men have recently volunteered for service in the infantry militia and cannot be recruited, as the present battalions are full.
 5. Does he propose to make any provision by which every man who desires to train himself to serve his country when required shall have reasonable opportunity of doing so.
2. The Hon. W. KNOX : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to some of the amendments in and additions to the Local Government Act made since its enactment in 1891, and to some of the Supreme Court decisions in interpretation thereof, which appear to show the necessity existing for a review of the present law, with a view of securing uniformity in the application of the Act ; and to ask if the Government will, by appointing a Royal Commission or by Act of Parliament, enlarge the number of the Select Committee now sitting in another place by adding thereto a proportionate number of honorable Members of the Legislative Council, and give to such Joint Committee power during the recess to inquire into the working of the Local Government Acts and into any other amendments proposed, and to report to Parliament.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION BILL—Second reading.
2. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—To be taken into consideration.
3. POLICE OFFENCES ACT 1890 (PART IV.) FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
4. CRIMES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
5. VEGETATION DISEASES ACT 1896 CONTINUATION BILL—Second reading.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 30TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 31.

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 55, 56, and 57.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 57.

Weekly Report of Divisions. No. 9.

Report on Phylloxera, by the Hon. J. W. Taverner, M.P., Minister of Agriculture. No. 68.

By Authority: ROBT. S. BRAIN, Government Printer, Melbourne.

(160 copies.)

VICTORIA.

No. 32.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 9TH JANUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. **ISSUE OF AND RETURN TO WRITS.**—The President announced that since the adjournment of the Council he had issued Writs for the election of Members to serve for the Melbourne Province and for the Southern Province respectively, in the place of the Honorable J. M. Davies and the Honorable D. Melville, who had severally accepted offices of profit under the Crown; that there had been returned to him such Writs, and by the indorsements thereon it appeared that the Honorable John Mark Davies and the Honorable Donald Melville had been elected in pursuance thereof.
5. **SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.**—The Honorables J. M. Davies and D. Melville being severally introduced, took and subscribed the oath required by law, and severally delivered to the Clerk the Declaration required by the thirty-seventh section of the Act No. 1075, as hereunder set forth:—

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, JOHN MARK DAVIES, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal district of Lilydale, and are known as Crown allotments fifty-six, fifty-seven, and fifty-eight, parish of Wandin Yallock, county of Evelyn, containing six hundred and twenty-five acres and twenty perches or thereabouts.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Lilydale are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Two hundred and ten pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“JNO. M. DAVIES.”

“In compliance with the provisions of the Act 54 Victoria, No. 1075, I, DONALD MELVILLE, do declare and testify that I am legally or equitably seized of or entitled to an estate of freehold for my own use and benefit in lands or tenements in the colony of Victoria of the yearly value of One hundred and thirty-seven pounds above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, other than any public or parliamentary tax or municipal or other rate or assessment; and further, that such lands or tenements are situated in the municipal districts of Brunswick, Pyalong, and McIvor, and are known as—

“My residence, situated in Albion-street, West Brunswick, with twenty-eight and one-half acres land; two hundred and six acres land within the shire of Pyalong; and one hundred and forty acres land within the shire of McIvor.

“And I further declare that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Brunswick are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Ninety-two pounds, and that such of the said lands or tenements as are situate in the municipal district of Pyalong are rated in the rate-book of such district upon a yearly value of Thirty pounds, and that within the municipal district of McIvor at Fifteen pounds.

“And I further declare that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands or tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to be returned a Member of the Legislative Council.

“D. MELVILLE.”

6. LIBRARY COMMITTEE.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Honorable D. Melville be a Member of the Joint Committee to manage the Library.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
7. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable J. H. Abbott having stated his desire to move, That the House do now adjourn, six Members rose in their places and required the motion to be proposed.
The Honorable J. H. Abbott then said that he proposed to speak on the subject of the Second Victorian Military Contingent, and moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.
8. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Honorables J. M. Davies and D. Melville be Members of the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
9. PETITION.—The Honorable R. Reid presented a Petition from certain ship-owners resident in Victoria and agents and representatives in Victoria of ship-owners resident elsewhere, but trading to Victoria as carriers of passengers and merchandise, praying that the Council would not pass the Immigration Restriction Bill.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Committee on the Immigration Restriction Bill.

10. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor was presented by the Honorable J. M. Davies, and the same was read by the Honorable the President :—

BRASSEY,

Governor.

Message No. 10.

The Governor informs the Legislative Council that he has, on this day, at the Government Offices, given the Royal Assent to the undermentioned Act of the present Session, presented to him by the Clerk of the Parliaments, viz. :—

“ An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Three hundred and seventy-six thousand six hundred and fifty-nine pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred.”

Government Offices,
Melbourne, 15th December, 1899.

11. PAPERS.—The Honorable J. M. Davies presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor—
Royal Commission on Technical Education.—Second Progress Report on Technical Education.
—Manual and Practical Instruction in Primary Schools.
Report of the Council of Judges under Section 33 of the *Supreme Court Act* 1890.
Seventh Progress Report of the Royal Commission on State Forests and Timber Reserves :
The Forests of the County of Delatite ; being the King River, Winteriga, Dueran, Too-rour, Toombullup, and Minor Reserves : Their Resources, Management, and Control.
Eighth Progress Report of the Royal Commission on State Forests and Timber Reserves :
Grazing Lands in the Parishes of Wurrin, Wangarabell, Koola, and Derndang : Genoa River Forest, East Gippsland.
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—

Public Service Act 1890.—Regulations.

Rules under Division VII. of the *Companies Act* 1896.

Water Act 1890.—Wandella Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Rating Regulation.

Defences and Discipline Act 1890.—Victorian Naval and Military Forces.—Alteration of Financial and Store Regulations.—Part I.

Land Acts.—Alteration of Regulations under the Land Acts.

12. COMPANIES (RULES AND ORDERS) BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill relating to certain general rules and orders made under the *Companies Act* 1896.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the Honorable J. M. Davies do prepare and bring in the Bill.
The Honorable J. M. Davies then brought up a Bill intituled “ *A Bill relating to certain general rules and orders made under the ‘ Companies Act 1896,’*” and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.

13. IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
The Honorable R. Reid moved, as an amendment, That the word “ now ” be omitted, and that the words “ this day six months ” be added after the word “ time.”
Debate continued.

- The Honorable J. Balfour moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
 Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until Tuesday next.
14. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next :—
- Marine Act 1890 further Amendment Bill—Message from the Legislative Assembly—To be taken into consideration.*
Police Offences Act 1890 (Part IV.) further Amendment Bill—Second reading.
Crimes Acts Amendment Bill—Second reading.
15. VEGETATION DISEASES ACT 1896 CONTINUATION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
 The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
 The President resumed the Chair ; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.
 On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
 The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—
- “ *An Act to continue the ‘Vegetation Diseases Act 1896.’* ”
- Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 Ordered—That the Bill be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly with a Message desiring their concurrence therein.
16. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question, That this Bill be now read a second time, having been read—
 Debate resumed.
 The Honorable G. Simmie moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
 Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, 23rd January instant.
17. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question, That this Bill be now read a second time, having been read—
 The Honorable N. Levi moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, 23rd January instant.
18. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
- MR. PRESIDENT—
- The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “ *An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Second Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty's Regular Forces in South Africa,* ” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.
- F. C. MASON,
Speaker.
- Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 9th January, 1900.
19. VICTORIAN MILITARY CONTINGENT BILL (No. 2).—The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “ *An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Second Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty's Regular Forces in South Africa,* ” be now read a first time.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.
 The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
 The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
 The President resumed the Chair ; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable D. Melville the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the Bill was read a third time and passed. The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Second Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty’s Regular Forces in South Africa.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

And then the Council, at thirty minutes past nine o’clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 32.

WEDNESDAY, 10TH JANUARY, 1900.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY:—

1. COMPANIES (RULES AND ORDERS) BILL—Second reading.

TUESDAY, 16TH JANUARY.

Questions.

1. The Hon. Dr. W. H. EMBLING: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the number of cases of wife-beating brought before the police courts; and to ask if the Government will amend the law to give magistrates the power to order a flogging instead of a fine when they think it desirable.
2. The Hon. W. KNOX: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to some of the amendments in and additions to the Local Government Act made since its enactment in 1891, and to some of the Supreme Court decisions in interpretation thereof, which appear to show the necessity existing for a review of the present law, with a view of securing uniformity in the application of the Act; and to ask if the Government will, by appointing a Royal Commission or by Act of Parliament, enlarge the number of the Select Committee now sitting in another place by adding thereto a proportionate number of honorable Members of the Legislative Council, and give to such Joint Committee power during the recess to inquire into the working of the Local Government Acts and into any other amendments proposed, and to report to Parliament.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—To be taken into consideration.
2. POLICE OFFENCES ACT 1890 (PART IV.) FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
3. CRIMES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
4. IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION BILL—*Resumption of debate on the question*—That this Bill be now read a second time—and on the following amendment—That the word “now” be omitted, and that the words “this day six months” be added after the word “time.”

TUESDAY, 23RD JANUARY.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Wednesday, 10th January.

TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—at three o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 5TH DECEMBER, 1899.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. Nos. 29, 30, and 31.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 32.

Companies Bill—[100].

Rules under Division VII. of the *Companies Act* 1896. (To Members of Council only.)

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. No. 58.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 58.

Municipal Overdrafts (Indemnity) Bill—[85].

Railway and Public Works Loan Application Bill—[108].

Factories and Shops Bill.—New Clause to be proposed by Mr. Gray on Third Reading. (To Members only.)

Water Supply Loans Application Bill.—Amendments to be moved in Committee by Mr. Outtrim. (To Members only.)

Report of the Minister of Public Instruction for the Year 1898-9. No. 21.

Second Progress Report on Technical Education. No. 51.

VICTORIA.

No. 33.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 10TH JANUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood brought up the Report from the Select Committee on this Bill.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and, together with the Proceedings of the Committee and Minutes of Evidence, to be printed.
5. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole on Wednesday next.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
6. COMPANIES (RULES AND ORDERS) BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
The Honorable N. Levi moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Debate continued.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and negatived.
Question—That this Bill be now read a second time—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.
On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council, after debate, adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—
“ *An Act relating to certain general rules and orders made under the ‘ Companies Act 1896.’* ”
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the Bill be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly with a Message desiring their concurrence therein.
7. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “ *An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts,* ” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 10th January, 1900.

8. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts,*" be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.
9. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at forty-one minutes past six o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 33.

TUESDAY, 16TH JANUARY, 1900.

Questions.

1. The Hon. Dr. W. H. EMBLING: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the number of cases of wife-beating brought before the police courts; and to ask if the Government will amend the law to give magistrates the power to order a flogging instead of a fine when they think it desirable.
2. The Hon. W. KNOX: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to some of the amendments in and additions to the Local Government Act made since its enactment in 1891, and to some of the Supreme Court decisions in interpretation thereof, which appear to show the necessity existing for a review of the present law, with a view of securing uniformity in the application of the Act; and to ask if the Government will, by appointing a Royal Commission or by Act of Parliament, enlarge the number of the Select Committee now sitting in another place by adding thereto a proportionate number of honorable Members of the Legislative Council, and give to such Joint Committee power during the recess to inquire into the working of the Local Government Acts and into any other amendments proposed, and to report to Parliament.
3. The Hon. Sir H. J. WRIXON: To ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General if, in the event of the Workmen's Compensation Bill not becoming law this Session, the Government during the recess will give consideration to the subject with the view of making the Bill a Government measure.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—
To be taken into consideration.
3. POLICE OFFENCES ACT 1890 (PART IV.) FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
4. CRIMES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
5. IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION BILL—*Resumption of debate on the question*—That this Bill be now read a second time—and on the following amendment—That the word "now" be omitted, and that the words "this day six months" be added after the word "time."

WEDNESDAY, 17TH JANUARY.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY:—

1. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—To be considered in Committee.

TUESDAY, 23RD JANUARY.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETINGS OF SELECT COMMITTEES.

Tuesday, 16th January.

REFRESHMENT ROOMS (JOINT)—at three o'clock.

Wednesday, 17th January.

STANDING ORDERS—at half-past two o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 10TH JANUARY, 1900.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 33.

Factories and Shops Bill—[35]. (To Members of Council only.)

Immigration Restriction Bill.—Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood.
(To Members of Council only.)

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 59.

Regulations under various Acts of Parliament. Extracted from *Government Gazette* of 5th January, 1900.

No. 1. (To Members only.)

VICTORIA.

No. 34.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 16TH JANUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PAPERS.—The Honorable J. M. Davies presented, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor—
Statistical Register of the Colony of Victoria for the year 1898.—Part VII.—Production.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—
Water Act 1890—
Bairnsdale Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Regulation No. 13.
Wandella Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Increase of Trust District and Alteration of Boundaries.
Public Service Act 1890.—Regulations.
5. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to sanction the issue and application of certain sums of money for Water Supply in Country Districts,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.
F. C. MASON,
Speaker.
Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 16th January, 1900.
6. WATER SUPPLY LOANS APPLICATION BILL.—The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to sanction the issue and application of certain sums of money for Water Supply in Country Districts,*" be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.
7. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to indemnify the Councillors of various Municipalities for Borrowing Moneys by Overdrafts on Bankers for the purposes of their Municipalities contrary to the provisions of the 'Local Government Act 1890,'*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.
F. C. MASON,
Speaker.
Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 16th January, 1900.
8. MUNICIPAL OVERDRAFTS INDEMNITY BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to indemnify the Councillors of various Municipalities for Borrowing Moneys by Overdrafts on Bankers for the purposes of their Municipalities contrary to the provisions of the 'Local Government Act 1890,'*" be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.
9. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to authorize the Expenditure of certain sums of Money available under Loan Acts for Railways,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.
F. C. MASON,
Speaker.
Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 16th January, 1900.

10. RAILWAY LOAN APPLICATION BILL.—The Honorable J. Balfour moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to authorize the Expenditure of certain sums of Money available under Loan Acts for Railways,*” be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.
11. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to further amend the ‘Mining Development Act 1896,’*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.
Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 16th January, 1900.
F. C. MASON,
Speaker.
12. MINING DEVELOPMENT ACT 1896 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to further amend the ‘Mining Development Act 1896,’*” be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.
13. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to further amend the ‘Railway and Public Works Loan Application Act 1898,’*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.
Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 16th January, 1900.
F. C. MASON,
Speaker.
14. RAILWAY AND PUBLIC WORKS LOAN APPLICATION ACT 1898 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).—The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to further amend the ‘Railway and Public Works Loan Application Act 1898,’*” be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.
15. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled “*An Act to amend the Local Government Acts with regard to Valuations,*” and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to one of the amendments made in such Bill by the Legislative Council, and have disagreed with the other amendments.
Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 16th January, 1900.
F. C. MASON,
Speaker.
Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration to-morrow.
16. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled “*An Act to amend the Law relating to Hawkers and Peddlers,*” and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have disagreed with the amendments made in such Bill by the Legislative Council.
Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 16th January, 1900.
F. C. MASON,
Speaker.
Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration to-morrow.
17. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
The Honorable N. Levi moved, as an amendment, That all the words after the word “That” be omitted, with a view to insert in place thereof the following words :—“in view of the early federation of the Australasian Colonies, and with the object of securing uniform legislation on the subject of ‘An Act to consolidate the Law relating to the supervision and regulation of Factories and Work-rooms and the limitation of the Hours of Trading in Shops,’ it is the opinion of this House that Act No. 1091 and all Acts amending the same shall remain in full force and effect until 30th of June, 1901, and this House declares that it is the immediate duty of the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the working of the existing factory legislation.”
Debate continued.
The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until Tuesday next.

18. MARINE ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of the amendments made in this Bill by the Legislative Council and disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, or agreed to with an amendment, having been read—the said amendments were read, and are as follow :—

Amendments made by the Legislative Council.	How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.
1. Clause 7, lines 32-4, omit "employed in coasting only or actually trading between any port of Victoria and of any of the colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, or Western Australia" and insert "carrying cargo loaded in any port of the colonies of Australia, Tasmania, or New Zealand and intended to be landed in Victoria."	Agreed to with the following amendment :—Omit the last word "Victoria" and insert "any of such colonies."
2. „ lines 43-4, omit "the property of such owner or."	

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Council agree with the amendment of the Legislative Assembly in amendment 1.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, as an amendment, That the words "of such colonies" be omitted from such amendment, with a view to insert in place thereof the following words :—"port in Victoria, or loaded in any port in Victoria and intended to be landed in any port in the colonies of Australia, Tasmania, or New Zealand."

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the amendment—put and negatived.

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted in place of the words omitted be so inserted—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment 2, after debate, insisted on.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council insist on their amendment with which the Legislative Assembly have disagreed, and have agreed to the amendment made by the Legislative Assembly on an amendment of the Legislative Council with a further amendment, and desiring the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly therein.

19. DISCHARGE OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the following Orders of the Day were read and discharged :—

Police Offences Act 1890 (Part IV.) further Amendment Bill—Second reading.
Crimes Acts Amendment Bill—Second reading.

Ordered—That the said Bills be withdrawn.

20. IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question, That this Bill be now read a second time, and on the amendment—That the word "now" be omitted and that the words "this day six months" be added after the word "time," having been read—

Question—That the word "now" proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and negatived.

Question—That the words "this day six months" be added after the word "time"—put.

The Council divided.

Ayes, 16.

The Hon. F. Brown
T. Dowling
F. S. Grimwade
D. Ham
T. C. Harwood
J. Hoddinott
N. Levi
J. Y. McDonald
E. Miller
J. M. Pratt
A. O. Sachse
G. Simmie
J. A. Wallace
W. I. Winter-Irving.

Tellers.

J. C. Campbell
Sir A. Snowden.

Noes, 8.

The Hon. J. Balfour
S. W. Cooke
J. M. Davies
D. Melville
E. Morey
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood.

Tellers.

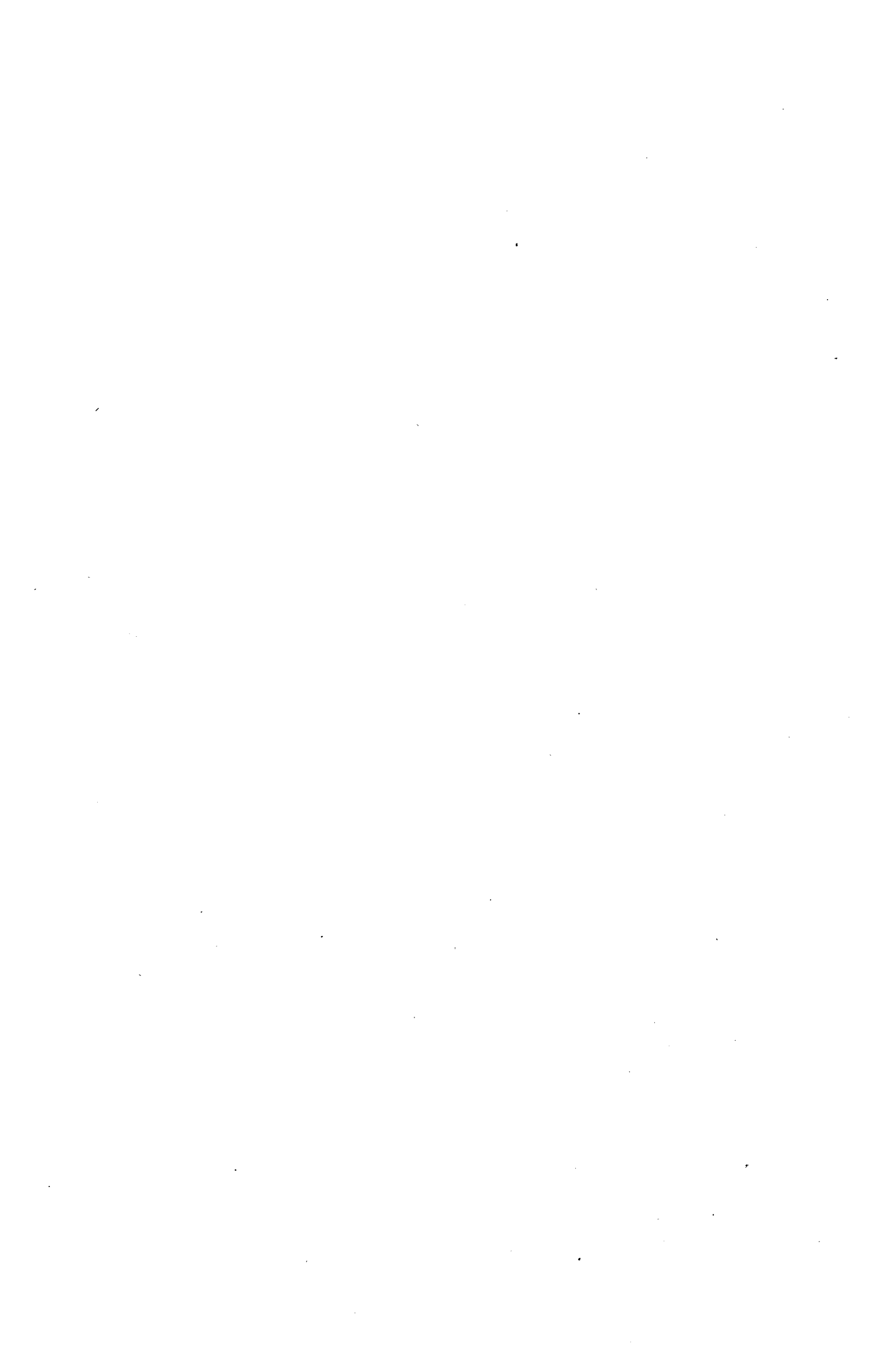
G. Godfrey
W. Knox.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That this Bill be read a second time this day six months—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at ten o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 34.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 1900.

Questions.

1. The Hon. W. KNOX : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to some of the amendments in and additions to the Local Government Act made since its enactment in 1891, and to some of the Supreme Court decisions in interpretation thereof, which appear to show the necessity existing for a review of the present law, with a view of securing uniformity in the application of the Act; and to ask if the Government will, by appointing a Royal Commission or by Act of Parliament, enlarge the number of the Select Committee now sitting in another place by adding thereto a proportionate number of honorable Members of the Legislative Council, and give to such Joint Committee power during the recess to inquire into the working of the Local Government Acts and into any other amendments proposed, and to report to Parliament.
2. The Hon. Sir H. J. WRIXON : To ask the Honorable the Solicitor-General if, in the event of the Workmen's Compensation Bill not becoming law this Session, the Government during the recess will give consideration to the subject with the view of making the Bill a Government measure.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—To be considered in Committee.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WATER SUPPLY LOANS APPLICATION BILL—Second reading.
2. MUNICIPAL OVERDRAFTS INDEMNITY BILL—Second reading.
3. RAILWAY LOAN APPLICATION BILL—Second reading.
4. MINING DEVELOPMENT ACT 1896 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
5. RAILWAY AND PUBLIC WORKS LOAN APPLICATION ACT 1898 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)
—Second reading.
6. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—To be taken into consideration.
7. HAWKERS AND PEDLERS LAW AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—
To be taken into consideration.

TUESDAY, 23RD JANUARY.

Question.

1. The Hon. W. McCULLOCH : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the action which has been taken by the Governments of some of the Australian colonies in regard to the infliction of punishment on any public servant found guilty of uttering expressions of disloyalty to the Crown; and to ask if the Government of this colony will issue a notice to the effect that the penalty of summary dismissal will be incurred by any Victorian public servant found guilty of a similar offence.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY:—

1. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—*Resumption of debate on the question—* That this Bill be now read a second time—and on the following amendment:—That all the words after the word “That” be omitted with a view to insert in place thereof the following words:—“in view of the early federation of the Australasian Colonies, and with the object of securing uniform legislation on the subject of ‘An Act to consolidate the Law relating to the supervision and regulation of Factories and Work-rooms and the limitation of the Hours of Trading in Shops,’ it is the opinion of this House that Act No. 1091 and all Acts amending the same shall remain in full force and effect until the 30th of June, 1901, and this House declares that it is the immediate duty of the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the working of the existing factory legislation.”

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Wednesday, 17th January.

STANDING ORDERS—at half-past two o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 11TH JANUARY, 1900.

- Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. No. 33.
 Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 34.
 Mining Development Bill—[57]. (To Members of Council only.)
 Municipal Overdrafts (Indemnity) Bill—[85]. (To Members of Council only.)
 Railway Loan Application Bill—[96]. (To Members of Council only.)
 Water Supply Loans Application Bill—[98]. (To Members of Council only.)
 Railway and Public Works Loan Application Bill—[108]. (To Members of Council only.)
 Water Bill.—Amendments made by the Legislative Council—How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly. (To Members of Council only.)
 Hawkers and Peddlers Bill.—Amendments made by the Legislative Council disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly. (To Members of Council only.)
 Factories and Shops Bill—
 Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood. (To Members of Council only.)
 Further Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood. (To Members of Council only.)
 Local Government Bill (No. 2).—Amendments made by the Legislative Council disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly. (To Members of Council only.)
 Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.—Amendment to be proposed by the Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood. (To Members of Council only.)
 Report of Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill; together with Proceedings of Committee, &c. D 1.

- Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 59, 60, and 61.
 Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 61.
 Weekly Report of Divisions. No. 10.
 Vegetation Diseases Bill—[8]. (To Members only.)
 Companies Bill—[100]. (To Members only.)
 Licensing Bill—[104].
 Land Bill—[105].
 Land Bill—
 New Clause to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Taverner. (To Members only.)
 Amendments and New Clauses to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Best. (To Members only.)
 New Clause to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Higgins. (To Members only.)
 Report of the Council of Judges. No. 70.
 First Report from the Committee of Public Accounts. D.—No. 2.
 Regulations under various Acts of Parliament. Extracted from *Government Gazette* of 12th January, 1900. No. 2. (To Members only.)

VICTORIA.

No. 35.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.*
4. ERROR IN DIVISION LIST.—The Honorable C. J. Ham stated that, in a division which took place in the Council last evening on the Immigration Restriction Bill, the Tellers had recorded his name with the "Ayes," whereas he was not present in the Chamber when the division took place; whereupon the President directed the Clerk to correct the Division List accordingly.
5. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Water Act 1890,'*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to some of the amendments made in such Bill by the Legislative Council, have disagreed with others of the said amendments, and have agreed with others of the said amendments with amendments, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 16th January, 1900.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration on Tuesday next.

6. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—on the motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.
Resolved—That the Council will, on Wednesday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.
7. WATER SUPPLY LOANS APPLICATION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair ; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable D. Melville the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ An Act to sanction the issue and application of certain sums of money for Water Supply in Country Districts.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

8. MUNICIPAL OVERDRAFTS INDEMNITY BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair ; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ An Act to indemnify the Councillors of various Municipalities for Borrowing Moneys by Overdrafts on Bankers for the purposes of their Municipalities contrary to the provisions of the ‘ Local Government Act 1890.’ ”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

9. RAILWAY LOAN APPLICATION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. Balfour moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable J. Balfour moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. Balfour, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair ; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable J. Balfour the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. Balfour, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable J. Balfour moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ An Act to authorize the Expenditure of certain sums of Money available under Loan Acts for Railways.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

10. MINING DEVELOPMENT ACT 1896 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair ; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ An Act to further amend the ‘ Mining Development Act 1896.’ ”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

11. RAILWAY AND PUBLIC WORKS LOAN APPLICATION ACT 1898 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).—

The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable D. Melville the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:—

“An Act to further amend the ‘Railway and Public Works Loan Application Act 1898.’”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

12. MUNICIPAL VALUATIONS BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of the amendments made in this Bill by the Legislative Council and disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, having been read—the said amendments were read, and are as follow:—

2. Clause 2, line 12, omit “council thereof” and insert “person rated therefor.”
3. „ page 2, line 3, after “or” insert “refuse to reduce or may.”
4. „ „ line 4, after “rate-book” insert “and the council of any such municipality shall forthwith amend the rate so intended to be reduced or increased by altering or amending the rate-book in conformity with such reduction or increase, and no alteration in the rate-book shall be valid unless the same be initialed by the Chairman of the municipality in the presence of the council and the date of such alteration be also inserted.”
5. „ „ line 4, after “reduction” insert “or refusal.”
6. „ „ line 8, omit “of valuation; and” and insert “or refusal to make an alteration (as the case may be) of valuation; and the said appeal shall be dealt with by justices in a Court of Petty Sessions or by a County Court in as nearly as may be the same way as appeals by persons thinking themselves aggrieved on the ground of unfairness or incorrectness in the valuation of any rateable property included in any rate are dealt with by justices or County Courts under the Local Government Acts, and the said Acts with such substitutions as may be necessary shall be read and construed accordingly; and subject to any such appeal.”
7. „ „ line 10, omit “calculated.”
8. „ „ line 10, after “accordingly” add “and calculated for the remainder of the municipal year in lieu of the rates for the same period payable under the previous valuation and the rates payable and paid shall be adjusted accordingly.”

9. Insert the following new clauses:—

- A. It shall be lawful for the council of any municipality from time to time, upon the application of any person liable to the payment of any rate under the provisions of the Principal Act or any Acts amending the same, to remit or excuse in respect of any building which shall be wholly and continuously unoccupied for any period not less than three months the payment of so much of such rates as shall be proportionate to the time during which such building shall be so unoccupied.
- B. In section sixty-four of the *Local Government Act 1891* the words “Eight pounds per centum per annum” shall as from the thirtieth September One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine be omitted and the words “Five pounds per centum per annum” substituted therefor.
- C. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Local Government Acts or in any Act relating to the City of Melbourne or Town of Geelong no rate made under any of the said Acts on any rateable property after the commencement of this Act shall be or remain a charge upon such property nor be recoverable from either the owner or occupier rated nor shall distress warrants be issued in respect of rates made in the City of Melbourne and Town of Geelong after the expiration of six years from the making of such rate.

Amendments 2 to 8, after debate, insisted on.

Amendment 9, after debate, not insisted on.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council insist on some of their amendments disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, and do not insist on their amendment to insert clauses A, B, and C.

13. HAWKERS AND PEDLERS LAW AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of the amendments made in this Bill by the Legislative Council and disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly having been read—the said amendments were read, and are as follow :—

1. Clause 2, line 10, omit “ during the last two years.”
2. „ line 11, omit “ twelve ” and insert “ three.”
3. „ same line, omit “ Victoria ; ” and insert “ Australasia ; and.”
4. „ sub-clause (b), omit this sub-clause.

Amendments, after debate, insisted on.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council insist on their amendments in this Bill with which the Legislative Assembly have disagreed.

14. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at thirty-seven minutes past six o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 35.

TUESDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 1900.

Question.

1. The Hon. W. McCULLOCH : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the action which has been taken by the Governments of some of the Australian colonies in regard to the infliction of punishment on any public servant found guilty of uttering expressions of disloyalty to the Crown ; and to ask if the Government of this colony will issue a notice to the effect that the penalty of summary dismissal will be incurred by any Victorian public servant found guilty of a similar offence.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—*Resumption of debate on the question—* That this Bill be now read a second time—and on the following amendment :—That all the words after the word “That” be omitted with a view to insert in place thereof the following words :—“in view of the early federation of the Australasian Colonies, and with the object of securing uniform legislation on the subject of ‘An Act to consolidate the Law relating to the supervision and regulation of Factories and Work-rooms and the limitation of the Hours of Trading in Shops,’ it is the opinion of this House that Act No. 1091 and all Acts amending the same shall remain in full force and effect until the 30th of June, 1901, and this House declares that it is the immediate duty of the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the working of the existing factory legislation.”
2. WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—To be taken into consideration.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

WEDNESDAY, 24TH JANUARY.

General Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—To be further considered in Committee.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 17TH JANUARY, 1900.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 35.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 62.

Land Bill—

New Clause to be proposed in Committee by Mr. McBride. (To Members only.)

Amendments to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Morrissey. (To Members only.)

New Clause to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Maloney. (To Members only.)

Amendment and New Clause to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Best. (To Members only.)

VICTORIA.

No. 36.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor was presented by the Honorable J. M. Davies, and the same was read by the Honorable the President:—

BRASSEY,

*Governor.**Message No. 11.*

The Governor informs the Legislative Council that he has, on this day, at Government House, given the Royal Assent to the undermentioned Act of the present Session, presented to him by the Clerk of the Parliaments, viz.:—

“An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Second Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty’s Regular Forces in South Africa.”

Government House,
Melbourne, 12th January, 1900.

5. PETITION.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood presented a Petition from certain citizens praying that the Council would pass a measure to continue the *Factories and Shops Act 1896*, and to give power to the Governor in Council to extend to other occupations certain provisions as to wages boards.
Petition read and ordered to lie on the Table.
6. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable W. I. Winter-Irving having stated his desire to move, That the House do now adjourn, six Members rose in their places and required the motion to be proposed. The Honorable W. I. Winter-Irving then said that he proposed to speak on the subject of the reply of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to a question respecting expressions of disloyalty to the Crown by public servants, and moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.
7. PAPER.—The following Paper, pursuant to the directions of an Act of Parliament, was laid upon the Table by the Clerk:—
Twenty-first Annual Report on Friendly Societies.—Report of the Actuary for Friendly Societies for the year 1898, to which are appended the Valuations, Contributions and Benefits, Statistics of Friendly Societies, &c.
8. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to further amend the Land Acts*,” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 23rd January, 1900.

9. LAND ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to further amend the Land Acts,*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.

10. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to authorize the Shire of Preston to construct certain permanent Works and Undertakings in lieu of certain other permanent Works and Undertakings,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 23rd January, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

11. PRESTON LOAN BILL.—The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to authorize the Shire of Preston to construct certain permanent Works and Undertakings in lieu of certain other permanent Works and Undertakings,*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.

12. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to further amend the ‘Local Government Act 1890,’*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 23rd January, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).—The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to further amend the ‘Local Government Act 1890,’*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.

14. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to provide for the Sale of certain Lands set apart as a Site for a Mechanics’ Institute at Hamilton,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 23rd January, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

15. HAMILTON MECHANICS’ INSTITUTE SITE BILL.—The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to provide for the Sale of certain Lands set apart as a Site for a Mechanics’ Institute at Hamilton,*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.

16. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question—That this Bill be now read a second time—and on the amendment—That all the words after the word “That” be omitted with a view to insert in place thereof the following words :—“in view of the early federation of the Australasian Colonies, and with the object of securing uniform legislation on the subject of ‘An Act to consolidate the Law relating to the supervision and regulation of Factories and Work-rooms and the limitation of the Hours of Trading in Shops,’ it is the opinion of this House that Act No. 1091 and all Acts amending the same shall remain in full force and effect until the 30th of June, 1901, and this House declares that it is the immediate duty of the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the working of the existing factory legislation”—having been read—

Debate resumed.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question—That this Bill be now read a second time—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the Council will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

17. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—

Water Act 1890 Amendment Bill—Message from the Legislative Assembly—To be taken into consideration.

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

18. **ADJOURNMENT.**—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at thirty minutes past ten o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 36.

WEDNESDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 1900.

Question.

1. The Hon. P. PHILLIPS : To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence if the Government will give instructions for the issue throughout the colony of a pamphlet giving the results of the several experiments in fertilizing plots which were conducted by the Government experts, Messrs. Pearson and McAlpine.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
2. PRESTON LOAN BILL—Second reading.
3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)—Second reading.
4. HAMILTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE SITE BILL—Second reading.
5. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
6. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—To be taken into consideration.
2. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
3. LAND ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.

TUESDAY, 30TH JANUARY.

Questions.

1. The Hon. W. KNOX : To call the attention of the Honorable the Minister of Defence to the present position of the rifle clubs of this colony ; and to ask—
 1. Will the Government take into early consideration proposals for increasing the usefulness of rifle clubs as a part of the defence force of the colony.
 2. Will the Honorable the Minister take steps to provide wider opportunities for instruction in the use of the rifle, and to increase the allowances for ammunition.
 3. Will he make provision for improving the existing facilities for practice in shooting.
2. The Hon. A. O. SACHSE : To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence whether his attention has been called to a request contained in a letter addressed to the officer in charge of rifle clubs, Victoria Barracks, by the honorary secretary of a projected rifle club at Shepparton ; and to inquire—
 1. Whether he will sanction the formation of such club ; and
 2. Whether a sufficient number of rifles will be either supplied free or loaned to the club.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Thursday, 25th January.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS (JOINT)—at three o'clock.

(120 copies.)

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 18TH JANUARY, 1900.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. No. 35.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 36.

Local Government Bill—[62]. (To Members of Council only.)

Hamilton Mechanics' Institute Land Bill—[66]. (To Members of Council only.)

Preston Loan Bill—[99]. (To Members of Council only.)

Land Bill—[105]. (To Members of Council only.)

Factories and Shops Bill.—Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood. (To Members of Council only.)

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 62, 63, and 64.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 64.

Licensing Bill.—Amendment to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Gillott. (To Members only.)

Income Tax Bill.—To be proposed by Mr. Shiels in Committee of Ways and Means. (To Members only.)

Progress Report from the Select Committee upon the Leongatha Labour Colony. D.—No. 3.

Regulations under various Acts of Parliament. Extracted from the *Government Gazette* of 19th January, 1900. No. 3. (To Members only.)

No. 37.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PETITION.—The Honorable Dr. W. H. Embling presented a Petition from the Co-operative Coupon Company, Limited, under the seal of the said company, praying that the Council would be pleased to hear petitioner by counsel at the Bar of the Council in opposition to the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill prior to the consideration of such Bill in Committee of the whole, or that the petitioner might have such other redress as to the Council may seem right.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
5. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with an amendment.
The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for the reconsideration of clause 3.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had reconsidered the Bill and agreed to the same with further amendments.
The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
On the motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That this Bill be now read a third time.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a third time.
On the further motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood the figures “1899” were omitted from clause 1, and the figures “1900” inserted in place thereof.
The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That this Bill do pass.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—
“*An Act to prevent the use of Trading Stamps Coupons and other Devices on the Sale or Exchange of Property.*”
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the Bill be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly with a Message desiring their concurrence therein.

6. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Wednesday next :—

Preston Loan Bill—Second reading.

Local Government Act 1890 further Amendment Bill (No. 2)—Second reading.

Hamilton Mechanics' Institute Site Bill—Second reading.

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

7. WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of the amendments made in this Bill by the Legislative Council and disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, or agreed to with amendments, having been read—the said amendments were read and are as follow :—

Amendments made by the Legislative Council.

How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.

4. After clause 6 insert the following new clause :—

A. (1) The Governor in Council may upon the application of any Waterworks Trust by Order declare that the district of any Waterworks Trust whether created before or after the commencement of this Act shall for the purpose of the election of commissioners of such Trust be divided into ridings, and may upon such application by Order fix the boundaries of such ridings, or from time to time alter such ridings and boundaries, and may upon such application at any time vary or repeal any such Order.

(2) When any Order is made dividing any district into ridings such Order, except so far as may be necessary or expedient for the purpose of enabling the commissioners for such ridings to be elected prior to such date, shall not take effect until a date fixed in such Order, when all the commissioners for the district whether elected or appointed shall go out of office.

(3) In any such Order as aforesaid the Governor in Council shall determine the number of commissioners (whether one or more) of the Trust of the district so divided into ridings to be from time to time elected for each of such ridings and the period for which such commissioners shall hold office.

(4) No person shall be eligible for election as a commissioner of a Waterworks Trust for any riding unless he be the owner or an occupier under lease of land situated within such riding, and no person except as aforesaid shall continue to be a commissioner of such Trust for such riding after he has ceased to be the owner or an occupier under lease of land within such riding.

(5) The qualification for electors of commissioners of a Waterworks Trust for any riding and the number of votes in respect of such qualification shall be the same as the qualification provided for electors of commissioners in the last preceding section of this Act, save and except only that the land in respect of which the elector for a riding shall be qualified to vote shall be land within such riding, and if an elector possesses a qualification in respect of land situate in two or more ridings he shall be entitled to vote only in respect of the land within one riding, and he shall intimate to the returning officer for which riding he determines to exercise his franchise.

(6) All the provisions of the Water Acts relating to commissioners of Waterworks Trusts, and relating to the election of such commissioners shall so far as is consistent with this section apply to commissioners of a Trust to be elected for a district divided into ridings under this section, and to the election of any such commissioners.

(7) This section does not apply to urban divisions or to commissioners therefor.

Agreed to with the following amendments in sub-section (1) :—Lines 1 and 2, omit “upon the application of any Waterworks Trust”; lines 7 and 8, omit “upon such application”; line 10, omit “upon such application.”

Amendments made by the Legislative Council.

How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.

7. Clause 36, omit sub-clause (1) and insert the following new sub-clause :—

(1A) If it be proved to the satisfaction of the Minister that from any unforeseen cause it would be inequitable to require any Waterworks Trust to make the payments due in any year to the Redemption Fund, and also to pay the interest due in any year on the whole amount of its indebtedness, the Minister may recommend the Treasurer to suspend for any period not exceeding one year in whole or in part the said payments to such Redemption Fund and payment of such interest.

Disagreed with.

8. „ sub-clause (2), at end of sub-clause add :—“ Provided that the Governor in Council shall not make any such Order in Council while and so long as the amount suspended under any previous Order in Council remains unpaid.”

12. Clause 58, lines 4 and 5, omit “ due at the commencement of this Act or thereafter.”

13. „ lines 7 and 8, omit “ of the commencement of this Act or from the time.”

Agreed to with the following consequential amendment :—Line 6, after “Trust” insert “and also all rates due at the commencement of this Act in respect of any property by any person who at the commencement of this Act remains the owner of such property.”

14. „ line 8, omit “ became ” and insert “ become.”

Disagreed with, and the following cosequential amendment made :—After “ became ” insert “ or becomes.”

15. „ line 9, omit “ whichever may have last happened.”

Disagreed with, and the following cosequential amendment made :—Lines 9 and 10, omit “ or occupier.”

16. „ after sub-clause (4) insert the following new sub-clause :—

(4A) In any case where under the Water Acts any property is chargeable with rates to any Trust the secretary of such Trust shall upon the application of any person in writing addressed to such secretary stating in such application the particulars of the property in respect of which information is required as to the rates due or payable thereon and upon payment of a fee of One shilling forthwith sign and give to such applicant or send by registered letter by post to the person so applying (whose name and address shall be stated in such application) a certificate in writing signed by such secretary, in which certificate it shall be stated what (if any) rates are due or payable to such Trust in respect of such property with the particulars of such rates and when the same became due or payable or that no such rates are then due or payable as the case may be. The production of such certificate so signed shall for all purposes whatsoever be deemed conclusive proof that at the date thereof no rates were due or payable to such Trust other than those stated in such certificate in respect of such property.

Disagreed with.

18. Clause 79, line 32, after “ may ” insert “ upon the application of any Trust.”

19. „ line 35, after “ may ” insert “ upon such application.”

20. „ line 37, after “ may ” insert “ upon such application.”

Amendments made by the Legislative Council.	How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.
23. Clause 126, lines 1 and 2, omit "due at the commencement of this Act or thereafter."	} Agreed to with the following consequential amendment:—Line 3, after "Trust" insert "and also all rates due at the commencement of this Act in respect of any property by any person who at the commencement of this Act remains the owner of such property."
24. „ lines 4 and 5, omit "of the commencement of this Act or from the time."	
25. „ line 5, omit "became" and insert "become."	} Disagreed with, and the following consequential amendment made:—After "became" insert "or becomes."
26. „ line 6, omit "whichever may have last happened."	} Disagreed with, and the following consequential amendment made:—Lines 6 and 7, omit "or occupier."
27. „ after sub-clause (4) insert the following new sub-clause:— (4A) In any case where under the Water Acts any property is chargeable with rates to any Trust the secretary of such Trust shall upon the application of any person in writing addressed to such secretary stating in such application the particulars of the property in respect of which information is required as to the rates due or payable thereon and upon payment of a fee of One shilling forthwith sign and give to such applicant or send by registered letter by post to the person so applying (whose name and address shall be stated in such application) a certificate in writing signed by such secretary, in which certificate it shall be stated what (if any) rates are due or payable to such Trust in respect of such property with the particulars of such rates and when the same became due or payable or that no such rates are then due or payable as the case may be. The production of such certificate so signed shall for all purposes whatsoever be deemed conclusive proof that at the date thereof no rates were due or payable to such Trust other than those stated in such certificate in respect of such property.	
28. Clause 130, omit sub-clause (1) and insert the following new sub-clause:— (1A) If it be proved to the satisfaction of the Minister that from any unforeseen cause it would be inequitable to require any Waterworks Trust to make the payments due in any year to the Redemption Fund, and also to pay the interest due in any year on the whole amount of its indebtedness, the Minister may recommend the Treasurer to suspend for any period not exceeding one year in whole or in part the said payments to such Redemption Fund and payment of such interest.	} Disagreed with.
29. „ sub-clause (2), at end of sub-clause add:—"Provided that the Governor in Council shall not make any such Order in Council while and so long as the amount suspended under any previous Order in Council remains unpaid."	

Amendments of the Legislative Assembly in amendment 4, after debate, disagreed with.

Amendments 7 and 8, after debate, insisted on.

Consequential amendment of the Legislative Assembly on amendments 12 and 13, agreed to.

Amendments 14 and 15 not insisted on, and consequential amendments of the Legislative Assembly agreed to.

Amendment 16, after debate, insisted on.

Amendments 18, 19, and 20 insisted on.

Consequential amendment of the Legislative Assembly on amendments 23 and 24, agreed to.

Amendments 25 and 26 not insisted on, and consequential amendments of the Legislative Assembly agreed to.

Amendments 27, 28, and 29 insisted on.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to some of the amendments made by the Legislative Assembly on certain amendments of the Legislative Council, have disagreed with others of the said amendments, and that they insist on some of their amendments with which the Legislative Assembly have disagreed, and do not insist on others of the said amendments.

8. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the Council will, on Tuesday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

9. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Order of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next:—

Land Acts further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

10. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at three minutes past eleven o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 37.

TUESDAY, 30TH JANUARY, 1900.

Questions.

1. The Hon. W. KNOX : To call the attention of the Honorable the Minister of Defence to the present position of the rifle clubs of this colony ; and to ask—
 1. Will the Government take into early consideration proposals for increasing the usefulness of rifle clubs as a part of the defence force of the colony.
 2. Will the Honorable the Minister take steps to provide wider opportunities for instruction in the use of the rifle, and to increase the allowances for ammunition.
 3. Will he make provision for improving the existing facilities for practice in shooting.
2. The Hon. A. O. SACHSE : To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence whether his attention has been called to a request contained in a letter addressed to the officer in charge of rifle clubs, Victoria Barracks, by the honorary secretary of a projected rifle club at Shepparton ; and to inquire—
 1. Whether he will sanction the formation of such club ; and
 2. Whether a sufficient number of rifles will be either supplied free or loaned to the club.
3. The Hon. P. PHILLIPS : To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence if the Government will give instructions for the issue throughout the colony of a pamphlet giving the results of the several experiments in fertilizing plots which were conducted by the Government experts, Messrs. Pearson and McAlpine.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
2. LAND ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.

WEDNESDAY, 31ST JANUARY.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. PRESTON LOAN BILL—Second reading.
2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)—Second reading.
3. HAMILTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE SITE BILL—Second reading.
4. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
5. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 24TH JANUARY, 1900.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 37.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 65

Bailiwicks Boundaries Bill.—[110].

Marine Bill.—Amendments of the Legislative Council—how dealt with. (To Members of Assembly only.)

Local Government Bill (No. 2).—Amendments of the Legislative Council—how dealt with. (To Members of Assembly only.)

VICTORIA.

No. 38.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 30TH JANUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PAPERS.—The Honorable J. M. Davies presented—

Land Act 1898, Part III.—Acquisition of Land for the Purpose of Closer Settlement.—Copy of a Provisional Contract made by the Minister of Lands on behalf of the Board of Land and Works with John James Johnson, James Lionel Johnson, and James Cooper Stewart, executors and trustees of the estate of Ann Nicholas, widow, deceased, dated the 25th day of January, 1900, for the purchase of the Wando Vale Estate for the purpose of closer settlement; together with a Statement giving the particulars prescribed by Section 155 of the *Land Act* 1898 in respect of the land included in the said Provisional Contract.

The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk:—

Water Act 1890.—Bacchus Marsh Irrigation and Water Supply Trust.—Graduated Rate.—Regulation No. 7 (Draft Form).

Public Service Act 1890.—Regulations.

Defences and Discipline Act 1890.—Victorian Naval Forces.—Alteration of Regulations.—Part III.

5. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.
Resolved—That the Council will, this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee.
6. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Three hundred and seventy-eight thousand one hundred and fifty-seven pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 30th January, 1900.

7. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 6).—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Three hundred and seventy-eight thousand one hundred and fifty-seven pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred,*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“*An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Three hundred and seventy-eight thousand one hundred and fifty-seven pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred.*”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

8. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the Council will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

9. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Order of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—

Land Acts further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

And then the Council, at fifty-four minutes past ten o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 38.

WEDNESDAY, 31ST JANUARY, 1900.

Question.

1. The Hon. Dr. W. H. EMBLING : To call the attention of the Honorable the Minister of Defence to the reports concerning the condition of the Victorian Defence Forces ; and to ask if the Government intend to take the necessary steps to make the Defence Forces efficient, especially referring to rifles, artillery, and modern guns for the *Cerberus*.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. PRESTON LOAN BILL—Second reading.
2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)—Second reading.
3. HAMILTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE SITE BILL—Second reading.
4. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
5. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

Government Business.

NOTICES OF MOTION :—

1. The Hon. J. M. DAVIES : To move, That the Sessional Order determining the order of business on Wednesday in each week be suspended for the remainder of the Session, and that Government business take precedence of all other business on that day.
2. The Hon. J. M. DAVIES : To move, That the Sessional Order appointing half-past Four o'clock as the hour of meeting be rescinded, and that the Council do meet for the remainder of the Session at Three o'clock.

ORDERS OF THE DAY :—

1. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
2. LAND ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.

THURSDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY.

Question.

1. The Hon. N. LEVI : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to a statement made in this House on the 10th October, 1899, by the late Solicitor-General in reply to a question on the subject of the inefficiency of accommodation at the Graving Dock, Williamstown ; and to ask what action has been taken, and if any conclusion has been arrived at by the present Government in regard to this important national matter.

TUESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY.

Question.

1. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the opinions submitted on the 31st October, 1899, by the late Solicitor-General in reply to the following question:—

“The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the following statements in the *Argus*:—

1. That the Commissioners of Savings Banks have decided that they will not hold a ballot of mortgage bonds this half-year;
2. That the Commissioners have decided that there will be no ballot of bonds for five years from this date;

and to ask what sections of Act No. 1481 give the Commissioners power to so suspend the ballot;”

and to ask if the present Ministry concur in the opinions of the late Attorney-General and Solicitor-General.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 25TH JANUARY, 1900.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. Nos. 36 and 37.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 38.

Factories and Shops Bill—

Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. J. M. Davies. (To Members of Council only.)

Further Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood. (To Members of Council only.)

Land Bill.—Amendments and New Clause to be proposed by the Hon. J. M. Davies. (To Members of Council only.)

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Nos. 66 and 67.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 67.

Trading Coupons Abolition Bill—[91]. (To Members only.)

Water Bill.—Amendments of the Legislative Council—how dealt with. (To Members only.)

Licensing Bill.—New Clause to be proposed in Committee by Mr. T. Smith. (To Members only.)

Twenty-first Annual Report on Friendly Societies. No. 26.

First Report from the Select Committee upon Standing Orders. D.—No. 4.

Report from Select Committee of Legislative Assembly upon Congregational College Bill; together with Proceedings of Committee and Minutes of Evidence. (To Members of Assembly only.)

Regulations under various Acts of Parliament. Extracted from *Government Gazette* of 25th January, 1900. No. 4. (To Members only.)

VICTORIA.

No. 39.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 31st JANUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. **SUSPENSION OF SESSIONAL ORDER.**—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Sessional Order determining the order of business on Wednesday in each week be suspended for the remainder of the Session, and that Government business take precedence of all other business on that day.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
5. **ALTERATION OF TIME OF MEETING.**—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Sessional Order appointing half-past Four o'clock as the hour of meeting be rescinded, and that the Council do meet for the remainder of the Session at Three o'clock.
Debate ensued.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, as an amendment, That the word "Three" be omitted with a view to insert in place thereof the word "Two."
Debate continued.
Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.
Question—That the Sessional Order appointing half-past Four o'clock as the hour of meeting be rescinded, and that the Council do meet for the remainder of the Session at Three o'clock—put and resolved in the affirmative.
6. **FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.
Resolved—That the Council will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.
7. **MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the creation of a Corporate Body in which property belonging to the Congregational College of Victoria may be vested and for declaring the Trusts on which same is to be held,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.
F. C. MASON,
Speaker.
Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 31st January, 1900.
8. **CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE BILL.**—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to provide for the creation of a Corporate Body in which property belonging to the Congregational College of Victoria may be vested and for declaring the Trusts on which same is to be held,*" be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.

9. HAMILTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE SITE BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable S. W. Cooke moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable S. W. Cooke moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable S. W. Cooke, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable S. W. Cooke the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable S. W. Cooke, the Bill was read a third time and passed. The Honorable S. W. Cooke moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“*An Act to provide for the Sale of certain Lands set apart as a Site for a Mechanics' Institute at Hamilton.*”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—

Preston Loan Bill—Second reading.

Local Government Act 1890 further Amendment Bill (No. 2)—Second reading.

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

Land Acts further Amendment Bill—Second reading.

And then the Council, at fifty-three minutes past ten o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,

Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 39.

THURSDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY, 1900.

Question.

1. The Hon. N. LEVI: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to a statement made in this House on the 10th October, 1899, by the late Solicitor-General in reply to a question on the subject of the inefficiency of accommodation at the Graving Dock, Williamstown; and to ask what action has been taken, and if any conclusion has been arrived at by the present Government in regard to this important national matter.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—To be further considered in Committee.
2. LAND ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE BILL—Second reading.
2. PRESTON LOAN BILL—Second reading.
3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)—Second reading.
4. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
5. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

TUESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY.

Question.

1. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the opinions submitted on the 31st October, 1899, by the late Solicitor-General in reply to the following question:—

“The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the following statements in the *Argus*:—

1. That the Commissioners of Savings Banks have decided that they will not hold a ballot of mortgage bonds this half-year;
2. That the Commissioners have decided that there will be no ballot of bonds for five years from this date;

and to ask what sections of Act No. 1481 give the Commissioners power to so suspend the ballot;”

and to ask if the present Ministry concur in the opinions of the late Attorney-General and Solicitor-General.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 31ST JANUARY, 1900.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 39.

Congregational College Bill—[97]. (To Members of Council only.)

Land Bill.—Amendments to be proposed by the Hon. Lieut-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood. (To Members of Council only.)

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 68.

VICTORIA.

No. 40.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. **FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.**—The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole having been read—the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments.
The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for the reconsideration of clauses 3, 4, 7, 13, 16, and 46.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.
The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had reconsidered the Bill and agreed to the same with further amendments.
The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.
And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—
“*An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts.*”
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with amendments, and requesting their concurrence therein.
5. **MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—
MR. PRESIDENT—
The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to further amend ‘The Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company’s Act 1883,’*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.
F. C. MASON,
Speaker.
Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 1st February, 1900.
6. **MELBOURNE TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS COMPANY’S ACT 1883 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.**—The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to further amend ‘The Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company’s Act 1883,’*” be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.

7. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to revive continue and amend the Income Tax Acts and declare the Rates of Income Tax thereunder for the Year ending on the thirty-first day of December One thousand nine hundred,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 1st February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

8. INCOME TAX BILL.—The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to revive continue and amend the Income Tax Acts and declare the Rates of Income Tax thereunder for the Year ending on the thirty-first day of December One thousand nine hundred,*" be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.

9. PETITION.—The Honorable C. J. Ham, by leave, presented a Petition from the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company, Limited, praying that the Council would not pass the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company's Act 1883 further Amendment Bill, and would refer the same to a Select Committee to take the evidence which the petitioner can adduce in opposition to the said Bill.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

10. LAND ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

"An Act to further amend the Land Acts."

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with amendments, and requesting their concurrence therein.

11. INCOME TAX BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable D. Melville the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

"An Act to revive continue and amend the Income Tax Acts and declare the Rates of Income Tax thereunder for the Year ending on the thirty-first day of December One thousand nine hundred."

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

12. CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That all the Standing Orders relating to Private Bills be suspended in relation to the Bill to provide for the creation of a Corporate Body in which property belonging to the Congregational College of Victoria may be vested and for declaring the Trusts on which same is to be held, and that all fees be remitted with regard to such Bill.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:—

“An Act to provide for the creation of a Corporate Body in which property belonging to the Congregational College of Victoria may be vested and for declaring the Trusts on which same is to be held.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

13. PRESTON LOAN BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole for the reconsideration of the Preamble.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had reconsidered the Preamble and agreed to the same with amendments.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable D. Melville the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:

“An Act to authorize the Shire of Preston to construct certain permanent Works and Undertakings in lieu of certain other permanent Works and Undertakings.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with amendments, and requesting their concurrence therein.

14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable D. Melville the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ *An Act to further amend the ‘ Local Government Act 1890.’* ”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

15. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until Tuesday next :—

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

16. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at twelve o'clock.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at thirty-eight minutes past ten o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

VICTORIA.

No. 41.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PAPER.—The Honorable J. M. Davies presented, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor—

Statistical Register of the Colony of Victoria for the year 1898.—Part VIII.—Accumulation.
Ordered to lie on the Table.

And then the Council, at nine minutes past twelve o'clock, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 40.

TUESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

Questions.

1. The Hon. J. HODDINOTT: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the necessity of connecting the Eastern and South-Eastern railways; and to ask if the Government will, during the recess, take into consideration the question of extending the Morwell to Mirboo North line and junctioning same with the South-Eastern railway in the neighbourhood of Leongatha, or of constructing a line diverging from the Eastern line in the neighbourhood of Warragul, and extending southerly to the South-Eastern railway.
2. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the opinions submitted on the 31st October, 1899, by the late Solicitor-General in reply to the following question:—

“The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the following statements in the *Argus*:—

 1. That the Commissioners of Savings Banks have decided that they will not hold a ballot of mortgage bonds this half-year;
 2. That the Commissioners have decided that there will be no ballot of bonds for five years from this date;

and to ask what sections of Act No. 1481 give the Commissioners power to so suspend the ballot;”

and to ask if the present Ministry concur in the opinions of the late Attorney-General and Solicitor-General.
3. The Hon. J. HODDINOTT: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the advantages of using the timber known as the Gippsland yellow stringy bark for railway construction purposes; and to ask if the Government will sanction the use of such timber as sleepers, piles, or for other railway purposes.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. MELBOURNE TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS COMPANY'S ACT 1883 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Second reading.
2. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
3. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPER ISSUED 1ST FEBRUARY, 1900.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 69.



VICTORIA.

No. 42.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. PAPER.—The following Paper, pursuant to the directions of an Act of Parliament, was laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—

The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1890.—Part IX.—Statement of Appointment and Transfer to an Office of Parliament and of Alteration of Classification during the year ending 30th June, 1900, under the authority of Part IX. of *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1890*.

5. MELBOURNE TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS COMPANY'S ACT 1883 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
The Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert moved, That this Bill be committed.
The Honorable S. W. Cooke moved, as an amendment, That the words “to a Select Committee” be added to the motion.
The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until this day.

6. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled “*An Act to authorize the Shire of Preston to construct certain permanent Works and Undertakings in lieu of certain other permanent Works and Undertakings,*” and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the amendments made in such Bill by the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 6th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

7. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled “*An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts,*” and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to some of the amendments made in such Bill by the Legislative Council, have disagreed with others of the said amendments, and have agreed to others of the said amendments with amendments, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 6th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That a Free Conference be desired with the Legislative Assembly on the subject-matter of the amendments made by the Legislative Council and disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, or agreed to with amendments, in the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts.*"

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That the following Members be appointed Managers of the Conference :—The Honorables Dr. W. H. Embling, F. S. Grimwade, W. Knox, N. Levi, A. O. Sachse, A. Wynne, and the Mover.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be sent to the Legislative Assembly desiring a Free Conference on the subject-matter of the amendments made by the Legislative Council and disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, or agreed to with amendments, in the Factories and Shops Acts further Amendment Bill, and acquainting the Legislative Assembly that the Legislative Council have appointed seven Members of the Legislative Council to be Managers.

8. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the Land Acts,*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to some of the amendments made in such Bill by the Legislative Council, and have agreed to one of the said amendments with amendments, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 6th February, 1900.

Ordered, after debate—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration to-morrow.

9. MELBOURNE TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS COMPANY'S ACT 1883 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question—That this Bill be committed—and on the amendment—That the words "to a Select Committee" be added to the motion—having been read—

Debate resumed.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put.

The Council divided.

Ayes, 17.

The Hon. F. Brown
T. Brunton
J. C. Campbell
T. Comrie
S. W. Cooke
C. J. Ham
D. Ham
T. C. Harwood
J. Hoddinott
W. Knox
W. Pearson
P. Phillips
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
Sir A. Snowden
J. A. Wallace.

Tellers.

Dr. W. H. Embling
A. O. Sachse.

Noes, 10.

The Hon. J. Balfour
E. J. Crooke
Sir H. Cuthbert
J. M. Davies
G. Godfrey
N. Levi
D. Melville
J. Sternberg.

Tellers.

E. Miller
W. Pitt.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That this Bill be committed to a Select Committee—put and resolved in the affirmative.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

11. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow, at half-past four o'clock.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at thirty-nine minutes past nine o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 41.

WEDNESDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

Questions.

1. The Hon. J. HODDINOTT: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the necessity of connecting the Eastern and South-Eastern railways; and to ask if the Government will, during the recess, take into consideration the question of extending the Morwell to Mirboo North line and junctioning same with the South-Eastern railway in the neighbourhood of Leongatha, or of constructing a line diverging from the Eastern line in the neighbourhood of Warragul, and extending southerly to the South-Eastern railway.
2. The Hon. J. STERNBERG: To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence why Dr. H. Sturdee, of Bendigo, had not been asked to come down to Melbourne to be examined for the Bushmen's Corps for South Africa before others who are his junior in applications.
3. The Hon. J. HODDINOTT: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the advantages of using the timber known as the Gippsland yellow stringy bark for railway construction purposes; and to ask if the Government will sanction the use of such timber as sleepers, piles, or for other railway purposes.

Government Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY:—

1. LAND ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—To be taken into consideration.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

THURSDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY.

Questions.

1. The Hon. A. O. SACHSE: To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence whether the Government will, during the recess, give special consideration to the question of cheapening the cost of handling and carriage of produce on the railways, and to the introduction of the elevator system in connexion with the Victorian railways.
2. The Hon. A. O. SACHSE: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the following matters; and to ask him—
 1. Whether the attention of the Government has been called to the exceedingly unsatisfactory condition of the business of the Victorian Patents Office;
 2. Is the Government aware that applications for patents filed as far back as August last have not yet been dealt with, and that valuable patent rights have been and are being lost to inventors by reason of this unnecessary delay;
 3. Is the Government aware that applications for patents for foreign countries sent from Victoria have been granted, and the letters patent received in this colony, before the applications for the corresponding cases have been even considered by the examiners in Melbourne; and
 4. Whether the Government will immediately after going into recess cause a personal inquiry to be made by the Honorable the Attorney-General into the above subject, with the object of bringing the Patent Department of this colony up to a level with the other Patent Offices of Australia.

TUESDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY.

Question.

1. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the opinions submitted on the 31st October, 1899, by the late Solicitor-General in reply to the following question:—

“The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the following statements in the *Argus*:—

1. That the Commissioners of Savings Banks have decided that they will not hold a ballot of mortgage bonds this half-year;
2. That the Commissioners have decided that there will be no ballot of bonds for five years from this date;

and to ask what sections of Act No. 1481 give the Commissioners power to so suspend the ballot;”

and to ask if the present Ministry concur in the opinions of the late Attorney-General and Solicitor-General.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Wednesday, 7th February.

LIBRARY (JOINT)—at three o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED SINCE 2ND FEBRUARY, 1900.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. Nos. 38, 39, 40, and 41.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 41.

Factories and Shops Bill.—Amendments made by the Legislative Council—How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly. (To Members of Council only.)

Land Bill.—Amendment made by the Legislative Council—How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly. (To Members of Council only.)

Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company's Act 1883 Further Amendment Bill.—Petition of the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company Limited. E 1.

Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. No. 71.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 71.

Weekly Report of Divisions. No. 12.

Wando Vale Estate Purchase Bill.—[112].

Licensing Bill.—New Clause to be proposed in Committee by Mr. Foster. (To Members only.)

Statistical Register of Victoria for 1898.—Part VIII.—Accumulation. No. 72.

VICTORIA.

No. 43.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—FREE CONFERENCE.—MANAGER DISCHARGED.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Honorable A. Wynne be discharged from attendance on the Free Conference on the Factories and Shops Acts further Amendment Bill.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
5. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—FREE CONFERENCE.—MANAGER APPOINTED.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Honorable T. C. Harwood be a Manager of the Free Conference on the Factories and Shops Acts further Amendment Bill.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
6. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly acquaint the Legislative Council that they have appointed seven Members to confer with a like number of Members of the Legislative Council on the subject-matter of the amendments made by the Legislative Council and disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, or agreed to with amendments, in the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts,*" and name the South Library as the place and Wednesday, the 7th February instant, at a quarter to five o'clock in the afternoon, as the time of meeting of the said Conference.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 7th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

7. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—FREE CONFERENCE.—The Managers then proceeded to the Conference, and being returned—
8. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to sanction the acquisition by the State of certain land in the County of Dundas known as the Wando Vale Estate,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 7th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

9. WANDO VALE ESTATE PURCHASE BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to sanction the acquisition by the State of certain land in the County of Dundas known as the Wando Vale Estate,*” be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.
10. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—
Land Acts further Amendment Bill—Message from the Legislative Assembly—To be taken into consideration.
Workmen's Compensation Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.
Indecent or Obscene Advertisements Prohibition Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.
11. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow, at half-past ten o'clock.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at five minutes past eleven o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 42.

THURSDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

Questions.

1. The Hon. A. O. SACHSE : To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence whether the Government will, during the recess, give special consideration to the question of cheapening the cost of handling and carriage of produce on the railways, and to the introduction of the elevator system in connexion with the Victorian railways.
2. The Hon. J. HODDINOTT : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the necessity of connecting the Eastern and South-Eastern railways; and to ask if the Government will, during the recess, take into consideration the question of extending the Morwell to Mirboo North line and junctioning same with the South-Eastern railway in the neighbourhood of Leongatha, or of constructing a line diverging from the Eastern line in the neighbourhood of Warragul, and extending southerly to the South-Eastern railway.
3. The Hon. A. O. SACHSE : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the following matters; and to ask him—
 1. Whether the attention of the Government has been called to the exceedingly unsatisfactory condition of the business of the Victorian Patents Office;
 2. Is the Government aware that applications for patents filed as far back as August last have not yet been dealt with, and that valuable patent rights have been and are being lost to inventors by reason of this unnecessary delay;
 3. Is the Government aware that applications for patents for foreign countries sent from Victoria have been granted, and the letters patent received in this colony, before the applications for the corresponding cases have been even considered by the examiners in Melbourne; and
 4. Whether the Government will immediately after going into recess cause a personal inquiry to be made by the Honorable the Attorney-General into the above subject, with the object of bringing the Patent Department of this colony up to a level with the other Patent Offices of Australia.
4. The Hon. J. STERNBERG : To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence why Dr. H. Sturdee, of Bendigo, had not been asked to come down to Melbourne to be examined for the Bushmen's Corps for South Africa before others who are his junior in applications.
5. The Hon. J. HODDINOTT : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the advantages of using the timber known as the Gippsland yellow stringy bark for railway construction purposes; and to ask if the Government will sanction the use of such timber as sleepers, piles, or for other railway purposes.

Government Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. LAND ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—To be taken into consideration.
2. WANDO VALE ESTATE PURCHASE BILL—Second reading.

General Business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*
2. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL—Second reading—*Resumption of debate.*

TUESDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY.*Question.*

1. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the opinions submitted on the 31st October, 1899, by the late Solicitor-General in reply to the following question:—

“The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood: To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the following statements in the *Argus*:—

1. That the Commissioners of Savings Banks have decided that they will not hold a ballot of mortgage bonds this half-year;
2. That the Commissioners have decided that there will be no ballot of bonds for five years from this date;

and to ask what sections of Act No. 1481 give the Commissioners power to so suspend the ballot;”

and to ask if the present Ministry concur in the opinions of the late Attorney-General and Solicitor-General.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 7TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 42.
Wando Vale Estate Purchase Bill.—[112]. (To Members of Council only.)

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 72.
Victorian Third Military Contingent Bill—[113].
South African Contingents Contribution Bill—[114].

VICTORIA.

No. 44.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. **FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—FREE CONFERENCE.**—The Managers again proceeded to the Conference, and, being returned, the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood stated, on behalf of the Managers for the Legislative Council, that they had met the Managers for the Legislative Assembly on the subject-matter of the amendments made by the Legislative Council and disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, or agreed to with amendments, in the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts,*" and had agreed to report as follows :—
 1. That the Conference has arrived at an agreement upon all the points of difference between the two Houses.
 2. That amendments embodying the result of its agreement will be printed and circulated at the earliest moment possible.
 3. That the Conference has agreed to omit in clause 13 the words "any building or place in which gas or electricity is prepared or produced."
 4. That the Conference has agreed to certain amendments in clause 16 under which the Governor in Council may on the resolution of either House appoint Special Boards to be elected as prescribed.
 5. That it is agreed that as to the clothing trade there shall be only one Board.
 6. That the question of fixing piece-work prices or rates in lieu of wages shall be decided by the Special Board on appeal by the employer.
 7. That clause 36, relating to the compulsory half-holiday, shall be omitted.
 8. That clause 41, limiting the hours of male shop assistants, shall be confined to the Metropolitan district.
 9. That clause 43, giving power to the Governor in Council to limit the hours for carters and carriers and providing for a half-holiday, shall be made applicable to the Metropolitan district only.
 10. That the Act shall remain in force for two years and thence until the end of the next ensuing Session of Parliament.
5. **MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.**—The following Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor was presented by the Honorable J. M. Davies, and the same was read by the Honorable the President :—

JOHN MADDEN,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Message No. 12.

The Lieutenant-Governor informs the Legislative Council that he has, on this day, at Macedon, given the Royal Assent to the undermentioned Act of the present Session, presented to him by the Clerk of the Parliaments, viz. :—

"An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of Three hundred and seventy-eight thousand one hundred and fifty-seven pounds to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred."

Macedon, 31st January, 1900.
6. **WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.—SECOND VICTORIAN MILITARY CONTINGENT.**—The Honorable J. M. Davies informed the Council that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor had received the following cablegram sent by Lord Roberts, from Capetown :—

"I had the great pleasure of personally welcoming here to-day the Victorian Mounted Rifles. I wish to express to Your Excellency my high appreciation of the patriotic spirit which has led our fellow subjects in Australia to send such a useful and workmanlike body of men to assist in restoring peace, order, and freedom in South Africa."

7. PAPERS.—The Honorable J. M. Davies presented, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor—

Statistical Register of the Colony of Victoria for the year 1898.—Part IX.—Social Condition.
Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk:—

Customs and Excise Duties Act 1890—

Minor Articles—

Leather Trouser Bindings, in lengths of about 36 yards.

Wood Shanks.

Explosives Act 1890.—Addition to List of Explosives authorized for Importation into and Manufacture in Victoria.—Ammunition.

Marine Act 1890—

Ports in Victoria.—Additional Regulations.

Amended Regulations for the Adjustment of Compasses.

Upper Macedon Waterworks Trust.—Application for an Additional Loan of £100.

Statement of Transactions under the *Trust Funds Act* 1897, No. 1531, between the Treasurer and the Trustees during the year ended the 30th June, 1899.

8. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to authorize Contributions by Municipal Councils towards Military Contingents for South Africa or any members thereof or their relatives,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 8th February, 1900.

9. MUNICIPAL COUNCILS (MILITARY CONTINGENTS) CONTRIBUTIONS BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to authorize Contributions by Municipal Councils towards Military Contingents for South Africa or any members thereof or their relatives,*" be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.

10. LAND ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of the amendment made in this Bill by the Legislative Council, and agreed to by the Legislative Assembly with amendments, having been read—the said amendment was read, and is as follows:—

Amendment made by the Legislative Council.

How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.

1. Clause 6, at end of clause add the following new sub-clause:—

(2A) The term of any lease which is extended by the operation of this section shall not be so extended without the previous written approval of the Minister.

Agreed to with the following amendments:—After "any" insert "pastoral"; omit "which is extended by the operation of this section"; and after "not" insert "notwithstanding the provisions of this section."

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council agreed to the amendments made by the Legislative Assembly on an amendment of the Legislative Council in this Bill, and ordered that a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them therewith.

11. WANDO VALE ESTATE PURCHASE BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:—

"*An Act to sanction the acquisition by the State of certain land in the County of Dundas known as the Wando Vale Estate.*"

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

12. MUNICIPAL COUNCILS (MILITARY CONTINGENTS) CONTRIBUTIONS BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments, and had amended the title thereof, which title is as follows :—

“ *An Act to authorize Contributions by Municipal Councils Banks and other Bodies towards Military Contingents for South Africa or any members thereof or their relatives.*”

The Honorable D. Melville moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable D. Melville the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ *An Act to authorize Contributions by Municipal Councils Banks and other Bodies towards Military Contingents for South Africa or any members thereof or their relatives.*”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with amendments, and requesting their concurrence therein.

13. INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS PROHIBITION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question—That this Bill be now read a second time, having been read—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments, and had amended the title thereof, which title is as follows :—

“ *An Act to amend the ‘Crimes Act 1891.’*”

The Honorable D. Melville moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable D. Melville the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“ *An Act to amend the ‘Crimes Act 1891.’*”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with amendments, and requesting their concurrence therein.

14. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “ *An Act relating to State School Teachers,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 8th February, 1900.

15. STATE SCHOOL TEACHERS BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “ *An Act relating to State School Teachers,*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time to-morrow.

16. DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the following Order of the Day was read and discharged :—

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Second reading—Resumption of debate.

Ordered—That the said Bill be withdrawn.

17. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow, at twelve o'clock.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at fourteen minutes past nine o'clock, adjourned until to-morrow.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,

Clerk of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 43.

FRIDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

Question.

1. The Hon. A. O. SACHSE : To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence whether the Government will, during the recess, give special consideration to the question of cheapening the cost of handling and carriage of produce on the railways, and to the introduction of the elevator system in connexion with the Victorian railways.

Government Business.

NOTICE OF MOTION :—

1. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD : To move, That the Report from the Managers of the Free Conference on the Factories and Shops Acts further Amendment Bill be now taken into consideration.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. STATE SCHOOL TEACHERS BILL—Second reading.

TUESDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY.

Questions.

1. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the opinions submitted on the 31st October, 1899, by the late Solicitor-General in reply to the following question :—

“The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the following statements in the *Argus* :—

1. That the Commissioners of Savings Banks have decided that they will not hold a ballot of mortgage bonds this half-year ;
2. That the Commissioners have decided that there will be no ballot of bonds for five years from this date ;

and to ask what sections of Act No. 1481 give the Commissioners power to so suspend the ballot ;”

and to ask if the present Ministry concur in the opinions of the late Attorney-General and Solicitor-General.

2. The Hon. J. STERNBERG : To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence why Dr. H. Sturdee, of Bendigo, had not been asked to come down to Melbourne to be examined for the Bushmen's Corps for South Africa before others who are his junior in applications.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 8TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 43.

Teachers Bill—[33]. (To Members of Council only.)

Teachers Bill.—New Clause to be proposed by the Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood. (To Members of Council only.)

Factories and Shops Bill.—Recommendations of the Free Conference. (To Members of both Houses.)

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 73.

Royal Park Bill—[70].

VICTORIA.

No. 45.

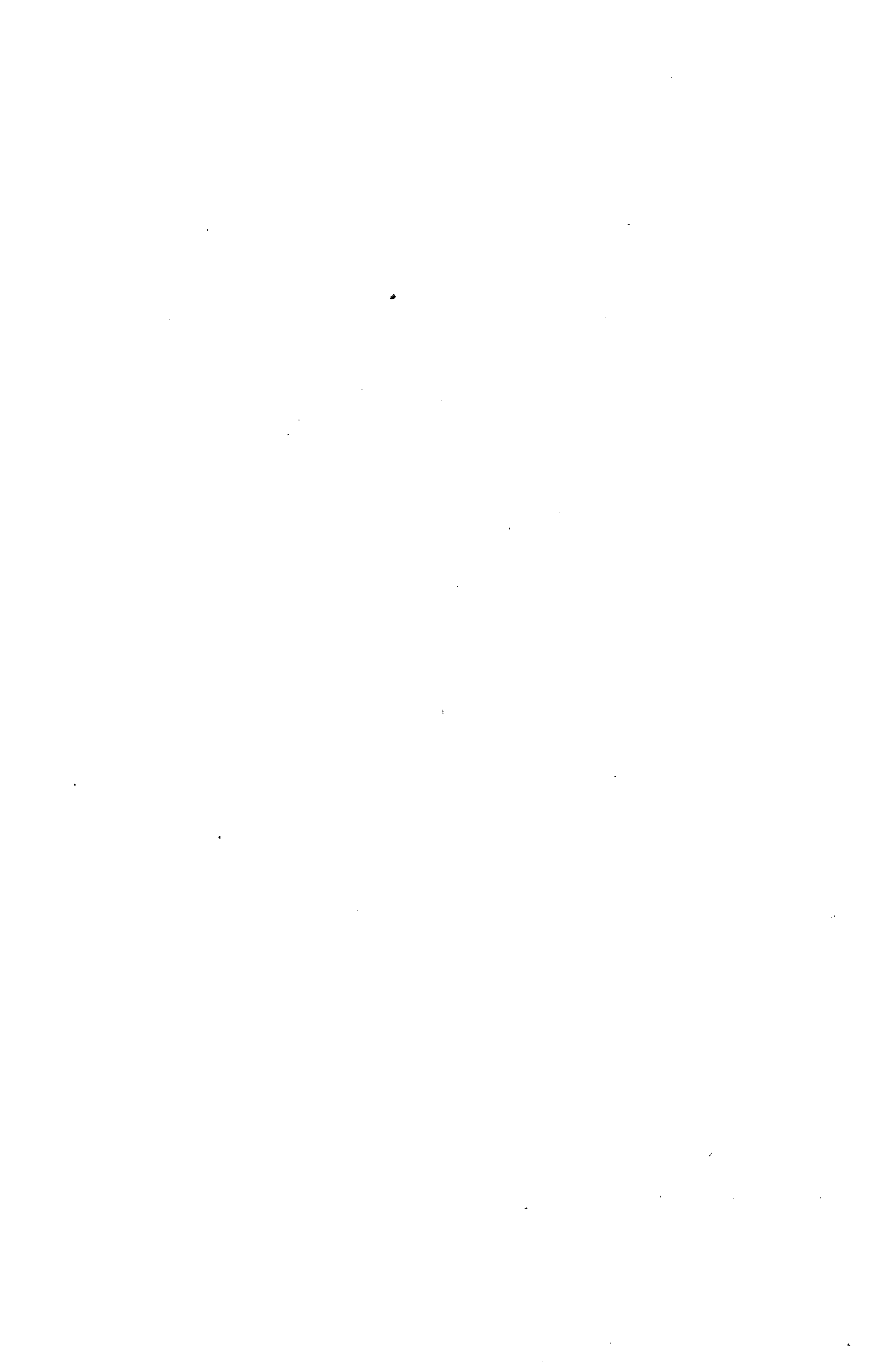
MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Wednesday next, at half-past four o'clock.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at eleven minutes past twelve o'clock, adjourned until Wednesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

No. 44.

WEDNESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

Questions.

1. The Hon. A. O. SACHSE : To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence whether the Government will, during the recess, give special consideration to the question of cheapening the cost of handling and carriage of produce on the railways, and to the introduction of the elevator system in connexion with the Victorian railways.

2. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the opinions submitted on the 31st October, 1899, by the late Solicitor-General in reply to the following question :—

“ The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood : To call the attention of the Honorable the Solicitor-General to the following statements in the *Argus* :—

1. That the Commissioners of Savings Banks have decided that they will not hold a ballot of mortgage bonds this half-year ;
2. That the Commissioners have decided that there will be no ballot of bonds for five years from this date ;

and to ask what sections of Act No. 1481 give the Commissioners power to so suspend the ballot ;”

and to ask if the present Ministry concur in the opinions of the late Attorney-General and Solicitor-General.

3. The Hon. J. STERNBERG : To ask the Honorable the Minister of Defence why Dr. H. Sturdee, of Bendigo, had not been asked to come down to Melbourne to be examined for the Bushmen's Corps for South Africa before others who are his junior in applications.

Government Business.

• NOTICE OF MOTION :—

1. The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD : To move, That the Report from the Managers of the Free Conference on the Factories and Shops Acts further Amendment Bill be now taken into consideration.

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. STATE SCHOOL TEACHERS BILL—Second reading.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ISSUED 9TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 44.

Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day. No. 74.

VICTORIA.

No. 46.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year ending on the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

5. APPROPRIATION BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year ending on the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament,*" be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.
6. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—FREE CONFERENCE.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That the Report from the Managers of the Free Conference on the Factories and Shops Acts further Amendment Bill be now taken into consideration.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And the amendments referred to the said Conference, with the recommendations thereon, were read, and are as follow :—

Amendments made by the Legislative Council.	How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.	Recommendations of Free Conference.
2. Clause 4, line 23, after "year" insert "provided nevertheless that such apprentices may be taken on probation for a term not exceeding three months, and at or before the expiration of such time they shall either be discharged or be bound by indentures of apprenticeship or be employed under a written agreement as hereinbefore provided in this section."	Disagreed with.	2. Council not to insist.
3. Clause 7, line 15, after "boiler" insert "except a steam boiler not used for operating a steam-engine."	Disagreed with.	3. Council not to insist, but instead of its amendment to propose the following amendment :—In clause 7, after "certificate," in line 16, add "nothing in this section shall apply to any steam boiler not used for operating a steam-engine if the same be in charge of an adult person."

Amendments made by the Legislative Council.	How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.	Recommendations of Free Conference.
<p>6. Clause 13, lines 10-16, omit " words ' working in any handicraft or in preparing or manufacturing articles for trade or sale ' the following words shall be added :— ' and shall include any building or place in which gas or electricity is prepared or produced ' and any clay-pit or quarry worked or used in connexion with any pottery or brickyard ; (b) in the same sub-section after the."</p>	Disagreed with.	<p>6. Council not to insist, and the following amendments to be substituted:— Clause 13, lines 12 and 13, omit " any building or place in which gas or electricity is prepared or produced ' and"; line 14, after " connexion with " insert " and occupied by the occupier of."</p>
<p>7. Clause 16, sub-clause (1), omit this sub-clause and insert the following new sub-clause:— (1a) In order to determine the lowest prices or rates which may be paid to any person or persons or classes of persons for wholly or partly preparing or manufacturing either inside or outside a factory or work-room any particular articles of clothing or wearing apparel or furniture or for bread making or baking or to any person or persons or classes of persons employed in any process trade or business usually or frequently carried on in a factory or work-room or employed in the process trade or business of a butcher or seller of meat or maker or seller of small goods the Governor in Council may if he think fit from time to time appoint a Special Board consisting of not less than four or more than ten members elected as may be prescribed and a chairman, and may at any time remove any member of the Special Board and may appoint any person so elected to fill any vacancy occurring in such Special Board in the same way as on the original appointment. In fixing such lowest prices or rates the Special Board shall take into consideration the nature kind and class of the work and the mode and manner in which the work is to be done and the age and the sex of the workers and any matter which may from time to time be prescribed. Provided that no such Special Board shall be so appointed except for the process trade or business of a butcher or seller of meat or maker or seller of small goods and except in</p>	Disagreed with.	<p>7. Council to insist, but now to propose to amend its amendment by omitting therefrom " and may appoint any person so elected to fill any vacancy occurring in such Special Board in the same way as on the original appointment"; and also by omitting " not " before " included"; and also by omitting all words from " petitions signed " to end of amendment and substituting therefor " a resolution has been passed by either House of Parliament declaring that it is expedient to appoint such Special Board."</p>

Amendments made by the Legislative Council.	How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.	Recommendations of Free Conference.
the case of any trade or business which at the commencement of this Act is not included under the provisions of the Factories and Shops Acts as regards Special Boards unless petitions signed respectively by at least one-half of the employers and employés of such trade or business be presented to the Minister asking for a Special Board to be appointed in respect to such trade or business.	Disagreed with.	7. Council to insist, but now to propose to amend its amendment by omitting therefrom "and may appoint any person so elected to fill any vacancy occurring in such Special Board in the same way as on the original appointment"; and also by omitting "not" before "included"; and also by omitting all words from "petitions signed" to end of amendment and substituting therefor "a resolution has been passed by either House of Parliament declaring that it is expedient to appoint such Special Board."
8. Clause 16, page 5, line 24, omit "Board" and insert "Boards."	Disagreed with.	8. Council not to insist.
9. Clause 16, same page, lines 24-6, omit "the representatives of the employers shall consist of three representatives of makers of ready-made clothing and two of makers of order clothing" and insert "one Board shall be appointed for ready-made clothing and one Board for order clothing."	Disagreed with.	9. Council not to insist.
10. Clause 16, same page, after sub-clause (2) insert the following new sub-clause :— (2a) If the number of persons nominated as representatives of employers or employés (as the case may be) does not exceed the number of persons to be elected the persons nominated shall be deemed and taken to have been elected and shall be appointed accordingly to be members of the Special Board.	Disagreed with.	10. Assembly to agree.
11. Clause 16, same page, sub-clause (3), omit this sub-clause.	Disagreed with.	11. Council not to insist, but now to propose to amend sub-clause (3) by adding in line 36, after "aforesaid," the words "and such person shall be so appointed for the unexpired portion of the term of office of the member who dies or resigns or is removed."
13. Clause 16, page 8, line 14, omit "may disallow the same or."	Disagreed with.	13. Council not to insist on its amendment, but in lieu thereof to propose that sub-clause (17) of clause 16 be omitted and the following new sub-clause (17) be substituted :— (17) Any employer who pursuant to such determination fixes and pays piece-work prices or rates shall base such piece-work prices or rates on the earnings of an average worker working under like conditions to those for which the piece-work prices or rates are fixed and who is paid by time at the wages rates fixed by such Special Board. Every such employer shall if required by the Chief Inspector so to do forward a statement of such prices or rates to the Chief Inspector, who if he thinks fit may give notice in writing to such employer that he disagrees with such prices or rates or any of

Amendments made by the Legislative Council.	How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.	Recommendations of Free Conference.
13. Clause 16, page 8, line 14, omit "may disallow the same or."	Disagreed with.	them, and if requested in writing by the employer so to do within one week the Chief Inspector shall refer the same to a Special Board which may disallow the same and may fix the prices or rates which in its opinion should have been paid by such employer in respect of the matters referred to it. If the prices or rates so fixed by the Board are higher than the prices or rates so fixed and paid by the employer the employer shall pay to each of the employés in respect of the period between such notice of the Chief Inspector and the determination of the Board an amount equal to twice the difference between the prices or rates fixed and paid by him and the prices or rates fixed by the Special Board. Until such notice as aforesaid shall have been given by the Chief Inspector such prices or rates shall be deemed to have been duly fixed. If the employer does not within one week after the Chief Inspector has given him notice as aforesaid request a reference of the prices or rates to a Special Board, the prices or rates so disagreed with by the Chief Inspector shall as from the date of such notice be deemed not to be duly fixed.
15. Clause 16, same page, line 22, omit "Chief Inspector or."	Disagreed with.	15. Assembly to agree.
21. Clause 17, omit this clause and insert the following new clause :—	Disagreed with.	21. Council to insist on omitting clause 17, but not to insist on inserting new clause C.
C. (1) For the purpose of deciding whether at least one-half in number of employers in any process trade or business have signed a petition asking for a Special Board to be appointed the register kept by the Chief Inspector in accordance with section nine of the Principal Act may be used, and none but employers registered therein as carrying on the process trade or business affected shall be counted in computing such third.		
(2) For the purpose of deciding whether at least one-half in number of employés in any process trade or business have signed a petition asking for a Special Board to be appointed the Minister may accept as the correct number of all employés the number stated to be employed in the process trade or business affected as set out in the last published annual report of the Chief Inspector or may decide the matter on any		

Amendments made by the Legislative Council.	How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.	Recommendations of Free Conference.
<p>other evidence which may appear to him to be satisfactory.</p> <p>(3) The Governor in Council may make regulations requiring employers in any process trade or business to forward such information as may be necessary to determine whether the requisite number of employes have petitioned for the appointment of a Special Board under this section, and such regulations may impose penalties not exceeding Five pounds for any failure to comply with such regulations.</p> <p>(4) The Minister's decision as to whether at least one-half in number of employers or employes in any process trade or business have or have not asked for the appointment of a Special Board shall be final and shall not be subject to be questioned or reviewed in any court of law or otherwise howsoever.</p>	<p>Disagreed with.</p>	<p>21. Council to insist on omitting clause 17, but not to insist on inserting new clause C.</p>
<p>22. Clause 20, line 1, after "where" insert "any person other than members of the family are employed in."</p>			Agreed to with the following amendments:— Before "family" insert "employer's"; and after "family" insert "related in the first or second degree by blood or marriage to the employer."	22. Council to agree to Assembly's amendments.
<p>23. Clause 25, line 11, after "title" insert "which shall be descriptive of the trade."</p>	<p>Disagreed with.</p>	<p>23. Council not to insist.</p>
<p>25. Clause 28, lines 29-31, omit "and the Governor in Council without any previous notice or election appoints some person to fill the vacancy such person" and insert "the person appointed to fill such vacancy."</p>	<p>Disagreed with.</p>	<p>25. Council not to insist on its amendment, but instead thereof now to propose to omit clause 28.</p>
<p>30. Clause 31, at end of clause add "Provided that this addition shall not apply to any member of the employer's family nearly related one to the other by blood or marriage."</p>	<p>Agreed to with the following amendments:— Omit "this addition shall not" and insert "except so far as regards any person employed in a factory or work-room nothing in this section shall"; omit "nearly"; after "related" insert "in the first or second degree"; and after "marriage" insert "to the employer."</p>	<p>30. Council to agree to Assembly's amendments.</p>

Amendments made by the Legislative Council.	How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.	Recommendations of Free Conference.
<p>31. Clause 32, at end of clause add "and in sub-section (2) of the same section all words after 'work-room' where it first occurs are hereby repealed and the words 'the Chief Inspector may take proceedings before the local court of petty sessions for the cancellation of the registration of such or any part of such factory or work-room' are hereby inserted."</p>	<p>Agreed to with the following amendment:—Omit all the words after "Chief Inspector may" and insert "lay an information before the court of petty sessions that the occupier has failed to comply with the provisions of this section, and on such information may summon him to appear before the court of petty sessions and show cause why the registration of such factory should not be cancelled, and the court of petty sessions unless notified that such factory or work-room or such part thereof is not defective in any of the matters set forth in the notice sent by the Chief Inspector shall make an order directing the cancellation of such registration."</p>	<p>31. Council to agree to Assembly's amendment with the following amendments:—Omit "notified" in line 28 of Assembly's amendment and insert "satisfied"; and at end of amendment add "are hereby inserted."</p>
<p>32. Clause 36, omit this clause.</p>	<p>Disagreed with.</p>	<p>32. Assembly to agree.</p>
<p>33. Clause 41, omit this clause.</p>	<p>Disagreed with.</p>	<p>33. Council to insist on omitting clause 41, but in lieu of such clause now to propose the following new clause:— AA. In sub-section (1) of section forty-one of the <i>Factories and Shops Act</i> 1896 for the words "a person under sixteen years of age or a woman or girl shall not" there shall be substituted the words— “(a) No person within the Metropolitan district other than a person employed solely as a carter or porter or night watchman; and “(b) No person in any part of Victoria wherever the provisions of the <i>Factories and Shops Acts</i> which relate to shops apply being under the age of sixteen years and no woman or girl, shall”; and in sub-section (2) of the said section the words "under the age of sixteen years or woman or girl" and the words "woman or girl" are hereby repealed.</p>

Amendments made by the Legislative Council.	How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.	Recommendations of Free Conference.
35. Clause 43, paragraph (a), omit this paragraph.		35 to 39. Council not to insist on its amendments, but now to propose in lieu thereof the omission of clause 43 and the substitution of the following new clause:—
36. Clause 43, line 23, omit "so."		BB. The Governor in ^{Limitation} of hours of Council may in the carriers and manner prescribed by ^{carters.} section sixty-three of the Principal Act make regulations to have effect within the Metropolitan district—
37. Clause 43, same line, after "employed" insert "in the Metropolitan district as a carrier or carter of any goods wares merchandise or materials whatsoever in connexion with a factory or work-room or shop or in assisting any such carrier or carter."	Disagreed with.	(a) limiting the total number of hours in the week during which any person may be employed for wages as a carrier or carter in carrying or delivering in the ordinary course of business any goods wares merchandise or materials whatsoever to or from a factory or work-room or shop or in assisting any such carrier or carter ; and
38. Clause 43, line 24, after "half-holiday" insert "at such hours as may be specified in such regulation as may be made by the Governor in Council from time to time."		(b) providing that every person whomsoever so employed shall have a half-holiday on some day in each week (other than a Sunday) during such hours as may be specified in such regulation. This paragraph shall not apply to any person employed in delivering bread.
39. Clause 43, lines 25-7, omit "from the hour of One o'clock in the afternoon or if the regulations so specify from the hour of Two o'clock in the afternoon."		
46. After clause 48 insert the following new clause:—		
A. (a) The stamps upon all furniture imported into Victoria for sale ; or	Agreed to with the following amendments:— Omit "(a)" and insert "(1)"; after "furniture" insert "(a)"; omit "Act No. 1445" and insert "the <i>Factories and Shops Act 1896</i> "; omit "(d)" and insert "(2)."	
(b) manufactured in Victoria for sale solely by European labour ; or		
(c) manufactured in Victoria for sale partly by European labour and partly by the labour of persons other than Chinese shall be of an oblong shape and shall each (as the case may be) contain the words as specified in the preceding section and in section fifty-seven of Act No. 1445 ;		
(d) the stamps upon all furniture manufactured in Victoria for sale solely or partly by the labour of any Chinese person or on the premises of any Chinese employer shall be triangular in shape and shall contain the words "Chinese labour."		46. Council to agree to Assembly's amendments.

Amendments made by the Legislative Council.	How dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.	Recommendations of Free Conference.
47. After clause 49 insert the following new clause :— D. In section fifty-four of the <i>Factories and Shops Act</i> 1896 the following sub-clause shall be added :— “For prescribing where the stamp shall be placed on each class or kind of furniture.”	Agreed to with the following amendment :— Omit “sub-clause” and insert “paragraph.”	47. Council to agree to Assembly’s amendment.
49. Clause 52, line 25, omit “three” and insert “two.”	Disagreed with.	49. Assembly to agree, but now to propose that in line 25 of clause 52, after the word “Act,” there be inserted the following words :—“and thence until the end of the next ensuing Session of Parliament.”

Recommendations on amendments numbered 2, 3, 6, 21, 22, 23, 25, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 46, 47, and 49, after debate, agreed to.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That the Council agree to the recommendation of the Free Conference on amendment numbered 7.

Debate ensued.

The Honorable N. Levi moved, as an amendment, That the words “either House,” be omitted from the recommendation (column 3), with a view to insert in place thereof the words “both Houses.”

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the recommendation—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Council agree to the recommendation of the Free Conference on amendment numbered 7—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Recommendations on amendments numbered 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, and 15 agreed to.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the recommendations of the Free Conference on the Bill, and desiring the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly therewith.

7. APPROPRIATION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year ending on the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament.”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

8. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to further amend the ‘Companies Act 1890,’*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

9. COMPANIES ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to further amend the ‘Companies Act 1890,’*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.

10. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to validate certain Licences and for other purposes*," with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

11. LICENCES VALIDATING BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to validate certain Licences and for other purposes*," be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.

12. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to authorize Contributions by Municipal Councils towards Military Contingents for South Africa or any members thereof or their relatives*," and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to some of the amendments made in such Bill by the Legislative Council, and have agreed to one of the said amendments with amendments, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

And the said amendment was read, and is as follows :—

Amendment made by the Legislative Council.

How dealt with by the
Legislative Assembly.

Clause 2, line 10, after "municipality" insert "and for any bank and any incorporated company or friendly society or institute carrying on business in Victoria to apply out of its funds."

{ Agreed to with the following amendments :— After "bank" omit "and" and insert "or"; after "company" omit "or friendly society or institute."

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council agreed to the several amendments made by the Legislative Assembly on an amendment of the Legislative Council in this Bill, and ordered a Message to be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them therewith.

13. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act for the proper supervision of the Slaughtering of Animals and the Sale of Meat and for other purposes*," and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the same with amendments, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration this day.

14. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the Law relating to Hawkers and Pedlars*," and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly insist on disagreeing with the amendments in such Bill insisted on by the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration this day.

15. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Marine Act 1890'*," and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the further amendment made by the Legislative Council on the amendment made by the Legislative Assembly on the Council's amendment in clause 7, and that they do not insist on disagreeing with the amendment made and insisted on by the Legislative Council in the same clause, but have agreed to the same with further amendments, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

And the said amendment was read, and is as follows:—

Amendment made by the Legislative Council.	How dealt with.				
Clause 7, lines 43-4, omit "the property of such owner or."	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle;">{</td> <td style="vertical-align: middle;"> Disagreed with by the Assembly and insisted on by the Council. </td> <td style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td> <td style="vertical-align: middle;"> Disagreement not insisted on by the Assembly, but the following further amendments made:—In place of the words omitted insert:—"the property of the owner so convicted or," and after "master" (line 45) add "so convicted." </td> </tr> </table>	{	Disagreed with by the Assembly and insisted on by the Council.	}	Disagreement not insisted on by the Assembly, but the following further amendments made:—In place of the words omitted insert:—"the property of the owner so convicted or," and after "master" (line 45) add "so convicted."
{	Disagreed with by the Assembly and insisted on by the Council.	}	Disagreement not insisted on by the Assembly, but the following further amendments made:—In place of the words omitted insert:—"the property of the owner so convicted or," and after "master" (line 45) add "so convicted."		

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council agreed to the further amendments made by the Legislative Assembly on an amendment of the Legislative Council in this Bill, and ordered a Message to be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them therewith.

16. STATE SCHOOL TEACHERS BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with an amendment.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:—

"An Act relating to State School Teachers."

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with an amendment, and requesting their concurrence therein.

17. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.—The following Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor was presented by the Honorable J. M. Davies, and the same was read by the Honorable the President:—

JOHN MADDEN,
Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria.

Message No. 13.

The Lieutenant-Governor informs the Legislative Council that he has, on this day, at the Law Courts, given the Royal Assent to the undermentioned Acts of the present Session, presented to him by the Clerk of the Parliaments, viz.:—

"An Act to sanction the issue and application of certain sums of Money for Water Supply in Country Districts."

"An Act to indemnify the Councillors of various Municipalities for borrowing Moneys by Overdrafts on Bankers for the purposes of their Municipalities contrary to the provisions of the 'Local Government Act 1890.'"

"An Act to authorize the Expenditure of certain sums of Money available under Loan Acts for Railways."

"An Act to further amend the 'Mining Development Act 1896.'"

"An Act to further amend the 'Railway and Public Works Loan Application Act 1898.'"

"An Act to provide for the Sale of certain Lands set apart as a Site for a Mechanics' Institute at Hamilton."

"An Act to revive continue and amend the Income Tax Acts and declare the Rates of Income Tax thereunder for the Year ending on the thirty-first day of December One thousand nine hundred."

"An Act to further amend the 'Local Government Act 1890.'"

"An Act to provide for the creation of a Corporate Body in which property belonging to the Congregational College of Victoria may be vested and for declaring the Trusts on which same is to be held."

Law Courts,
Melbourne, 8th February, 1900.

18. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council the accompanying communication from the Clerk of the Parliaments, calling attention to a clerical error in the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the Land Acts*," and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed that such error be corrected by the insertion of the words "to as" instead of "as to" in line 27 of clause 18, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Parliament House,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

SIR,

I do myself the honour to report, in conformity with the Joint Standing Order No. 21, that the following clerical error has been discovered in the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the Land Acts*":—

In clause 18, line 27, the words "as to" have been inserted instead of the words "to as."

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

The Honorable the Speaker,
&c., &c., &c.

GEO. H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Parliaments.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council concurred with the Legislative Assembly in the correction of the clerical error discovered in the Land Acts further Amendment Bill, and ordered a Message to be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them therewith.

19. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Water Act 1890,'*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly insist on their amendments in new clause A, disagreed with by the Legislative Council, but have made a further amendment in the said clause; that they insist on disagreeing with some of the amendments in the Bill made and insisted on by the Legislative Council, but do not insist on disagreeing with others of the said amendments, and that they have made amendments in some of the amendments insisted on by the Legislative Council, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration this day.

20. PAPER.—The Honorable J. M. Davies presented, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor—

Statistical Register of the Colony of Victoria for the year 1898.—Appendix to Part IV.—Population.—Municipal Finances.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

21. HAWKERS AND PEDLERS LAW AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of the amendments made and insisted on by the Legislative Council in this Bill and disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, having been read—the said amendments were read, and are as follow :—

Clause 2, line 10, omit "during the last two years."
" line 11, omit "twelve" and insert "three."
" same line, omit "Victoria" and insert "Australasia; and."
" sub-clause (b), omit this sub-clause.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the Council do not now insist on their amendments.

Question—put and negatived.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council still insist on their amendments in this Bill with which the Legislative Assembly have disagreed.

22. MEAT SUPERVISION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of the amendments made in this Bill by the Legislative Assembly having been read—the said amendments were read, and are as follow :—

Clause 1, line 5, omit "1899," insert "1900."
" line 6, omit "January," insert "March."
Clause 2, line 13, after "animals" insert "or meat."
" (page 2), line 21, after "shop" insert "house place."
Clause 4 (page 3), line 6, after "Boroondara" insert "Preston."
Clause 6, line 13, omit "Except where it is expressly provided to the contrary."

- Clause 7, line 20, after "appointed" insert "as hereinafter in this Act provided."
 " line 34, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 " line 35, after "abattoirs" insert "or appointed places."
 Clause 8, line 6, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 " line 7, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 " line 12, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 " line 14, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 " line 15, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 " line 23, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 " line 25, after "abattoir" insert "or in which such appointed place is situated."
 Clause 9, line 28, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 " line 29, after "abattoir" insert "or place."
 " line 30, after "carcasses" insert "and meat."
 " line 31, after "abattoir" insert "or place."
 " line 39, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 " line 39, after "carcasses" insert "or meat."
 Clause 10, line 44, after "abattoir" insert "or place."
 Clause 11, line 8, after "abattoir" insert "or place."
 " line 13, after "carcasses" insert "or meat."
 " line 14, after "into" insert "or direct the cutting into."
 " line 15, after "carcass" insert "or meat."
 Clause 12, line 27, at end of clause add "(c) a slaughter-house or place or premises for slaughtering cattle in use as such within the limits of any city town or borough (other than Melbourne) before and on the first day of October One thousand eight hundred and sixty-three and which has so continued ever since."
 Clause 15, line 34, after "carcasses" insert "or meat."
 Clause 16, line 41, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 " line 42, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 Clause 17, omit this clause.
 Clause 18, line 20, after "abattoir" insert "or slaughter-house."
 Clause 21, lines 35-38, omit these lines.
 Clause 26, line 30, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 " line 33, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 Clause 27, line 34, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 " line 37, after "carcasses" insert "or meat."
 " line 38, after "abattoir" insert "or appointed place."
 " line 40, after "carcass" insert "or meat."
 " line 42, after "carcass" insert "or meat."
 Clause 28, line 3, omit "within the meat area."
 " line 4, after "Board" insert "(in this Act referred to as appointed place or places)."
 " line 9, before "meat" insert "carcass or."
 " line 9, after "be" insert "examined and."
 Clause 29, line 11, after "selling" insert "animals"; and after "slaughtering animals" insert "other than swine to be cured for bacon."
 " line 12, after "carcasses" insert "or meat."
 " line 14, after "sells" insert "animals"; and after "slaughter animals" insert "other than swine to be cured for bacon."
 " line 15, after "carcasses" insert "or meat."
 Clause 31, line 30, omit "three," insert "six."
 " line 2 (page 10), after "place" insert "appointed."
 Clause 32, line 41, after "carcass" insert "or meat."
 " line 45, before "meat" insert "carcass or."
 Clause 33, omit "three," insert "six."
 Clause 34, line 11, after "carcass" insert "or meat."
 " line 14, after "carcass" insert "or any meat."
 Clause 36, line 25, after "council" insert "or justices."
 Clause 38, line 4, after "storing" insert "carcasses or."
 Clause 45 (page 14), line 14, after "carcasses" insert "or meat."
 " line 34, after "condemned" insert "carcasses or."
 " line 39, before "meat" insert "carcasses or."
 " line 41, omit "meat," insert "the same."
 " line 47, after "carcasses" insert "or meat."
 " (page 15), line 5, before "meat" insert "carcasses or."
 " line 18, before "meat" insert "carcasses or."
 " line 22, before "meat" insert "carcasses or."
 " (page 16), line 4, after "carcasses" insert "or meat."
 " line 10, after "carcass" insert "or meat."

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council agreed to the several amendments made in this Bill by the Legislative Assembly, and ordered a Message to be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them therewith.

23. COMPANIES ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until this day.

24. ORDER OF THE COUNCIL RESCINDED.—The Honorable S. W. Cooke moved, by leave, That the Order of the Council of the 6th February instant, referring the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company's Act 1883 further Amendment Bill to a Select Committee, be read and rescinded.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

25. MELBOURNE TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS COMPANY'S ACT 1883 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Honorable S. W. Cooke moved, by leave, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable S. W. Cooke, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with an amendment.

The Honorable Lieut-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:—

“An Act to further amend ‘The Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company's Act 1883.’”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with an amendment, and requesting their concurrence therein.

26. COMPANIES ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question, That this Bill be now read a second time, having been read—

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with an amendment.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:—

“An Act to further amend the ‘Companies Act 1890.’”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with an amendment, and requesting their concurrence therein.

27. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled “An Act relating to State School Teachers,” and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the amendment made in such Bill by the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

28. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled “An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts,” and acquaint the Legislative Council that they have concurred with the Council in agreeing to the recommendations of the Free Conference on the said Bill.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

29. WATER ACT 1890 AMENDMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of the amendments made and insisted on by the Legislative Council in this Bill and disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, or agreed to with amendments, having been read—the said amendments were read, and are as follow :—

Amendments made by the Legislative Council.

How dealt with.

(4) After clause 6 insert the following new clause :—

- A. (1) The Governor in Council may upon the application of any Waterworks Trust by Order declare that the district of any Waterworks Trust whether created before or after the commencement of this Act shall for the purpose of the election of commissioners of such Trust be divided into ridings, and may upon such application by Order fix the boundaries of such ridings, or from time to time alter such ridings and boundaries, and may upon such application at any time vary or repeal any such Order.
- (2) When any Order is made dividing any district into ridings such Order, except so far as may be necessary or expedient for the purpose of enabling the commissioners for such ridings to be elected prior to such date, shall not take effect until a date fixed in such Order, when all the commissioners for the district whether elected or appointed shall go out of office.
- (3) In any such Order as aforesaid the Governor in Council shall determine the number of commissioners (whether one or more) of the Trust of the district so divided into ridings to be from time to time elected for each of such ridings and the period for which such commissioners shall hold office.
- (4) No person shall be eligible for election as a commissioner of a Waterworks Trust for any riding unless he be the owner or an occupier under lease of land situated within such riding, and no person except as aforesaid shall continue to be a commissioner of such Trust for such riding after he has ceased to be the owner or an occupier under lease of land within such riding.
- (5) The qualification for electors of commissioners of a Waterworks Trust for any riding and the number of votes in respect of such qualification shall be the same as the qualification provided for electors of commissioners in the last preceding section of this Act, save and except only that the land in respect of which the elector for a riding shall be qualified to vote shall be land within such riding, and if an elector possesses a qualification in respect of land situate in two or more ridings he shall be entitled to vote only in respect of the land within one riding, and he shall intimate to the returning officer for which riding he determines to exercise his franchise.
- (6) All the provisions of the Water Acts relating to commissioners of Waterworks Trusts, and relating to the election of such commissioners shall so far as is consistent with this section apply to commissioners of a Trust to be elected for a district divided into ridings under this section, and to the election of any such commissioners.
- (7) This section does not apply to urban divisions or to commissioners therefor.

Division into ridings of Waterworks Districts.

When Order to begin to take effect.

Number and tenure of commissioners for each riding.
Comp. No. 1156 ss. 182, 191.

Qualification of commissioners for riding.
Ib. ss. 192, 202.

Qualification of electors for riding.

Provisions of Principal Act to apply to commissioners of Trusts elected for ridings.

Non-application to urban divisions.

Agreed to by the Assembly with the following amendments in sub-section (1):—
Lines 1, 2, and 3, omit “upon the application of any Waterworks Trust”;
line 8, omit “upon such application”;
line 11, omit “upon such application.”

Amendments of the Assembly disagreed with by the Council.

Amendments insisted on by the Assembly, but the following further amendment made:—In place of the words “upon the application of any Waterworks Trust” (omitted) insert “upon a petition by not less than one-fourth of the persons liable to be rated.”

(8) Clause 36, sub-clause (2), at end of sub-clause add :—“Provided that the Governor in Council shall not make any such Order in Council while and so long as the amount suspended under any previous Order in Council remains unpaid.”

Disagreed with by the Assembly and insisted on by the Council.

Disagreement insisted on by the Assembly.

Amendments made by the Legislative Council.

How dealt with.

- (16) Clause 58, after sub-clause (4) insert the following new sub-clause :—
- (4A) In any case where under the Water Acts any property is chargeable with rates to any Trust the secretary of such Trust shall upon the application of any person in writing addressed to such secretary stating in such application the particulars of the property in respect of which information is required as to the rates due or payable thereon and upon payment of a fee of One shilling forthwith sign and give to such applicant or send by registered letter by post to the person so applying (whose name and address shall be stated in such application) a certificate in writing signed by such secretary, in which certificate it shall be stated what (if any) rates are due or payable to such Trust in respect of such property with the particulars of such rates and when the same became due or payable or that no such rates are then due or payable as the case may be. The production of such certificate so signed shall for all purposes whatsoever be deemed conclusive proof that at the date thereof no rates were due or payable to such Trust other than those stated in such certificate in respect of such property.
- (18) Clause 79, line 32, after “may” insert “upon the application of any Trust.”
- (19) „ line 35, after “may” insert “upon such application.”
- (20) „ line 37, after “may” insert “upon such application.”
- (27) Clause 126, after sub-clause (4) insert the following new sub-clause :—
- (4A) In any case where under the Water Acts any property is chargeable with rates to any Trust the secretary of such Trust shall upon the application of any person in writing addressed to such secretary stating in such application the particulars of the property in respect of which information is required as to the rates due or payable thereon and upon payment of a fee of One shilling forthwith sign and give to such applicant or send by registered letter by post to the person so applying (whose name and address shall be stated in such application) a certificate in writing signed by such secretary, in which certificate it shall be stated what (if any) rates are due or payable to such Trust in respect of such property with the particulars of such rates and when the same became due or payable as the case may be. The production of such certificate so signed shall for all purposes whatsoever be deemed conclusive proof that at the date thereof no rates were due or payable to such Trust other than those stated in such certificate in respect of such property.
- (29) Clause 130, sub-clause (2), at end of sub-clause add :—“Provided that the Governor in Council shall not make any such Order in Council while and so long as the amount suspended under any previous Order in Council remains unpaid.”
- Disagreed with by the Assembly and insisted on by the Council.
- Disagreement not insisted on by the Assembly, but new sub-clause (4A) agreed to with the following amendments:—Line 3, omit “secretary of such”; line 5, omit “such” (where first occurring) and insert “the;” line 9, omit “sign” and insert “procure”; lines 13–14, omit “signed by such secretary” and insert “under the seal of the Trust”; line 20, omit “signed” and insert “sealed.”
- Disagreed with by the Assembly and insisted on by the Council.
- Disagreement insisted on by the Assembly, but the following further amendment made :—After “may” insert “upon a petition by not less than one-fourth of the persons liable to be rated.”
- Disagreed with by the Assembly and insisted on by the Council.
- Disagreement insisted on by the Assembly.
- Disagreed with by the Assembly and insisted on by the Council.
- Disagreement not insisted on by the Assembly, but new sub-clause (4A) agreed to with the following amendments :—Line 3, omit “secretary of such”; line 5, omit “such” (where first occurring) and insert “the;” line 9, omit “sign” and insert “procure”; line 13, omit “signed by such secretary” and insert “under the seal of the Trust”; line 20, omit “signed” and insert “sealed.”
- Disagreed with by the Assembly and insisted on by the Council.
- Disagreement insisted on by the Assembly.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Council do not insist on disagreeing with the amendments of the Legislative Assembly in amendment 4, and that they agree to the further amendments made by the Legislative Assembly in the said amendment.

Debate ensued.

The Honorable E. Miller moved, as an amendment, That the word "one-fourth" be omitted from the further amendment with a view to insert in place thereof the word "one-half."

Debate continued.

Question—That the word proposed to be omitted stand part of the further amendment—put and negatived.

Question—That the word proposed to be inserted in place of the word omitted be so inserted—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Resolved—That the Council do not insist on disagreeing with the amendments of the Legislative Assembly in amendment 4, and that they agree to the further amendments made by the Legislative Assembly in the said amendment as amended.

Amendment 8 still insisted on.

Amendments of the Legislative Assembly in amendment 16 agreed to.

Amendment 18 not now insisted on, and the further amendment of the Legislative Assembly agreed to with the omission of the word "one-fourth" and the insertion of the word "one-half" in place thereof.

Amendments 19 and 20 still insisted on.

Amendments of the Legislative Assembly in amendment 27 agreed to.

Amendment 29 still insisted on.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to some of the amendments of the Legislative Assembly on amendments of the Legislative Council, have agreed to other amendments of the Legislative Assembly on amendments of the Legislative Council with amendments, and still insist on some of their amendments disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, and desiring the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly therein.

30. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to prohibit Indecent or Obscene Advertisements,*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the amendments made in such Bill by the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

31. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Companies Act 1890,'*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the amendment made in such Bill by the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

32. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to continue the 'Vegetation Diseases Act 1896,'*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the same without amendment.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

33. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act relating to certain general rules and orders made under the 'Companies Act 1896,'*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the same without amendment.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

34. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend 'The Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company's Act 1883,'*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the amendment made in such Bill by the Legislative Council with an amendment, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

And the said amendment was read, and is as follows :—

Amendment made by the Legislative Council.

How dealt with by the
Legislative Assembly.

Clause 2, omit this clause and insert the following new clause :—

A. From and after the 31st day of March, 1900, section 62 of the Act No. 765 shall be repealed and the following shall be substituted therefor and be read as part of the said Act, viz. :—“The days of labour of any person employed by the company as a driver or conductor of any tramcar or of the animals working any tramcar shall be eight hours, but any person so employed may work for the company overtime for a special rate of wages at one-fourth more per hour than the ordinary hourly rate of wages for the time being paid to such person. Provided that no person so employed shall in any case work for the company more than sixty hours in any one week, and the company shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding Five pounds for each and every breach of this section.”

Agreed to with the addition
of the following proviso :—
“Provided further that forty-
eight hours shall be the
ordinary working time in
each week.”

On the motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood the Council disagreed with the amendment made by the Legislative Assembly on the amendment of the Legislative Council in this Bill, and ordered the Bill to be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them therewith.

35. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled “*An Act to amend the ‘Supreme Court Act 1890’ with regard to the Boundaries of the Eastern and Central Bailiwicks,*” with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 14th February, 1900.

36. BAILIWICKS BOUNDARIES BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled “*An Act to amend the ‘Supreme Court Act 1890’ with regard to the Boundaries of the Eastern and Central Bailiwicks,*” be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.

37. LICENCES VALIDATING BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“*An Act to validate certain Licences and for other purposes.*”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

38. BAILIWICKS BOUNDARIES BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable D. Melville the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the following be the title of the Bill :—

“*An Act to amend the ‘Supreme Court Act 1890’ with regard to the Boundaries of the Eastern and Central Bailiwicks.*”

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

39. PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Honorable Frederick Sheppard Grimwade be appointed a Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And the Council having continued to sit till after Twelve of the clock—

THURSDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

40. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act authorizing the State to acquire certain Patent and other Rights relating to the Extraction of Gold and Silver by the Cyanide Process,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 15th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

41. CYANIDE PATENT RIGHTS PURCHASE BILL.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act authorizing the State to acquire certain Patent and other Rights relating to the Extraction of Gold and Silver by the Cyanide Process,*" be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with amendments.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Report from the Committee of the whole be taken into consideration this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:—

"An Act authorizing the State to acquire certain Patent and other Rights relating to the Extraction of Gold and Silver by the Cyanide Process."

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the same with amendments, and requesting their concurrence therein.

42. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend The Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company's Act 1883,*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly do not insist on their amendment on the amendment made by the Legislative Council in this Bill, but have made a further amendment in lieu thereof, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 15th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

And the said amendment was read, and is as follows:—

Amendment made by the Legislative Council.

How dealt with.

Clause 2, omit this clause and insert the following new clause:—

A. From and after the 31st day of March, 1900, section 62 of the Act No. 765 shall be repealed and the following shall be substituted therefor and be read as part of the said Act, viz.:—
"The days of labour of any person employed by the company as a driver or conductor of any tramcar or of the animals working any tramcar shall be eight hours but any person so employed may work for the company overtime for a special rate of wages at one-fourth more per hour than the ordinary hourly rate of wages for the time being paid to such person. Provided that no person so employed shall in any case work for the company more than sixty hours in any one week and the company shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding Five pounds for each and every breach of this section."

Agreed to by the Assembly with the addition of the following proviso:—"Provided further that forty-eight hours shall be the ordinary working time in each week."

Amendment of the Assembly disagreed with by the Council.

Amendment not insisted on by the Assembly, but the following words added to the clause:—"Provided further that each employé shall have one day's rest out of each seven days."

On the motion of the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood the Council disagreed with the further amendment made by the Legislative Assembly on the amendment of the Legislative Council in this Bill, and ordered the Bill to be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them therewith.

43. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Water Act 1890,'*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly do not now insist on disagreeing with certain of the amendments still insisted on by the Legislative Council, and have agreed to the further amendments made by the Legislative Council in the Assembly's amendments in new clause A and in clause 79.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 15th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

44. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend 'The Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company's Act 1883,'*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly insist on their further amendment on the amendment made by the Legislative Council in this Bill with which the Legislative Council have disagreed.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 15th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

45. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act authorizing the State to acquire certain Patent and other Rights relating to the Extraction of Gold and Silver by the Cyanide Process,*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to one of the amendments made in such Bill by the Legislative Council, and have agreed to another of the said amendments with amendments, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 15th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

And the said amendment was read, and is as follows:—

Amendment made by the Legislative Council.

How dealt with by the
Legislative Assembly.

Insert the following new clause:—

A. Notwithstanding anything herein contained this Act shall not take effect until and unless the company enter into an agreement with the Minister of Mines to permit the Minister to exercise and enforce within Victoria on behalf of Her Majesty all the rights of the company under letters patent in Victoria dated the twenty-fourth day of August One thousand eight hundred and ninety-three and numbered 10756 and letters patent dated the tenth day of July One thousand eight hundred and ninety-four and numbered 11497 and letters patent dated the twelfth day of June One thousand eight hundred and ninety-five and numbered 12265.

Agreed to with the following amendments:— After "11497" insert "for a period of five years from the passing of this Act"; omit "and letters patent dated the twelfth day of June One thousand eight hundred and ninety-five and numbered 12265."

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council disagreed with the amendment of the Legislative Assembly to omit certain words from new clause A in this Bill, and agreed to the amendment to insert other words, but to insert such words at the end of the clause, and ordered the Bill to be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message acquainting them therewith.

46. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Third Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty's Regular Forces in South Africa,*" with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 15th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

47. VICTORIAN MILITARY CONTINGENT BILL (No. 3).—The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message, intituled "*An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Third Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty's Regular Forces in South Africa,*" be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time, ordered to be printed and, by leave, to be read a second time this day.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That this Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the President left the Chair, and the Council resolved itself into Committee.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Honorable F. Brown having reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and agreed to the same without amendment, the Council ordered the Report to be taken into consideration this day.

On the motion of the Honorable D. Melville the Council adopted the Report from the Committee of the whole on this Bill.

And, on the further motion of the Honorable D. Melville, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Honorable D. Melville moved, That the following be the title of the Bill:—

"An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Third Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty's Regular Forces in South Africa."

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them that the Legislative Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

48. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act authorizing the State to acquire certain Patent and other rights relating to the Extraction of Gold and Silver by the Cyanide Process,*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly do not insist on their amendment to omit certain words from new clause A, disagreed with by the Legislative Council, and have agreed to the further amendment made by the Legislative Council in the said clause.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 15th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

49. ADJOURNMENT.—The Honorable J. M. Davies moved, by leave, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next, at half-past one o'clock.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the Council, at twenty-seven minutes past five o'clock in the morning, adjourned until Tuesday next.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

VICTORIA.

No. 47.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

1. The Council met in accordance with adjournment.
2. The President took the Chair.
3. The President read the Prayer.
4. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.—The following Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor was presented by the Honorable J. M. Davies, and the same was read by the Honorable the President:—

JOHN MADDEN,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Message No. 14.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 36 of *The Constitution Act* the Lieutenant-Governor transmits to the Legislative Council, for their consideration, the following amendments which he desires to be made in the Bill intituled "*An Act for the proper supervision of the Slaughtering of Animals and the Sale of Meat and for other purposes*" :—

Clause 9, last line but one, after "abattoir" insert "or place."

Clause 44, page 14, last line but seven, after "the" omit "the."

Government Offices,
Melbourne, 19th February, 1900.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council agreed to the several amendments recommended by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and ordered the Message to be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly with a Message requesting their concurrence therein.

5. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommending an amendment in the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Companies Act 1890,'*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the amendment recommended by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in this Bill, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 20th February, 1900.

JOHN MADDEN,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 36 of *The Constitution Act* the Lieutenant-Governor transmits to the Legislative Assembly, for their consideration, the following amendment which he desires to be made in the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Companies Act 1890'*" :—

Clause 2, omit "Part," substitute "Division."

Government Offices,
Melbourne, 19th February, 1900.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council agreed to the amendment recommended by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and ordered a Message to be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them therewith.

6. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommending an amendment in the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Marine Act 1890,'*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the amendment recommended by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in this Bill, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 20th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

JOHN MADDEN,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 36 of *The Constitution Act* the Lieutenant-Governor transmits to the Legislative Assembly, for their consideration, the following amendment which he desires to be made in the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the 'Marine Act 1890,'* :—

In clause 1, omit "1899," substitute "1900."

Government Offices,
Melbourne, 19th February, 1900.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council agreed to the amendment recommended by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and ordered a Message to be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them therewith.

7. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommending amendments in the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts,*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the several amendments recommended by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in this Bill, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 20th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

JOHN MADDEN,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 36 of *The Constitution Act* the Lieutenant-Governor transmits to the Legislative Assembly, for their consideration, the following amendments which he desires to be made in the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts*" :—

Clause 1, omit "March," substitute "May."

Clause 15, page 6, sub-clause (8), fifth line of sub-clause, before "only" insert "or rate."

Clause 15, page 6, sub-clause (8), seventh line of sub-clause, after "wages" insert "price or."

Clause 15, page 9, sub-clause (21), omit "(17) or (18)," substitute "(19) or (20)."

Clause 18, third line of clause, omit "are," substitute "is."

Clause 18, fourth and fifth lines of clause, omit "is carried on."

Clause 24, fifth line of clause, omit "for," substitute "of."

Clause 27, last two lines, omit "one to the other."

Clause 35, after last word "section" add "and the said section shall be deemed to authorize the making of regulations limiting the hours of employment of such billiard-markers or waiters of any age whatsoever."

Clause 46, omit "each," substitute "any."

Government Offices,
Melbourne, 19th February, 1900.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council agreed to the several amendments recommended by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and ordered a Message to be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them therewith.

8. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommending amendments in the Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Water Act 1890,'*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the several amendments recommended by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in this Bill, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 20th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

JOHN MADDEN,

Lieutenant-Governor.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 36 of *The Constitution Act* the Lieutenant-Governor transmits to the Legislative Assembly, for their consideration, the following amendments which he desires to be made in the Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Water Act 1890'*" :—

- Clause 1, omit "1899," substitute "1900."
- Clause 43, omit "1899," substitute "1900."
- Clause 64, page 24, after "Trust" insert "District."
- Clause 136, page 46, sub-clause (2), omit "1899," substitute "1900."
- Clause 142, page 47, after "Trust" insert "District."
- Clause 158, sub-clause (2), before "this" omit "1899," substitute "1900."
- Clause 160, page 53, omit "1899," substitute "1900."
- First Schedule, omit "1899," substitute "1900."

Government Offices,
Melbourne, 19th February, 1900.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies the Council agreed to the several amendments recommended by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and ordered a Message to be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them therewith.

9. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly transmit to the Legislative Council a copy of two resolutions which have been passed by the Legislative Assembly this day, and request the concurrence of the Legislative Council therein.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 20th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

And the said resolutions were read, and are as follow :—

That the Parliament of Victoria records its high appreciation of the magnificent services rendered to our Queen and Empire by Field Marshal Lord Roberts, V.C., in South Africa. By his recent successes against the enemy His Lordship has not only added distinction to his illustrious military career, but at the same time has upheld the honour and prestige of the British Empire.

That His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor be respectfully requested to transmit the foregoing resolution, by cable, to Field Marshal Lord Roberts, V.C.

On the motion of the Honorable J. M. Davies, after debate, the foregoing resolutions were agreed to, and a Message was ordered to be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly acquainting them therewith.

10. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommending amendments in the Bill intituled "*An Act for the proper supervision of the Slaughtering of Animals and the Sale of Meat and for other purposes,*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to the several amendments recommended by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in this Bill.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 20th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

11. PAPERS.—The Honorable J. M. Davies presented, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor—

Mine Ventilation.—Second Progress Report of the Mine Ventilation Bonus Board.

Royal Commission on Refrigerating Stores and Central Wine Depôt.—Report on Refrigerating Stores, with Appendices and Synopsis of Evidence.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—

Income Tax Acts.—Regulations.

Bank Liabilities and Assets.—Summary of Sworn Returns for the quarter ended 30th September, 1899.

Regulations under the Land Acts.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.—Statements of Accounts and Balance-sheet, together with Schedule of Contracts, for year ended 30th June, 1899.

Post Office Acts 1890 and 1897—

Fees to be charged at Public Telephone Bureaux for conversations by Telephone.

Rates for Press Messages on Country Trunk Telephone Lines.

12. ROYAL ASSENT TO BILLS.—His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, at the Parliament House, gave the Royal Assent to the following Bills :—

"*An Act to further amend the 'Companies Act 1890.'*"

"*An Act to further amend the 'Marine Act 1890.'*"

"*An Act for the proper supervision of the Slaughtering of Animals and the Sale of Meat and for other purposes.'*"

"*An Act to amend the 'Water Act 1890.'*"

13. APPROACH OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.—The approach of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor was announced by the Usher.
14. ROYAL ASSENT TO BILLS.—His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor came into the Council Chamber, and commanded the Usher to desire the attendance of the Legislative Assembly, who, being come with their Speaker, he, after a short speech to His Excellency, delivered the Appropriation Bill to the Clerk of the Parliaments, who brought it to the Table.

His Excellency was then pleased to assent to the following Bills :—

“ An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue to the services of the year ending on the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament.”

“ An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts.”

“ An Act to provide for the government discipline and maintenance of a Third Victorian Contingent for service with Her Majesty’s Regular Forces in South Africa.”

To these Bills the Royal Assent was pronounced severally by the Clerk of the Parliaments in these words :—

“ In the name and on behalf of Her Majesty I assent to this Act.”

15. His Excellency was then pleased to speak as follows :—

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL :

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY :

It affords me pleasure to be able to release you from the discharge of your legislative duties after an arduous and protracted Session.

The struggle which our Nation is at present waging in South Africa has aroused a spirit of deep enthusiasm and patriotism throughout the Empire. I am rejoiced to think that the Australasian Colonies, though so far distant from the Motherland, have loyally responded to the call to share the dangers and responsibilities of the great Empire of which we form a part and whose protection we have so long securely enjoyed.

Whilst in despatching our troops we have been moved by sentiments of patriotism and national gratitude, the moral effect of our aid to the Mother country is of supreme moment in binding indissolubly together England and her great Dependencies, and exhibiting to the world the spectacle of the splendid solidarity of the British Empire.

Two Contingents from Victoria have already reached the seat of war, and have won the high commendation of the Commander-in-Chief and of the Imperial generals. I am deeply grieved to learn that so many Victorians have already met a soldier’s death on the battle-field. But they have fallen nobly in their country’s cause, fighting gallantly to uphold its prowess. By their heroism we have been privileged to give evidence, in deeds, of our loyal resolve to do our part in manifesting the unity and establishing the peace of the Queen’s dominions. Active preparations are in progress for the despatch of a third Contingent, consisting of men accustomed to bush life, whose services will, it is expected, prove of exceptional value under the peculiar conditions of warfare in South Africa. I cherish the hope that the war will soon be brought to a triumphant close, and result in the establishment, on a permanent basis, of the political and religious rights of those of our fellow subjects in South Africa on whose behalf the Empire is in arms.

The near approach of the consummation of Federation is a matter for sincere congratulation. The amended Commonwealth Bill having been submitted to the people was approved by an overwhelming majority. A Joint Address from both Houses was thereupon transmitted to Her Majesty, praying that the Bill might be enacted by the Imperial Parliament. The Imperial authorities having subsequently expressed a desire to have the assistance and advice of representatives from the Colonies when the Bill is before Parliament, my Advisers have sent to England, as the Delegate of Victoria, Mr. Deakin, who for many years has been an enthusiastic and eloquent advocate of Federation. He, in conjunction with the representatives of the other federating Colonies, will act for Australia in this important matter. In anticipation of the early passing of the Bill, my Advisers will prepare the measures necessary for the establishment of the Commonwealth. We may hope to achieve, before the year has closed, the desires of many years of earnest effort, in witnessing the birth of a new nation as auspicious in destiny as steadfast in fealty to the English Crown.

The Act to amend the law relating to Factories will insure a great extension of the benefits of legislation for the suppression of sweating and for the amelioration of the condition of workers.

The purchase of the Wando Vale Estate under the provisions contained in Part III. of the *Land Act* 1898 having received your assent, my Advisers believe that this step, which marks a new departure with regard to the settlement of the people on the land, will prove a successful initiation of the principle of the acquisition of private land for closer settlement purposes.

The acquisition by the State of the rights of the patentees of the Cyanide process will be a great public boon in the freedom it secures to the miners of the colony from harassing actions and the danger of excessive royalties. In promoting the further application of the process to low-grade deposits and the refuse of the quartz batteries, the more profitable and constant employment of the people will be advanced.

By the amending Land Act, to which you have agreed, lessees of grazing areas have been granted further advantages in the way of extension of leases and facilities for selection; and a concession, which will be highly appreciated by mallee allotment lessees, has been made, whereby negotiable licences and perpetual leases may be issued forthwith, and the holders credited with past rents, residence, and improvements. A more liberal system of classification has been applied to the mallee country, and the work of classifying has been already commenced. Lessees will therefore be able shortly to learn how their land has been classed, and the rate at which it can be purchased.

It is gratifying to know that the revenue is showing steady signs of increase, and this fact may be accepted as a sure indication of the returning prosperity of the community.

A number of defects in the practical working of the laws relating to Water Supply having become apparent have been amended by further legislation. At the same time most generous concessions have been made to the Water Trusts, many of which had fallen into arrears in respect of overdue interest on their loans from the State. Such substantial relief has been afforded to these debtor Trusts as will, it is hoped, enable them to meet their reduced obligations for the future. Provision has likewise been made for the construction of further works.

The question of the abolition of Plural Voting at elections for Members of the Legislative Assembly, which has been before you for many years, has now been settled by the passing of a measure restricting electors to the exercise of one vote.

The Bill to regulate and supervise the slaughter and sale of Meat, to which you have agreed, will do much to prevent the spread of disease, and to promote the health of the community.

It is a source of satisfaction to know that there has been during the past few months a great development of trade between this colony and the ports of South Africa. The needs of the troops and the horses employed in warfare and transport are very great, and such action has been taken by my Advisers as has led to contracts being made for the supply from Victoria of large quantities of fodder, flour, tinned meat, and other articles of food. Careful supervision is being exercised by the Department of Agriculture, so as to prevent produce other than that of the best quality being shipped. The course adopted in this respect will, it is believed, lead to a large permanent trade.

Amongst other measures to which you have given your approval may be mentioned the Bill to renew the Income Tax; the Bill to amend the Law relating to State School Teachers; the Bill to prohibit Indecent and Obscene Advertisements; the Bill to amend the Marine Act; the Bill to amend the Law of Evidence; and Bills to amend Part I. of the *Companies Act 1890*.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY :

I thank you in Her Majesty's name for the liberal provision you have made for the efficient conduct of the service of the State.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL :

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY :

The measures which were submitted to you for extending the Franchise to Women, for making provision for Old-age Pensions, and for the Restriction of undesirable Immigration failed to become law. These and other important matters, such as the Usury Bill, the Coal Mines Bill, the Infant Life Protection Bill, and the Boilers Inspection Bill, which could not be dealt with during the present Session, will receive the attention of my Advisers during the recess, with a view to their being again submitted to the consideration of Parliament.

I desire to express the hope that, with the blessing of Divine Providence, the result of your labours may tend to the maintenance and increase of the prosperity and progress of the country and to the happiness of all classes of the community.

I now, in Her Majesty's name, declare this Parliament to be prorogued to the 24th day of April, 1900, and it is prorogued accordingly.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

SELECT COMMITTEES.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS
(JOINT).

APPOINTED (UNDER ACT No. 1350) 26TH OCTOBER, 1897.

The Hon. J. H. Abbott *
F. S. Grimwade †

The Hon. D. Melville ‡
E. Morey.

* Appointed in place of the Hon. J. Buchanan (retired by rotation), 6th September, 1898.

† Appointed 14th February, 1900, in place of the Hon. D. Melville, who had accepted an office of profit under the Crown.

‡ Vacated seat on becoming a Responsible Minister of the Crown, 5th December, 1899.

APPOINTED DURING THE SESSION 1899-1900.

No. 1.—ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE OPENING SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

Appointed 27th June, 1899.

The Hon. J. M. Davies
J. C. Campbell
T. Dowling
F. S. Grimwade

The Hon. W. Knox
J. Y. McDonald
W. Pitt.

No. 2.—STANDING ORDERS.

Appointed 4th July, 1899.

The Hon. The President
S. Austin
J. Balfour
J. Bell
S. W. Cooke

The Hon. N. FitzGerald
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
Sir A. Snowden
N. Thornley
Sir H. J. Wrixon.

No. 3.—PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS (JOINT).

Appointed 4th July, 1899.

The Hon. The President
J. H. Abbott
S. Fraser

The Hon. W. Pitt
W. I. Winter-Irving.

No. 4.—LIBRARY (JOINT).

Appointed 4th July, 1899.

The Hon. The President
F. S. Grimwade
C. J. Ham

The Hon. D. Melville*
Sir H. J. Wrixon.

* Vacated seat by accepting office of profit under the Crown. Re-appointed after re-election, 9th January, 1900.

No. 5.—REFRESHMENT ROOMS (JOINT).

Appointed 4th July, 1899.

The Hon. Dr. W. H. Embling
E. Morey
J. M. Pratt

The Hon. A. O. Sachse
J. A. Wallace.

No. 6.—PRINTING.

Appointed 4th July, 1899.

The Hon. The President
T. Brunton
Sir R. T. H. Clarke, Bart.
G. Godfrey
D. Ham

The Hon. W. Knox
N. Levi
P. Phillips
R. Reid
J. Sternberg.

No. 7.—ELECTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS.

Appointed (by President's Warrant) 11th July, 1899.

The Hon. J. H. Abbott
 J. Bell
 F. Brown
 Sir H. Cuthbert

The Hon. E. Miller
 P. Phillips
 Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood.

No. 8.—TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL.

Appointed 18th October, 1899.

The Hon. T. Comrie
 J. M. Davies *
 G. Godfrey
 D. Ham
 T. C. Harwood

The Hon. W. Knox
 W. McCulloch
 D. Melville*
 A. O. Sachse
 Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood.

* Vacated seat by accepting office of profit under the Crown. Re-appointed after re-election, 9th January, 1900.

VICTORIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SESSION 1899.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS
IN
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL.

No. 1.

Extracted from the Minutes.

TUESDAY, 29TH AUGUST, 1899.

No. 1.—POISONS ACT 1890 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Clause 4 (*as amended*) (on recommittal):—

* * * * *

(3) "No patent" or proprietary medicine or any medicine advertised for sale consisting of or containing any poison shall after the first day of July One thousand nine hundred and one be sold or delivered unless the bottle or other vessel wrapper or cover box or case immediately containing such medicine bears conspicuously printed or stamped thereon the English name or names of the poison or poisons of which such medicine consists or which it contains and the quantity of the poison or of each poison (as the case may be) contained in such medicine or of which such medicine consists.

* * * * *

—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)Amendment proposed—That the words "No patent," in line 1, be omitted.—(*Hon. F. S. Grimwade.*)

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the clause—put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 12.

The Hon. J. Balfour
E. J. Crooke
Sir H. Cuthbert
J. M. Davies
G. Godfrey
J. Hoddinott
W. Knox
W. McCulloch
D. Melville
A. O. Sachse.

Tellers.

S. W. Cooke
A. Wynne.

Noes, 18.

The Hon. J. H. Abbott
T. Comrie
S. Fraser
F. S. Grimwade
D. Ham
T. C. Harwood
N. Levi
J. Y. McDonald
E. Miller
E. Morey
W. H. S. Osmand
P. Phillips
W. Pitt
J. M. Pratt
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
Sir A. Snowden.

Tellers.

S. Austin
Dr. W. H. Embling.

And so it passed in the negative.

VICTORIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SESSION 1899.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS
IN
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL.

No. 2.

Extracted from the Minutes.

TUESDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 1899.

No. 1.—MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Clause 3:—

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Local Government Acts or in any Acts relating to the city of Melbourne or the town of Geelong or in the *Butchers and Abattoirs Act* 1890, or in the *Factories Acts*, the *Hawkers and Pedlers Act* 1890, the *Health Act* 1890, or any Act amending any of the said Acts, this Act shall be "administered" by the Board; and so far as the said Acts or any of them are inconsistent with this Act the provisions of this Act shall prevail.—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)

Amendment proposed—That the words "for the Metropolitan Meat Area" be inserted after the word "administered" in line 4.—(*Hon. A. Wynne.*)

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 15.

The Hon. J. H. Abbott
J. C. Campbell
Dr. W. H. Embling
N. FitzGerald
D. Ham
T. C. Harwood
J. Y. McDonald
E. Morey
W. Pearson
P. Phillips
A. O. Sachse
J. A. Wallace
A. Wynne.

Tellers.

E. J. Crooke
D. Melville.

Noes, 17.

The Hon. T. Brunton
Sir H. Cuthbert
J. M. Davies
T. Dowling
G. Godfrey
C. J. Ham
W. Knox
W. McCulloch
E. Miller
W. Pitt
J. M. Pratt
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
Sir A. Snowden
S. Williamson
Sir H. J. Wrixon.

Tellers.

F. S. Grimwade
N. Levi.

And so it passed in the negative.

No. 2.—MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Proposed new clause A :—

“Except where it is expressly provided to the contrary” nothing in this Act shall apply to bacon not derived from swine slaughtered within a meat area, but which is brought into a meat area from any place outside such area. In this section “bacon” means dried or smoked salted flesh of swine.—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)

Amendment proposed—That the words “Except where it is expressly provided to the contrary” be omitted.—(*Hon. J. C. Campbell.*)

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the clause—put.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 12.

The Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert
J. M. Davies
G. Godfrey
F. S. Grimwade
C. J. Ham
N. Levi
W. McCulloch
J. M. Pratt
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
Sir A. Snowden.

Tellers.

E. J. Crooke
P. Phillips.

Noes, 10.

The Hon. J. C. Campbell
D. Ham
T. C. Harwood
W. Knox
E. Miller
W. Pearson
J. A. Wallace
A. Wynne.

Tellers.

D. Melville
A. O. Sachse.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

VICTORIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SESSION 1899.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS
IN
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL.

No. 3.

Extracted from the Minutes.

TUESDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 1899.

No. 1.—MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Clause 7 :—

(1) If any council does not within two months after it has been required so to do by the Board appoint a meat inspector or inspectors for any abattoir the Board may appoint a meat inspector or inspectors for such abattoir for a period not exceeding six months, and at the expiration of six months the Board may appoint a meat inspector or inspectors to hold office for any further period until the council makes an appointment.

(2) In the case at any time of a vacancy occurring in the office of meat inspector for an abattoir the council or the chairman of the council owning such abattoir or the council or chairman of the council of the district in which such abattoir is located may appoint to such abattoir a suitable and proper person as acting meat inspector, and in default of such an appointment being so made within seven days from the occurrence of such vacancy the Board may make such appointment of acting meat inspector, and every acting meat inspector until the appointment of a meat inspector shall without further or other authority than this section have and exercise all the powers duties and responsibilities of a meat inspector appointed pursuant to this Act.

(3) If the Board appoints a meat inspector or acting meat inspector for an abattoir the Board may fix the rate of remuneration and of travelling expenses which such person so appointed shall be entitled to receive from the council of the district owning such abattoir; and such remuneration and travelling expenses may be recovered by the person so appointed from such council before any court of competent jurisdiction.—(*Hon. W. McCulloch.*)

Amendment proposed—That the following words be added to the clause :—“ Nothing in this section shall apply to any meat area outside the Metropolitan Meat Area.”—(*Hon. A. Wynne.*)

Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 17.

The Hon. J. H. Abbott
J. C. Campbell
T. Comrie
Dr. W. H. Embling
N. FitzGerald
D. Ham
T. C. Harwood
J. Y. McDonald
D. Melville
W. Pearson
A. O. Sachse
G. Simmie
J. Sternberg
J. A. Wallace
W. I. Winter-Irving.

Tellers.

S. Austin
A. Wynne.

Noes, 15.

The Hon. T. Brunton
J. M. Davies
G. Godfrey
C. J. Ham
W. Knox
N. Levi
W. McCulloch
E. Miller
E. Morey
R. Reid
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
Sir A. Snowden
S. Williamson.

Tellers.

E. J. Crooke
F. S. Grimwade

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.



VICTORIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SESSION 1899.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL.

No. 4.

Extracted from the Minutes.

TUESDAY, 31st OCTOBER, 1899.

No. 1.—MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Clause 11:—

At the expiration of six months after the constitution of "any" meat area no person shall slaughter an animal or dress a carcass or cause or allow any person to slaughter an animal or dress a carcass at any place within such meat area except at—

- (a) a public abattoir, or
 (b) a private abattoir or slaughter-house licensed consented to or registered by a council in accordance with the provisions of the *Butchers and Abattoirs Act 1890* or the *Health Act 1890*, and unless such licence or consent or registration is in each year before the last day of February approved of by the Board.—(Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.)

Amendment proposed—That the word "any," in line 1, be omitted with a view to insert in place thereof the word "the."—(Hon. J. Bell.)

Question—That the word proposed to be omitted stand part of the clause—put.
 Committee divided.

Ayes, 13.

The Hon. T. Brunton
 Sir H. Cuthbert
 J. M. Davies
 S. Fraser
 F. S. Grimwade
 E. Morey
 J. M. Pratt
 G. Simmie
 Sir A. Snowden
 S. Williamson
 Sir H. J. Wrixon.

Tellers.

S. W. Cooke
 E. J. Crooke.

Noes, 25.

The Hon. J. H. Abbott
 S. Austin
 J. Bell
 J. C. Campbell
 T. Comrie
 T. Dowling
 Dr. W. H. Embling
 N. FitzGerald
 G. Godfrey
 C. J. Ham
 D. Ham
 T. C. Harwood
 J. Hoddinott
 W. Knox
 J. Y. McDonald
 D. Melville
 E. Miller
 P. Phillips
 Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
 J. Sternberg
 N. Thornley
 W. I. Winter-Irving
 A. Wynne.

Tellers.

R. Reid
 A. O. Sachse.

And so it passed in the negative.

No. 2.—MEAT SUPERVISION BILL—Clause 27 (*amended*):—

Every council within the meat area shall receive and accommodate at such council meat derived only from animals fattened and slaughtered by any person on his own premises and which premises are situated outside a meat area, and such council shall cause such meat to be branded by or under the direction of a meat inspector or otherwise dealt with in accordance with the regulations.—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)

Amendment proposed—That the words “some place or places appointed by the ‘Board’ within the municipal district of” be inserted in place of words omitted in lines 1 and 2.—(*Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert.*)

Further amendment proposed—That the words “which may include auctioneers’ premises approved of by the Board” be inserted after the word “Board” in the proposed amendment.—(*Hon. J. Bell.*)

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted in the proposed amendment be so inserted—put. Committee divided.

Ayes, 21.

The Hon. J. H. Abbott
 J. Bell
 T. Brunton
 J. C. Campbell
 T. Comrie
 Sir H. Cuthbert
 Dr. W. H. Embling
 N. FitzGerald
 D. Ham
 J. Hoddinott
 J. Y. McDonald
 D. Melville
 E. Morey
 J. M. Pratt
 A. O. Sachse
 G. Simmie
 J. Sternberg
 S. Williamson
 A. Wynne.

Tellers.

S. Austin
 E. J. Crooke.

Noes, 15.

The Hon. S. W. Cooke
 J. M. Davies
 T. Dowling
 S. Fraser
 G. Godfrey
 F. S. Grimwade
 T. C. Harwood
 W. Knox
 E. Miller
 P. Phillips
 Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
 Sir A. Snowden
 Sir H. J. Wrixon.

Tellers.

C. J. Ham
 R. Reid.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

VICTORIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SESSION 1899-1900.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS.

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL.

No. 5.

Extracted from the Minutes.

TUESDAY, 30TH JANUARY, 1900.

No. 1.—FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Clause 25 :—

The Governor in Council may by Order published in the *Government Gazette* direct that any Special Board constituted either before or after the commencement of this Act may in any regulation determination Order or instrument or legal proceedings be described for all purposes by some short "title" specified in such Order.—(*Hon. J. M. Davies.*)

Amendment proposed—That the words "which shall be descriptive of the trade" be inserted after the word "title" in line 4.—(*Hon. R. Reid.*)

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 21.

The Hon. T. Brunton
J. C. Campbell
T. Comrie
S. W. Cooke
Sir H. Cuthbert
T. Dowling
C. J. Ham
D. Ham
T. C. Harwood
J. Hoddinott
N. Levi
J. Y. McDonald
E. Morey
W. Pearson
P. Phillips
R. Reid
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
G. Simmie
Sir A. Snowden.

Tellers.

Dr. W. H. Embling
A. Wynne.

Noes, 14.

The Hon. J. H. Abbott
J. Balfour
E. J. Crooke
J. M. Davies
F. S. Grimwade
W. Knox
D. Melville
E. Miller
J. M. Pratt
J. Sternberg
J. A. Wallace
Sir H. J. Wrixon.

Tellers.

W. Pitt
A. O. Sachse.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

No. 2.—FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Clause 32:—

In sub-section (1) of section eighteen of the *Factories and Shops Act 1896*, after the word “which” the words “or any part of which” are hereby inserted.—(*Hon. J. M. Davies.*)

Amendment proposed—That the following words be added to the clause—“and in sub-section (2) of the same section all words after ‘work-room’ where it first occurs are hereby repealed, and the words ‘the Chief Inspector may take proceedings before the local court of petty sessions for the cancellation of the registration of such or any part of such factory or work-room’ are hereby inserted.”—(*Hon. N. Levi.*)

Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 30.

The Hon. J. H. Abbott
T. Brunton
J. C. Campbell
T. Comrie
S. W. Cooke
T. Dowling
Dr. W. H. Embling
N. FitzGerald
C. J. Ham
D. Ham
T. C. Harwood
J. Hoddinott
W. Knox
N. Levi
J. Y. McDonald
E. Miller
E. Morey
W. Pearson
W. Pitt
J. M. Pratt
R. Reid
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
G. Simmie
Sir A. Snowden
J. Sternberg
J. A. Wallace
Sir H. J. Wrixon
A. Wynne.

Tellers.

E. J. Crooke
F. S. Grimwade.

Noes, 5.

The Hon. Sir H. Cuthbert
J. M. Davies
D. Melville.

Tellers.

J. Balfour
A. O. Sachse.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

WEDNESDAY, 31ST JANUARY, 1900.

No. 3.—FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Clause 16:—

New sub-clause (1), as amended, proposed to be inserted in place of sub-clause (1) of clause 16:—

(1a) In order to determine the lowest prices or rates which may be paid to any person or persons or classes of persons for wholly or partly preparing or manufacturing either inside or outside a factory or work-room any particular articles of clothing or wearing apparel or furniture or for bread making or baking or to any person or persons or classes of persons employed in any process trade or business usually or frequently carried on in a factory or work-room or employed in the process trade or business of a butcher or seller of meat or maker or seller of small goods the Governor in Council may if he think “fit” from time to time appoint a Special Board consisting of not less than four or more than ten members elected as may be prescribed and a chairman, and may at any time remove any member of the Special Board and may appoint any person so elected to fill any vacancy occurring in such Special Board in the same way as on the original appointment. In fixing such lowest prices or rates the Special Board shall take into consideration the nature kind and class of the work and the mode and manner in which the work is to be done and the age and the sex of the workers and any matter which may from time to time be prescribed. Provided that no such Special Board shall be so appointed in the case of any trade or business which at the commencement of this Act is not included under the provisions of the *Factories and Shops Acts* as regards Special Boards unless a petition signed by at least one-half of the employers and employes of such trade or business be presented to the Minister asking for a Special Board to be appointed in respect to such trade or business. And provided further that in calculating the number of signatures to a petition by employers under this section—

The signature of a petitioner employing not more than signature.	hands shall count as one
The signature of a petitioner employing not more than signatures.	hands shall count as two
The signature of a petitioner employing not more than signatures.	hands shall count as three

In making the above calculations the term “hands” shall include apprentices and improvers, and the Minister shall for the purposes of this section decide the number of hands employed by each petitioner.—(*Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood.*)

Amendment proposed—That the words “upon a resolution of both Houses of Parliament” be inserted after the word “fit” in line 7.—(*Hon. A. Wynne.*)

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted in the proposed new sub-clause be so inserted—put.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 16.
The Hon. J. C. Campbell
T. Comrie
Dr. W. H. Embling
D. Ham
J. Hoddinott
N. Levi
J. Y. McDonald
E. Morey
W. H. S. Osmand
W. Pearson
P. Phillips
G. Simmie
Sir A. Snowden
J. A. Wallace.

Tellers.

R. Reid
A. Wynne.

Noes, 15.
The Hon. J. Balfour
S. W. Cooke
J. M. Davies
F. S. Grimwade
C. J. Ham
T. C. Harwood
W. Knox
D. Melville
E. Miller
W. Pitt
J. M. Pratt
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
Sir H. J. Wrixon.

Tellers.

E. J. Crooke
A. O. Sachse.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

THURSDAY, 1st FEBRUARY, 1900.

No. 4.—**FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL**—Clause 16 :—

For section fifteen of the *Factories and Shops Act* 1896 there shall as from the commencement of the said Act be deemed to have been substituted the following section, namely :—

15. (1) In order to determine the lowest prices or rates which may be paid to any person or persons or classes of persons for wholly or partly preparing or manufacturing either inside or outside a factory or work-room any particular articles or to any person or persons or classes of persons employed in any process trade or business usually or frequently carried on in a factory or work-room or employed in the process trade or business of a butcher or seller of meat the Governor in Council may if he think fit from time to time after having given notice in the *Government Gazette* of the intention of the Governor in Council so to do appoint a Special Board consisting of not less than four or more than ten members elected as hereinafter provided or as may be prescribed and a chairman, and may at any time remove any member of any such Special Board. As soon as practicable after the giving of such notice as aforesaid that a Special Board will be appointed a copy of such notice with full particulars thereof and the reasons therefor shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament and sent to each member of Parliament; and no Order in Council appointing such Special Board shall be made by the Governor in Council until the expiration of thirty days after a copy of such notice has been so laid before both Houses of Parliament. In fixing such lowest prices or rates a Special Board shall take into consideration the nature kind and class of the work, and the mode and manner in which the work is to be done, and the age and sex of the workers, and any matter whatever which the Special Board considers may affect such prices or rates.—(*Hon. J. M. Davies.*)

* * * * *

Amendment proposed—That sub-clause (1) be omitted.—(*Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood.*)

Question—That sub-clause (1) be omitted—put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 20.
The Hon. J. H. Abbott
T. Brunton
T. Comrie
S. W. Cooke
Dr. W. H. Embling
C. J. Ham
T. C. Harwood
W. Knox
N. Levi
J. Y. McDonald
E. Morey
W. Pearson
P. Phillips
R. Reid
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
G. Simmie
Sir A. Snowden
J. A. Wallace.

Tellers.

F. S. Grimwade
A. Wynne.

Noes, 6.
The Hon. J. Balfour
Sir H. Cuthbert
J. M. Davies
G. Godfrey.

Tellers.

D. Melville
A. O. Sachse.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

No. 5.—LAND ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL—Proposed new clause B :—

Where pursuant to the provisions of section one hundred and fifty-seven of the *Land Act* 1890 a lease of any mallee allotment has been granted by the Governor in Council for a term expiring on the thirtieth day of November One thousand nine hundred and three and such lease is in force at the passing of this Act, such lease shall, by the operation of this Act, be read and construed as if the said term expired on the thirtieth day of November One thousand nine hundred and eight instead of on the first-mentioned day, and the said Act and the said lease shall be read and construed accordingly.—(*Hon. J. Bell.*)

Question—That the proposed new clause stand part of the Bill—put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 14.

The Hon. J. H. Abbott
 J. C. Campbell
 T. Comrie
 S. W. Cooke
 N. FitzGerald
 F. S. Grimwade
 C. J. Ham
 J. Y. McDonald
 E. Miller
 P. Phillips
 J. M. Pratt
 Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood.

Tellers.

J. Bell
 A. Wynne.

Noes, 14.

The Hon. J. Balfour
 J. M. Davies
 G. Godfrey
 D. Ham
 N. Levi
 D. Melville
 W. Pearson
 R. Reid
 A. O. Sachse
 G. Simmie
 Sir A. Snowden
 J. A. Wallace.

Tellers.

E. J. Crooke
 W. Pitt.

The Tellers having declared the numbers for the Ayes and for the Noes to be respectively Fourteen, or equal—the Chairman gave his vote with the Noes, in order to allow of further consideration of the subject, and declared the question to have passed in the negative.

1899-1900.
—
VICTORIA.

FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER
AMENDMENT BILL.—FREE CONFERENCE.

GOVERNMENT SHORTHAND WRITER'S NOTES

OF THE

FREE CONFERENCE HELD BETWEEN THE MANAGERS FOR THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

ON THE

SUBJECT-MATTER OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE LEGIS-
LATIVE COUNCIL AND DISAGREED WITH BY THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY, OR AGREED TO WITH AMENDMENTS, IN THE
FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

Ordered to be printed, 20th February, 1900.

By Authority:
ROBT. S. BRAIN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

7. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly return to the Legislative Council the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts,*" and acquaint the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly have agreed to some of the amendments made in such Bill by the Legislative Council, have disagreed with others of the said amendments, and have agreed to others of the said amendments with amendments, with which they desire the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 6th February, 1900.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That a Free Conference be desired with the Legislative Assembly on the subject-matter of the amendments made by the Legislative Council and disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, or agreed to with amendments, in the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts.*"

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That the following Members be appointed Managers of the Conference :—The Honorables Dr. W. H. Embling, F. S. Grimwade, W. Knox, N. Levi, A. O. Sachse, A. Wynne, and the Mover.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That a Message be sent to the Legislative Assembly desiring a Free Conference on the subject-matter of the amendments made by the Legislative Council and disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, or agreed to with amendments, in the Factories and Shops Acts further Amendment Bill, and acquainting the Legislative Assembly that the Legislative Council have appointed seven Members of the Legislative Council to be Managers.

WEDNESDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

4. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—FREE CONFERENCE.—MANAGER DISCHARGED.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Honorable A. Wynne be discharged from attendance on the Free Conference on the Factories and Shops Acts further Amendment Bill.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

5. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—FREE CONFERENCE.—MANAGER APPOINTED.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Honorable T. C. Harwood be a Manager of the Free Conference on the Factories and Shops Acts further Amendment Bill.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

6. MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The President announced the receipt of the following Message from the Legislative Assembly :—

MR. PRESIDENT—

The Legislative Assembly acquaint the Legislative Council that they have appointed seven Members to confer with a like number of Members of the Legislative Council on the subject-matter of the amendments made by the Legislative Council and disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, or agreed to with amendments, in the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts,*" and name the South Library as the place and Wednesday the 7th February instant, at a quarter to five o'clock in the afternoon, as the time of meeting of the said Conference.

F. C. MASON,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly,
Melbourne, 7th February, 1900.

THURSDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

4. FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—FREE CONFERENCE.—The Managers again proceeded to the Conference, and, being returned, the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood stated, on behalf of the Managers for the Legislative Council, that they had met the Managers for the Legislative Assembly on the subject-matter of the amendments made by the Legislative Council and disagreed with by the Legislative Assembly, or agreed to with amendments, in the Bill intituled "*An Act to further amend the Factories and Shops Acts,*" and had agreed to report as follows :—

1. That the Conference has arrived at an agreement upon all the points of difference between the two Houses.
2. That amendments embodying the result of its agreement will be printed and circulated at the earliest moment possible.
3. That the Conference has agreed to omit in clause 13 the words "any building or place in which gas or electricity is prepared or produced."
4. That the Conference has agreed to certain amendments in clause 16 under which the Governor in Council may on the resolution of either House appoint Special Boards to be elected as prescribed.
5. That it is agreed that as to the clothing trade there shall be only one Board.
6. That the question of fixing piece-work prices or rates in lieu of wages shall be decided by the Special Board on appeal by the employer.
7. That clause 36, relating to the compulsory half-holiday, shall be omitted.
8. That clause 41, limiting the hours of male shop assistants, shall be confined to the Metropolitan district.
9. That clause 43, giving power to the Governor in Council to limit the hours for carters and carriers and providing for a half-holiday, shall be made applicable to the Metropolitan district only.
10. That the Act shall remain in force for two years and thence until the end of the next ensuing Session of Parliament

FREE CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE MANAGERS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON THE FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

WEDNESDAY, 7TH JANUARY, 1900.

Present:

Council.

The Hon. Dr. W. H. Embling
 The Hon. A. O. Sachse
 The Hon. F. S. Grimwade
 The Hon. W. Knox
 The Hon. T. C. Harwood
 The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
 The Hon. N. Levi.

Assembly.

The Hon. W. H. Irvine
 The Hon. A. McLean
 Mr. McKenzie
 The Hon. A. J. Peacock
 Mr. Trenwith
 The Hon. W. A. Watt
 The Right Hon. Sir George Turner.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Mr. McLean—The Council sent to your House certain amendments of the Factories and Shops Bill; those amendments came back to the Council, some agreed with, some disagreed with, and some agreed to with suggested amendments. We have now to deal with those that you have disagreed with, or have agreed to with further amendments, and I would suggest that we at once proceed without any further discussion to take those various clauses, and hear the reasons why you disagree with our amendments. That will enable the Managers of the Council to see in what way they can meet the wishes of the Assembly, if possible. I would simply urge, in connexion with this, that it would be advisable to deal with the smaller matters first, leaving clauses 16, 17, and, I think, 36, to be dealt with finally.

Mr. McLEAN.—I quite concur in your proposals, but I think it would assist us if we heard the reasons why the amendments were made.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—That is rather reversing the usual order of things.

Mr. McLEAN.—We sent up certain proposals which were drafted after full consideration. Your Chamber, in its wisdom, amended those. The Assembly accepted a large number of those amendments, but several others they did not consider it wise to accept, and they do not know the reasons why they were suggested. It might help to a quick solution of the matter if we knew the reasons why the proposals in the Bill were amended by your House.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—That is not the usual course in Conferences between the two Houses. The usual course is for the House that has disagreed to give the reasons for having disagreed.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—There are three or four important amendments, and I think it would be better to deal with those first, and see whether it is possible to come to an understanding on them, instead of discussing small matters for an hour or two, and then when we come to the large matters finding we have wasted our time. I think it would be far better to discuss the large questions first, and make an effort to come to an agreement with regard to those. If we fail to agree on those points it would be absolutely useless going on.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—With all due deference I do not think that is a course that will commend itself to our judgment. We think it advisable to take the smaller matters first, and then we shall probably be able to approach the others with the knowledge that the question is narrowed down to those matters.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—If the Council is prepared to give way on those smaller matters it is as well to say so at once.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—We have come here with every desire to settle the matter if we can. We are all of that mind. I believe we are all seized of the importance of the question, and we want to settle it if we possibly can, and I rather agree with Sir Frederick Sargood that we take those unimportant matters first and clear the road—we shall perhaps be in a more conciliatory mood to deal with the more important matters afterwards.

Mr. TRENWITH.—If they are unimportant, why should we disagree?

Mr. GRIMWADE.—Relatively unimportant.

Mr. WATT.—Then let us proceed with the amendments as they are in the Bill. It is no use quarrelling over the matter of procedure.

Mr. McLEAN.—I think we might proceed with amendment 2, clause 4, line 23, after "year" insert "provided nevertheless that such apprentices may be taken on probation for a term not exceeding three months, and at or before the expiration of such time they shall either be discharged or be bound by indentures of apprenticeship or be employed under a written agreement as hereinbefore provided in this section." It appears to me that the objection to that amendment is that employers might take on apprentices for three months without indenturing them, then dispense with them and get others, and so get the work done by apprentices at the very lowest rate, perhaps for little or nothing.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—That difficulty was raised when I was discussing this matter, as I did, with several representatives of the trades that are now under the Act. The word "such" was purposely put in to absolutely prevent any evasion of it.

Mr. WATT.—That is, they would all rank as apprentices during that period?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Yes.

Mr. WATT.—Do you not think that unnecessary, because under the definition of improvers such an arrangement would be impossible?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—We discussed that, but improvers are something beyond apprentices; they are generally girls up to, if not above, 21. The trades I have seen, including some that are not

under the Act now, all say this is the practice of the trade. I know it is the practice of the trade in the old country and here to take a lad on for a short time to see if he is likely to shape well ; if he is not, it is cruelty to him to indenture him.

Mr. WATT.—Is the indenture process pursued to any extent in the printing trade ?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—To a certain extent.

Mr. PEACOCK.—Parliament recognised that something should be done when they put in the clause that no person should be employed at a lower rate than 2s. 6d. a week. That was done because it was found by experience that there are certain employers who take on labour on a verbal understanding for a short time at so much a week, and as soon as the employés make a demand for the verbal arrangement to be carried out they are dismissed, and others taken on. This seems to be perpetuating that system. That clause has worked remarkably well, and if this proviso is put in it will have the effect of enabling numbers of those persons to be put on in batches and dismissed in batches, and what Parliament stopped in 1896 will be perpetuated. As to the improvers being over 21, it is quite possible that some of those persons will be over 21. Cases are continually brought under notice where a young woman has learnt the rudiments of the trade and has got married. Her husband dies, she is stranded ; she has to go back to the factory, and it takes some time to make her as efficient as the others.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—Is the object of this amendment to exempt persons who are employed for three months from the action of the Statute altogether ?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Certainly not. The object is to prevent a lad being indentured straight away, before it is found whether he is fitted for the work or not. This clause is practically carrying out what has been the practice of all trades for many years.

Mr. WATT.—The incapacity of an apprentice will be demonstrated within one month.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—That is not my experience. I should like to see it a great deal more.

Mr. IRVINE.—The awkward result follows from putting it in this place, that it is really a substantive definition put in, and it will result in this way : Supposing the Board fixes for any trade 25 apprentices and 25 improvers to 100 journeymen ; the object of the Act is not only to have the actual number, but the relative number fixed. If a man wants to evade that, and get a smaller number of apprentices and a larger number of improvers, all he has to do is to get his improvers and take on probation lads who are virtually apprentices, and dismiss them at the end of the three months, and he can keep on 35 improvers.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I do not think that is possible. Is not a man under articles substantially an improver ?

Mr. IRVINE.—No ; the technical term of improver is one who has gone through an apprenticeship and who is not a journeyman.

Mr. HARWOOD.—That is not the meaning of the word "improver" here.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I know it is not.

Mr. IRVINE.—We have to take the statutory meaning ; it will render the provision nugatory.

Mr. PEACOCK.—As I understand, the amendment suggested has been put forward with the object of dealing with the cases you have mentioned, namely, that some of those persons, until they have been working for a period, cannot be tested by the employer to see whether they will make good employés ; but this clause will leave it open to the small number of employers who have really been the cause of any need for factory legislation whatever taking apprentices on in batches. That is the danger of trying to provide for a possibility which is not very great, because certainly nine-tenths of the apprentices go on with their trade, and to provide for the small percentage who do not you leave the door open to the danger of taking on a large quantity of child labour which can be dispensed with in batches.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—You cannot take child labour for three months ; it would not pay—it might for twelve months.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—Then cannot this be met by a clause in the indenture that if, at the end of twelve months, the apprentice is not suitable, he is liable to be dismissed ?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—That is a legal question you can answer better than I can.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—I think it can easily be met by some provision of that kind. I do not see any difficulty in incorporating that in the indentures, and that would get rid of the whole difficulty.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Do you not think that provision should come into the clause ?

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—No ; this is simply giving a definition of the word "apprentice." Then you go on and add something that seems altogether foreign.

Mr. HARWOOD.—You propose they shall insert a clause in the indenture. It might be argued then that that indenture was not in accordance with the Act. I think the indenture of the apprenticeship would have to follow the clauses of the Act.

Mr. IRVINE.—The apprenticeship need not be for any period under this clause ; but, if it is a written agreement, not being an indenture, it must be for not less than one year.

Dr. EMBLING.—Does not the custom of the trade alter that ?

Mr. IRVINE.—The custom of a trade does not alter an Act of Parliament.

Mr. MCLEAN.—I think what you desire would be attained by what Sir George Turner suggests.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Then we agree to that. We do not insist upon our amendment.

Mr. MCLEAN.—The next is clause 7, line 15, after "boiler" insert "except a steam-boiler not used for operating a steam-engine." It appears to me that with this amendment it would be competent for a steam-engine to be left without any one in charge, and yet the Act provides that any person being in charge must be a certificated person—it seems rather an anomaly.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—I want to raise a protest against the procedure adopted here. The Council have chosen to put certain amendments in the Bill, and now they insist upon having those amendments retained. I think it is the duty of the Council to tell us why they want to have them put in before we say they shall not go in.

Mr. IRVINE.—The Council are asking us to prove a negative.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—It is very unfair. You are asking us to state the defence, and we do not know what your reasons are. I think you ought to attempt to convince us that you are justified in asking for the amendments before you ask us to show our hands.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—These amendments were sent down to you, and before disagreeing with them, I take it, you looked at them from all sides, and obtained our reasons.

Mr. TRENWITH.—That is right, but we had not the advantage of your presence. We had to deal with the questions as they were submitted to us, but now we have the advantage of your presence, and it does seem reasonable that you should say why you wish to have those amendments.

Mr. SACHSE.—I think in regard to this matter—without going into the question of procedure—this particular item, I might explain, is more or less technical. There are two articles, the boiler and the engine, which are quite distinct—an engine will not work without a boiler, but a boiler works without an engine. Where an engine is used, no doubt there is danger, and I think the Members of the Council feel that a certificated engine-driver is required where an engine is used, but in many cases numbers of small steam-boilers are used for domestic and many other purposes, and also in the small factory system in Victoria, wherein a quantity of steam is generated for steaming casks and a hundred and one things like that. There is practically no more danger with those than with a kerosene lamp. The Managers of the Assembly will see that to insist upon the employment of a certificated engine-driver to attend to one of those little utensils to generate a few whiffs of steam for cleansing purposes, and that he shall be paid £2 a week when no such person is required, is quite unnecessary. I am quite aware that in some cases where a boiler is used it is necessary that a certificated driver should attend to it, but in the cases where the small boilers are used, it seems to me unnecessary to have any skilled person in charge of them—I speak as a mechanical engineer, as a designer of steam-boilers, and one who is constantly mixing with those things.

Mr. WATT.—Will those boilers come under the Act?

Mr. SACHSE.—They will. There has been a slight flaw pointed out here, and it is in reference to that flaw that the Managers of the Assembly may raise an objection. I think the wording of the clause is open to the objection that whilst providing for a skilled assistant to a boiler with an engine, it does not provide for an assistant to a boiler without an engine. Any person can attend to the boilers that I have mentioned, and, if it were provided that any person could be in charge, I would have no objection to that. I do not think you should penalize a large number of people using those little boilers for the sake of one or two. Every big boiler demands a special attendant, and that man generally has a pretty good technical knowledge; he may not have a certificate, but the average fireman will know pretty well what to do. There is practically an inspection of steam-boilers, and legislation is in the air to protect that system of inspection, and that, I think, will quite cover what is required.

Mr. IRVINE.—You would add to the clause words providing that those boilers should be in charge of “some person.”

Mr. SACHSE.—I think that would be sufficient. I will put it “some adult person.”

Mr. GRIMWADE.—There are now hundreds of those boilers employed all over the country for different purposes, many of them in factories, and others not in factories.

Mr. WATT.—Those not in factories are not affected.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—Those in butter factories work at a good pressure of steam, and are more or less dangerous.

Mr. PEACOCK.—Butter factories are exempted.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—Yes, but there are many boilers employed all over the country for cleansing purposes and other things, and I think if they were to be in charge of some competent person, that would be better than “adult.”

Mr. TRENWITH.—That involves the defining of competency.

Mr. IRVINE.—Is it agreed to that these words be added—“Provided that every such boiler be placed in charge of some adult person”?

Mr. SACHSE.—That will meet it.

Agreed to.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Now we come to clause 13; there are two matters there. The first is the inclusion of gas and electricity; the second is the inclusion of clay-pits or quarries. Dealing first with gas or electricity, the position of the Council is this, that from the various gas companies and electric companies we have received communications strongly protesting against being brought under the Act, and I believe I am right in saying that there was no intention or wish, on the part of the Department, to bring those companies under the Act so far as the special Boards for appointing wages and hours of work were concerned. All that was wanted was to bring them under the Act for the purpose of registration. This clause goes a long way beyond that, and the Council is distinctly of opinion that it is not only not required, but would be absolutely injurious to bring the gas companies under the Act.

Mr. PEACOCK.—Does not that bring it back to what Sir George Turner said at the outset. If we cannot agree as to whether there shall be any fresh Boards, why should we discuss amendment 6, when there may be no agreement on amendment 7?

Mr. MCLEAN.—If this clause were struck out altogether I do not think it would affect the law; the great majority of legal opinions is that this is already contained in the existing Act. This is simply to make it clear.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—It goes beyond that. This not only makes it clear as to registration, but puts those companies for all purposes under the Act.

Mr. MCLEAN.—I am told by those who are administering the Act, that if the amendment were carried the law would not be altered in the slightest degree if they brought it into the Supreme Court. They are satisfied if the matter were brought before the Supreme Court the definition of the court would be the same as the present definition.

Mr. TRENWITH.—You say that if this clause were carried and gas companies were brought under the Act, it would be extremely prejudicial to them.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I did not say so; they said so.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—They came to see me on the subject, and they said it would be prejudicial in this way—First of all they have no desire to be brought under the Act; a deputation of employes came to see me about it, and I also had a deputation of the employers. The employes said they were perfectly satisfied, and did not want to be brought under the Act; they were working eight hours a day, and were getting good wages. They had meal times and smoke times, and were perfectly well satisfied, and did not want to be brought under the Act; that was their view of the question. Then the employers said if they were brought under the Act that would virtually take the management of the business out of their hands, and put it into the hands of the inspector.

Mr. PEACOCK.—Would not that also apply to all factories?

Mr. GRIMWADE.—There is admittedly no sweating, and no possibility of sweating in this business. I have some knowledge of this class of work, and I speak from that knowledge. I say those men are not sweated; they are well paid and they do not desire any change. They do not want to be brought under the Factories Act, and the employers consider that if they were brought under the Factories Act it practically takes the management of their work away from them, and puts it under the inspector.

Mr. TRENWITH.—The employés waited upon me, and told me altogether a different story, though I can easily understand that both statements are true. The employés in my district who are engaged in gas business called on me and asked what could be done to induce the Council to keep in the gasworks; that they required it very badly indeed. They said they were not getting good wages, but bad wages, and they declared they were working for 5s. a day under the Metropolitan Gas Company, in Richmond, and it was very hard work. I cite that as a fact within my knowledge against the statement made by Mr. Grimwade, though I have no doubt that he is quite right that people did call upon him, and it is possible they were telling the truth when they said they were well paid, and that their hours were reasonable; but if it is possible for some of the employés in the gasworks to be underpaid or overworked—that is the object of this legislation. If the gasworks are working in accordance with the spirit of this Act, there will be no deprivation of the management of their own business, because they will be complying with all the Act requires. If, on the other hand, it does prove that perhaps in isolated instances there is a departure from the principle that this Act requires, then this Act will only interfere with their business when they are carrying it on improperly and against the spirit that the Legislature desires, so no injury can result to them. In any case, if their statement is right, it will not interfere with them; if their statement is wrong in some instances it will only interfere with them in those instances.

Mr. PEACOCK.—Are we not wasting time; should not amendment 6 be postponed until after 7 is discussed?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Very well. Then I propose we go on to No. 22—that is an amendment you have made on our amendment, and we can agree to that as settled. Passing on to amendment 23, clause 25 says—“The Governor in Council may by Order published in the *Government Gazette* direct that any Special Board constituted either before or after the commencement of this Act, may in any regulation determination order or instrument or legal proceedings be described for all purposes by some short title specified in such Order.” The Council insisted that that title should be descriptive of the trade. I cannot see that you can have any objection to that.

Mr. IRVINE.—The only objection is that it might give rise to some technical objection. You might have a Board called the Clothing Board, and it might be decided that it only applied to some branch of the clothing trade. The objection might be taken that the Board was not properly described, and you would go into the whole argument as to whether the term was fairly descriptive.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I think we can agree to that—the Council do not insist upon that amendment. The next one will have to stand over until we deal with 16. Amendment 30, in clause 31, is agreed to; amendment 31 is agreed to. I suggest that we postpone dealing with amendment 32 until we deal with No. 16. Amendment 33, on clause 41, is one that we should like to have a discussion upon, to see why you object to our amendment. The present Act limits the hours of labour for males under sixteen, and for all women and girls. Clause 41 in this Bill extends the limitation to all persons employed in shops.

Mr. PEACOCK.—The reason is this: If you look at the Principal Act of 1885, you will see that Parliament had some consideration for the long hours of male employés. Section 47 of Act 1091 provided—“Any municipal council may if it think fit from time to time make alter and repeal by-laws in and for the municipality for all or any of the following purposes”—and one of those purposes is “for limiting the total number of hours persons may be employed during the day and night in shops licensed to remain open at night. Provided that such limit shall not be less than eight hours in each full day and night.”

Mr. KNOX.—How often was that done?

Mr. PEACOCK.—I do not want to go into the history of how the municipal councils did not keep that regulation in regard to shops, and how the power was taken away from them and vested in the Executive Council. What I want to show is that what we have put in the Bill now is, giving power to do by Act of Parliament what at present can be done by the Executive Council. The original Act was passed in 1885 under which the municipal councils had the power. In the Amending Act that power was transferred, and to-day the Executive Council can limit the hours of persons employed in shops.

Dr. EMBLING.—Then why do you want this section?

Mr. PEACOCK.—We thought it would be better to do so.

Mr. WATT.—The amendment will not take away the power from the Executive Council.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—It is hardly correct to say the Executive does it; the 41st section of the 1896 Act does it. It says distinctly no person under sixteen years of age, or woman or girl, shall work more than 52 hours—there is no question of the Executive there.

Mr. IRVINE.—As I understand it, we have nothing now to do with the power given to municipal councils to alter the hours. Section 41 of the Act of 1896 provided that women and girls were not to work more than 52 hours per week; the clause we are now dealing with provides that everybody shall come under that section except carters, while the Council's amendment desires to limit it to women and girls, and boys under sixteen.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Yes.

Mr. WATT.—Is there any objection to giving male employés the same privileges as women and boys?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—The Chief Inspector, in his last report, says that 225 petitions have been received asking to be allowed to remain open after seven o'clock. Fifty-two hours a week means as nearly as possible eight and a half hours a day. If the shops are to keep open until seven o'clock, and, in many cases later, I think you will see that the thing will not work, and, after all, 52 hours per week is not by any means an excessive length of time for shop employés.

Mr. IRVINE.—That is all we want to limit them to.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I do not see how you can do it, in justice to the employers, particularly the small shopkeepers, seeing that in the suburbs a large proportion of the business is done after seven o'clock.

Mr. WATT.—I do not think that is so—in many of the suburbs they close earlier than the regulations prescribe.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—The Inspector says there are only 21 petitions for closing earlier, as against 225 to be allowed to remain open longer.

Mr. WATT.—That is in the whole metropolitan area.

Dr. EMBLING.—Confine it to the metropolitan area.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—It is a country difficulty as well. A large number of shops remain open after seven o'clock, and yet keep to the regulation number of hours.

Mr. PEACOCK.—I admit the difficulty is with regard to the metropolitan area.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—The regulations under the present Act require shopkeepers to work more than 52 hours, inasmuch as they may stop open after seven o'clock.

Mr. TRENWITH.—There is no compulsion.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—There is power now in the Executive to limit the hours. Under section 47 of the Principal Act there is power to make regulations. The municipal councils have power to limit the number of hours persons are employed during the day and night in shops that are allowed to remain open at night, so the council can say—"We will let you remain open at night, but we will limit the number of hours for your employés to 52." Then section 38 (1) of Act No. 1445 says:—"The Governor in Council may, in the manner prescribed by section 63 of the Principal Act, make regulations to have effect within any specified municipal district, or any specified part of such district, for any of the purposes for which a municipal council is by section 47 of the Principal Act as amended by this Act empowered to make bye-laws." So whatever by-law a municipal council could make, the Executive Council had power to make. That power was taken away from the municipal councils for good and sufficient reason, but the Executive having the power now where shops are allowed to remain open at night, it is clear to me that the Executive could, with regard to those shops, limit the number of hours.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Granted that under section 38 of No. 1445 the Governor in Council may, of his own motion, limit the number of hours to anything he likes, is it at all probable that in the face of 225 petitions to have the hours extended beyond seven o'clock, the Governor in Council would ever do such a thing?

Mr. PEACOCK.—If an employer wants to keep his shop open for unduly long hours, in order to catch custom, is it right that the employé should be forced to remain there?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I am heartily with you there, but it appears to me there will be a clashing.

Mr. TRENWITH.—It is not at all improbable that persons whose business renders it desirable that they should keep open to a later hour could open an hour later in the morning without inconvenience. I can understand a night trader having no morning business at all, and 52 hours a week does not appear to me to be very excessive.

Dr. EMBLING.—I think it is fair to confine it to the metropolitan area.

Mr. PEACOCK.—The evil is not as great as some people think.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—The hours are often very long in the country; customers come in at six o'clock in the morning and at nine o'clock at night.

Mr. SACHSE.—We took a considerable amount of evidence concerning the Factories Act, and we found no sweating in the country whatever.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—Will it meet the case if we agree to confine it to the metropolitan area?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—The question is if it will meet the case of the shopkeepers in the metropolitan area.

Mr. PEACOCK.—I do not think there will be any difficulty at all.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Then we do not insist upon amendment 33 with that proviso. The next is sub-clause (a) of clause 43, and it is a very difficult question; the more we have gone into it the greater the difficulty appears. The clause provides:—

"The Governor in Council may in the manner prescribed by section 63 of the Principal Act make regulations—

"(a) Limiting the total number of hours in the week during which any person may within any part of Victoria specified in such regulations be employed as a carrier or carter of any goods wares merchandise or materials whatsoever in connexion with a factory or work-room or shop or in assisting any such carrier or carter."

The difficulty to begin with is—what is the meaning of "in connexion with a factory or work-room or shop." In the metropolitan district the carriers go round and collect their loads from various factories, warehouses, and retail shops, and from private houses. They all meet at the Grammar School, in the St. Kilda-road, and distribute their loads among the various waggons, which go all over the suburbs, arriving sometimes at most unearthly hours. Those drays or waggons carry a lot of goods that are neither from a work-room or a factory, and if their hours are limited to eight and a half, how can it be worked out? That is one difficulty. Another is that some of these goods may be loaded on drays going up the country, and are those drays to stop as soon as the eight and a half hours expire, no matter where they are, or whether it is a suitable place to camp or not?

Mr. TRENWITH.—That is on a par with the objection so often urged of a barber having to leave a man half shaved. You have spoken of the carriers coming at unearthly hours—every householder has had experience of that, and that is a proof of the long hours that those people work. You have suggested that a carrier at the end of his eight hours may find himself at an unsuitable place for camping, but in that case he would not stop there—he would go on notwithstanding that he had the law to protect him. Again, he might come to a suitable camping place at the end of seven and a half hours, and he would stop there, because it might take him two or three hours to get to the next good place.

Mr. IRVINE.—This clause does not fix a daily time but a weekly time, and it leaves a considerable latitude—he may work longer hours one day and less the next.

Dr. EMBLING.—Mr. Trenwith takes it for granted that because a man goes out with these goods he works long hours—speaking from experience as a medical man who has attended working men for

35 years, I say these carters and carriers do not work long hours ; they take their rest—when they have a late night they take care of themselves. I am speaking of the carters and carriers in St. Kilda, Prahran, and South Yarra.

Mr. PEACOCK.—I think the Managers of the Council are anxious to do something for these persons, and when the late Cabinet were discussing the matter the very words were used that Sir Frederick Sargood has used. The question the late Cabinet had in view was the long hours that were forced upon the poor unfortunate fellows who drove delivery waggons in connexion with the large firms about the city, and who were really employés just as much as an individual in a shop. I knew a young man, two years ago, who had to start work at six o'clock in the morning, and never finished until twelve o'clock at night. The doctor told a member of the A.N.A. that that man was hurried to his grave by those inordinately long hours. He was hurried out of bed, had a hasty breakfast, and had to take all the rest of his meals in the cart. That is what the late Government and our House were anxious to prevent.

Dr. EMBLING.—Granting that we bring in a clause to protect that man, why should we interfere with a man at Heathcote, Woodend, Castlemaine or Malmsbury who does not want protection? To protect the metropolitan area you bring every country district in Victoria under the Act.

Mr. TRENWITH.—There is a very common practice that every one ought to set his face against—people call at a shop the last thing, make a purchase and say—"Send that home." That ought not to be allowed—it is mostly thoughtlessness.

Dr. EMBLING.—It is the working men that do it.

Mr. TRENWITH.—It is very rarely that a working man does not carry his parcel home with him ; but no matter who does it, it is equally reprehensible. Very often people want a parcel sent home at once that they are not going to use for a week.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—The clause is not necessarily applicable to the whole colony—it says "any part"—that would enable the Governor in Council to say it should not apply to Ballarat, or any other district.

Mr. PEACOCK.—Could it not be limited to the metropolitan area ?

Mr. GRIMWADE.—Then you leave a large number of people working sixteen and eighteen hours a day without any relief. Do you wish to do that ?

Mr. PEACOCK.—No.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—This clause limits it to carriers in connexion with a factory—we do not want that ; Buckley and Nunn are not a factory.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I would suggest that you limit it to the metropolitan area, and put something in instead of the words "in connexion with." You really want to get the employés.

Mr. TRENWITH.—It is a very common thing among manufacturers to have no regular carrier of their own at all, but to continually employ carriers to distribute their goods, and it is just as baneful if it happens to be a man who is not in the regular employment of any one factory, but earning his living by distributing goods for half-a-dozen.

Mr. SACHSE.—The independent carrier can do as he likes. When goods come by railway, are they not delivered that night ?

Mr. WATT.—There are certain delivering hours for those things.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I think we can agree upon the words. In sub-clause (b) we provide for a half-holiday, but the same principle can be applied there, limiting it to the metropolitan area.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—Are not carriers at Castlemaine, Ballarat, and Bendigo to have a half-holiday ?

Mr. TRENWITH.—They make their own arrangements.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—The hours of carriers are very uncertain ; as a rule, they work in the afternoon and evening, and to say they should have an afternoon off would disorganize the trade, and would be injurious to themselves ; but giving them a half-holiday at such hours as the Governor in Council may find most convenient to themselves and the trade, I think, would meet the case.

Mr. PEACOCK.—I think we might accept that.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Amendments 46 and 47 we agreed to. Now we come to amendment 49, and there the Council is very strong in view of the fact that a Royal Commission is to be appointed at once. That Commission will get to work, and will no doubt take some time to obtain information, although the information will be obtained much more readily now than it was when the last Commission sat, because we have had more experience, and know where the shoe pinches, and where amendments are required. We may assume, therefore, that within twelve months the report will be available, and that will leave twelve months for new legislation, and that is why we strongly urge that the three years should be altered to two.

Mr. McLEAN.—Would three months' experience of the new law be sufficient for the Commission to found a report upon ?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—There is nothing much very new—these are all little matters improving the carrying out of the existing law.

Mr. TRENWITH.—If you make it two years the Act will lapse. It happens now that we have an Act of Parliament lapsing at an extremely inconvenient time. On the other hand, if you leave it three years, as our Chamber decided, it need not necessarily be three years ; if the report of the Commission is such as to warrant an alteration in legislation, it may be done in two years, but if you fix the time at two years, it may lead to rushing extremely important legislation. The probability is that the law will be altered in the direction indicated by the Commission's report as soon as that report is available for consideration, but the advantage of leaving it for another year is that should the report not be ready, having in view how difficult it is to get evidence sometimes, we would not be bound to go on in such a short time.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—There are plenty of laws as to which we have to pass Acts continuing them, and if the contingency arose of the report not being ready in time, or the Bill not being ready, you cannot suppose that the Council would not pass a continuing Act.

Mr. McLEAN.—How would it do to say for two years, and for the next session of Parliament thereafter—the two years might expire between the two sessions.

Mr. IRVINE.—This Act comes into operation on the 1st March, 1900 ; the probability is that we would not be in session in March, 1902.

Mr. HARWOOD.—We should know that before the end of the previous session, and could pass a continuing Act.

Mr. MCKENZIE.—During this year the Members of both Houses will be very much occupied with other important business. There is the Federal business, and the general election, and Members' time will be very much occupied. It seems to resolve itself into the difference between what Mr. Trenwith has put, and what is stated by Sir Frederick Sargood. Mr. Trenwith says that if the report of the Commission is ready before the three years expire there is nothing to prevent legislation proceeding forthwith. On the other hand, it is contended, from the Council's point of view, that, supposing the Commission reported at an early date, it would rest with the Government to proceed with the legislation, otherwise things would have to go on until the end of the three years, while, if the two years was not long enough, a continuing Bill could be brought in. That is very true; but the other contention is true also, and I think three years is a reasonable time. There is also another point to be taken into consideration—that is that the Commission will necessarily have to inquire into the effect of the Act upon many new industries, and a longer period than three months will have to elapse before they can commence their inquiry. Under these circumstances, although I took a different view when the matter was before our House, I now think three years is a reasonable time.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—Would the Assembly agree to make it two years and the first session of Parliament afterwards?

Mr. PEACOCK.—There is a strong feeling that this Royal Commission should be appointed, and that it should consist of Members of both Houses of Parliament. This will be a busy year, but, besides that, not only will Parliament desire to know something about the operation of the Act that is now expiring, but also to get some satisfactory information about the extension of the Act to other trades. Whether the Council's view as to the 16th clause be correct or not, I do not think we shall be able to have the extension as rapidly as some people outside expect; so, if the time is limited to two years, the Commission will not be able to report upon that point.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Then we agree to the provision that it shall be for two years, and to the end of the next ensuing session of Parliament. As to clause 16, it has been pointed out by manufacturers and other parties engaged in the trade that all along, from the initiation of the Board, there has been great difficulty and friction between the order trade and the slop or ready-made trade. They say that the interest of the order trade employers and employés is to keep up prices, and that increases the price of the slop or ready-made goods so much that it is affecting trade, not only in the colony, but still more the export trade.

Mr. TRENWITH.—Do they contend that prices are too high now in consequence of that?

Mr. PEACOCK.—They contend that there are representatives on both sides who are not acquainted with the technicalities of the business.

Mr. TRENWITH.—If the trade has been affected, it must arise through some of the prices being too high.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—They are too high to do an export trade.

Mr. TRENWITH.—As a matter of fact, the maximum, which is the minimum too, is £1 a week for women.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I want to deal more with the fact that there are two distinct classes of manufacturers, and the same class of men are not capable of judging for both. If they attempt to do so, those who make the high-class article want to fix too high a price for the other article, and *vice versa*, and they are always clashing. They urge, therefore, that, in the interests of both branches, there should be two Boards.

Mr. PEACOCK.—I could quite understand that if it were not for the fact that the slop trade do a large portion of the order trade. Manufacturers who have waited on me at different times did not have any objection to the Board itself, but they pointed out that, on account of there being more persons in the order trade than in the slop trade, they had more voting power, so that men were sitting on the Board who were not acquainted at all with the slop trade, and it was principally in the slop trade that sweating prevailed. They said there were men sitting on the Board whose object it was to raise the prices, because they were engaged in the order trade. The late Government thought, and our House think, there should be increased representation given to the slop trade, and our proposal is that there shall be three representing the slop trade and two representing the order trade. The manufacturers who waited upon me represented that this was their great objection to the Board—that they wanted more representation. The difficulty in the event of there being two Boards is that some of the establishments make up slop goods and take orders too. When the inspector comes round to see if the regulations are being carried out, an employé may be working at either order work or slop work, and how can the inspector tell under which Board he is working? I think, therefore, that in its practical operation the Act could be defeated by a manufacturer who desired to do so, and it would be impossible for the inspector to detect it. I am sure those who waited on me felt they had a real grievance in being out-voted, and this was thought to be the best remedy for it—never mind whether the numbers are greater or not, the slop employés are to have three representatives.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—Is that fair to the others?

Mr. TRENWITH.—Yes, because it is in the slop trade that the sweating exists. It is very difficult to distinguish between the slop trade and the order trade. In the poorer class of order work there is very little difference in the work, and the factories are now extending their business in the direction of the order trade. I know that the operatives are frequently engaged on suits that are made to measure with the gentleman's name on them.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—We do not insist on amendments 8 and 9.

The Conference adjourned for dinner.

Upon resuming—

Mr. LEVI.—When we adjourned I was about to bring under the notice of the Conference the necessity that existed for insisting upon the amendments made in connexion with the Boards on clothing. The Bill was amended to provide for two Boards instead of one, the reason assigned being that it was contemplated that the one Board should consist of ten members, five to be elected by the employers, and

five by the employés, those representing the employés consisting of three representatives of the slop clothing trade, and two of the bespoke trade, with the result, as it is strongly put to me, that the bespoke people would naturally go with the employers, so that would make the voting seven against three. I believe this matter has been brought under the notice of the Chief Secretary, showing the injustice that would be done, and how unfairly it would work. To rectify that it is proposed that two Boards should be permitted, one for the ready-made clothing, and one for the bespoke trade. The reasons assigned are very fair and equitable, and the Conference, I think, ought to agree to that alteration, and the Council ought to insist upon that amendment being adhered to in this particular trade.

Mr. TRENWITH.—Under the existing Factories Act the trade has had a Board in which the slop manufacturers have had the disadvantage of being outnumbered entirely on the masters' side, and yet I think it would be difficult to point to any of the lists that have been fixed unduly high. The proposal now is to give them better representation, so they will surely be in a better position, though no injury of any serious character has accrued under the previous conditions.

Mr. WATT.—I understood that the Managers of the Council had agreed to accept the proposal.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I understood so.

Mr. LEVI.—I might go further and refer to the boot trade, which is in a different position. A large number of those who make boots are not registered at all, which is very unfair.

Mr. TRENWITH.—They do not run into each other in the same way as they do in the clothing trade.

Mr. MCLEAN.—The inspectors consider it will be practically impossible to administer this amendment where they carry on both trades in the same building. They say the two Boards might have different rates of minimum wage, different proportions of improvers and apprentices, and different rates of pay, all in the same establishment.

Dr. EMBLING.—Why not?

Mr. MCLEAN.—The men who administer the Act say it would be impossible.

Mr. LEVI.—There would be no difficulty in placing certain restrictions on the slop-clothing trade—if they were not permitted to make any order clothing at all, that would keep them distinct.

Mr. PEACOCK.—This is an attempt to cure the difficulty as far as possible. As a matter of administration it would be absolutely impossible for the inspectors to distinguish whether the employés were making slop goods or order work. It would mean the evasion of the Act, and the impossibility of working the log. As it has been decided by both Houses to appoint a Commission, this experiment ought to be tried of giving the representation in the proposed proportion. It is an honest attempt to cure the difficulty without creating a greater difficulty.

Mr. SACHSE.—The difficulty seems to be that there is no continuity of any one work. A man may be on one kind of work for a few hours, and then be taken off and put on to the other work.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—We will now proceed with No. 13, which really takes in sub-clauses (16) and (17) of clause 16. Sub-clause (16) says—

“Any Special Board, instead of specifying the lowest piece-work prices or rates which may be paid for wholly or partly preparing or manufacturing any articles, may determine that piece-work prices or rates based on the wages rates fixed by such Special Board may be fixed and paid therefor subject to and as provided in the next following sub-section.”

Then sub-clause (17) provides that any one who seeks to carry that out by deciding that he will pay his men by piece-work, based on the average wages, must submit to the Chief Inspector the price he proposes to pay, and the Chief Inspector “if he thinks fit may disallow the same.” That places the power in the hands of the Chief Inspector to practically bring a business to a stand-still, possibly in the middle of a large contract. We think the Chief Inspector should report what he deems to be an evasion to the Board, and let the Board disallow.

Mr. PEACOCK.—I quite see the reason actuating the Council in making that amendment, but this is to deal with a trouble that has occurred over the Piece-workers' Board; it took them two years before they got to work. After an article has been made, and a statement drawn up of the remuneration to be paid, based upon the average wages, that statement is submitted to the Department, and if there is to be the further delay of submitting the matter to the Board, the Board will have to sit continuously to deal with the difficulties in the white-workers' trade alone, which is the trade of all others in which women are employed. There was great difficulty in constituting the Board, and there was great difficulty in the Board coming to any determination. This is an article—[*producing the same*—]in which, by the slightest alteration of a button or a frill, the rate can be altered, so that the desire of Parliament to give proper remuneration to those people can be entirely defeated. If the manager makes his statement to the inspector it can be investigated at once, but if it has to be sent on to the Board delay will take place.

Dr. EMBLING.—You take it for granted that all manufacturers are rogues.

Mr. PEACOCK.—No, a very small proportion of them.

Dr. EMBLING.—You want to put all the power in the hands of one man.

Mr. PEACOCK.—He is in the hands of the Department—there are great powers given to other officers. The remuneration for this article is 2d., and the best worker in the trade cannot do more than one in an hour.

Dr. EMBLING.—How does that affect the question that the Board should determine instead of the inspector?

Mr. MCLEAN.—The point is that the inspector would disallow it at once.

Dr. EMBLING.—He may be wrong.

Mr. MCLEAN.—The Board might not disallow it for some months, and the consequence would be that all the work done in the interim, at whatever price, would be legal until it was disallowed. It might get over the difficulty if you gave the inspector power to prosecute.

Mr. IRVINE.—I think the idea of a prosecution is rather cumbersome. The objection to this clause is that it gives rather too much power to the inspector, but the object is that there shall be the opportunity for prompt action. Suppose, instead of giving the inspector power to disallow, he had to give notice that he had referred the matter to the Special Board, and after that notice the manufacturer had to go on at his own risk—the rate not to be good until it was allowed, and if the Board determined it was bad, it should be bad from the time the notice was given.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—I would suggest that probably in 99 cases out of 100 the parties would be satisfied with the decision of the inspector, but as there would occasionally be a case where the manufacturer was dissatisfied with the allowance, we might say that the Chief Inspector should have the power to disallow, but if required by the manufacturer to do so, he should refer the matter to the Special Board. I can understand that if we allow everything to go to the Board it would have to practically sit every day, but the Chief Inspector will have his officers, who will be able to advise him. In the vast majority of cases no difficulty would arise—he would probably do nothing, and allow the matter to stand. We must assume the inspector is a fair-minded man, and anxious to allow work to go on, but if he felt bound to disallow, he would know his decision was subject to appeal to the Board.

Mr. IRVINE.—What would you provide for the interval during the appeal?

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—I would let that go—I would not punish in the meantime.

Mr. TRENWITH.—We must always remember that we are dealing with the people who do not desire to act fairly—this Act is not intended for fair-minded people. Suppose a manufacturer says—"I will give so much for that article." The inspector says—"That is too little." "All right, I will not make any more." But he makes it with a very little alteration, and if that is disallowed he makes another slight alteration—he is continually varying, and he can do that from day to day.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—It is perfectly true that a manufacturer may do as you say, but we must also bear in mind that we, too, may make mistakes, and inflict very heavy loss upon a manufacturer who is working honestly and hard to catch a ship for Western Australia.

Mr. TRENWITH.—Suppose we adopt the suggestion of the Attorney-General?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—That will do. I have no objection to that. Now, as to No. 7, I had better give the amendments sent in by the Council.

Mr. IRVINE.—I would suggest that you state your objections to the clause that we sent in—that is what you have done so far.

Dr. EMBLING.—I object to discuss the original clause *in toto*. I am not going to give my reasons.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I am sorry if my colleague disagrees, but I cannot alter my determination to do it in that way. We struck out sub-clause (1) of clause 16, and put another sub-clause in, and I am asked for our reasons for doing so.

Mr. PEACOCK.—You ought to give the reasons for your proposal.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I will do so, but in order to do that I must go back a little. When the 1896 Bill came up to our House from the Assembly, it contained clauses providing for the Governor in Council (which of course means the Minister of the day and no one else) appointing the Special Boards. We remitted that Bill to a Select Committee, who took a large amount of evidence, representing certainly all the trades that were interested in the Bill, and some that were not; and in every instance every witness condemned the system of the Special Board being appointed by the Minister, and strongly advocated that the Board should be appointed by those interested—the employers on the one hand, and the employés on the other. An amendment was accordingly drafted, and passed by the Council. That amendment was sent down to the Assembly, and after a considerable amount of trouble and discussion it was accepted, and since that date, 1896, it has been in practice.

Mr. PEACOCK.—Excepting in the furniture trade.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—In the furniture trade we had to pass an amending Act because of the Chinese difficulty. They swamped everybody, so we passed an amending Act providing that the Special Board for the furniture trade should be appointed by the Governor in Council. All the other trades elected their Boards, and although there was a little difficulty and friction at first, I know that the matter now goes on without any difficulty whatever. The practical result is that very few elections take place, because the employers on the one hand, and the employés on the other, meet together, decide whom to elect, and send to the Minister the right number. The Minister approves, and the thing is done. When the present Bill was brought in by the late Ministry, it again contained the provision that the Special Boards should be appointed by the Governor in Council; but in this instance the Assembly took up the cudgels and decided that the elective system should be continued. The Ministry yielded to the representations made, and brought in amendments which are embodied in sub-clause (1). That sub-clause provides that if the Minister determines to bring a new trade under the Act, he shall first give notice in the *Government Gazette* of his intention to do so; and, in passing, I would point out that he can do this of his own motion, without any influence being brought to bear upon him, and in direct antagonism to the strong opinions of employers and employés. He then has to submit to both Houses of Parliament, and to every Member of each House, a copy of such notice, with full particulars thereof, and the reasons therefor. It goes on to say—"And no Order in Council appointing such Special Board shall be made by the Governor in Council until the expiration of 30 days after a copy of such notice has been so laid before both Houses of Parliament." I wish to point out the great delay that would probably arise under this clause in bringing a new trade under the Act. Assuming that this session had been, as we hoped, closed at the end of last year, and this Bill had become an Act, no action could have been taken by any trade until the House met again in May or June. Then the notice would have had to be sent to each Member of Parliament, and would also have to lie upon the table for 30 days, which means another month. Then there is no provision as to what is to happen in either House. Of course the presumption is that the Ministry would have a majority in the Assembly, and whatever Order in Council, or whatever resolution the Minister brought up and submitted to the Assembly, would be carried by the majority, and that practically would settle the matter as far as bringing that trade in was concerned. In the Legislative Council, however, although it would have before it this copy of the Order in Council, and the reasons for it, that would be the beginning and the end of it, so, as far as the Council is concerned, it would be simply a farce. I take up this ground, that according to our Constitution Act concerned, it would be simply a farce. I take up this ground, that according to our Constitution Act Parliament consists of two Houses, and the Assembly is a trustee of the Constitution just as much as the Council, and neither the one nor the other has any right to violate that Constitution. If a matter of this kind requires to be submitted to Parliament (and, personally, I may say I think it is cumbersome) then Parliament, and not one portion of Parliament, should deal with it. In other words, if Parliament be consulted, then both Houses must have the right of saying to that notice yea or nay. I do not think there is any necessity, and I should strongly oppose the proposition, that there should be a separate Act passed for each trade, though that is the rule in the old country, but I say a simple resolution laid on the table,

and approved or disapproved by either or both Houses would be all that is required. Following out my idea, I tabled the following amongst my amendments:—"Omit the following words on page 5, lines 6 to 9—'and no Order in Council appointing such Special Board shall be made by the Governor in Council until the expiration of 30 days after a copy of such notice has been so laid before both Houses of Parliament,' and insert—'and if, at any time within 30 days from such notice being laid before both Houses of Parliament, a resolution is passed by either the Legislative Council or the Legislative Assembly, objecting to the making of an Order in Council appointing a Special Board, no such Order in Council shall be made, but if no such resolution is passed by either House, it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to make an order accordingly.'" That amendment recognised the position of both Houses under our Constitution. I may say I purposely put it in that form, because I have always found it advisable to follow existing Acts as far as possible, and this is an exact copy, almost word for word, of the Railways Commissioners' Act and the Audit Act. That amendment, however, I afterwards withdrew. I will now deal with the question of the wisdom of calling in the aid of Parliament at all. It may simply be a matter of bringing in some small trade in which the employers and employes together do not number more than 150 people, but the Minister, in the first instance, publishes the notice in the *Government Gazette*, and a copy of that notice is sent to every Member of Parliament, and within 30 days something has to be done or not done. Immediately that notice is circulated, we know that those who are opposed to being brought under the Act will try to move the Members of the Assembly to oppose it, and there will be a long and probably acrimonious discussion over the question whether this small trade shall or shall not be included. Then if both Houses are to have their legitimate power in the matter, that which has been dealt with in the Assembly will again be dealt with in the Council, and the same farce will be repeated, while in the event of the two Houses disagreeing, I do not know where we should be. Looking at it in that way, it appears to me to be a cumbrous way of arriving at that which ought to be done promptly. Then the question arises—How can we arrive at what we want? I say not by appealing to Parliament. That is why I ventured to suggest this amendment, that any trade desiring to be admitted to the benefits of the Act shall at once approach the Minister by a petition signed by a majority of the employers, and another petition signed by a majority of the employes, and that the Minister thereupon, being satisfied that the numbers are correct, shall gazette it, and the thing is done. On going further into the matter, however, I found there was considerable difficulty in connexion with some trades, more particularly the printing trade, where there are a few large firms employing a considerable number of hands, and a considerable number of small firms employing a few hands. After having had the benefit of the advice of practical men in the trade—for all through the business I have had great assistance from both employers and employes—I came to the conclusion that as it stood that plan would not work, and some means must be devised by which the large employers, who desired to come under the Act, should not be swamped by the small men who only employed a few hands, because the worst form of sweating is carried on by the small employers who were a short time since employes themselves. They have just got their foot on the ladder, and are trying to rise, and our sympathies are with them, but our sympathies are also with the employes. After some consideration, I thought the difficulty might be got over by giving votes to the employers according to the number of their employes. I discussed the matter with the various trades, and this morning I discussed it with the printing trade, which is the most difficult of all, and I have arrived at the conclusion that giving an employer one vote for every ten hands he employs would get over the difficulty. I submit that the proposal of the Ministry, as contained in this Bill, is cumbersome, and although it would attain its end in the long run, it would cause great delay, whereas the proposal I make would be prompt, and would carry out the wishes of the trades.

MR. TRENWITH.—You have discussed the constitutional question whether both Houses should deal with a matter of this sort. I submit that after a Bill is passed and becomes an Act it ceases to be a matter of legislation and is a matter of administration, and it is always acknowledged that the Assembly has control of administration. However, I do not propose to discuss that. I understand that, failing the petition test, there is a disposition to go back on the other proposal—to demand a resolution of both Houses of Parliament.

SIR FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Certainly.

MR. TRENWITH.—With reference to the contention that to submit a question of this character to one House only is an infringement of the Constitution, I do not think the two cases cited are analogous. The Railways Commissioner's Act was an Act of Parliament providing for the appointment of an individual—it was practically the appointment of an individual by both Houses. That Act provides that that individual can only be dismissed by both Houses in accord, or by one House in two sessions.

SIR FREDERICK SARGOOD.—What about the Audit Commissioners?

MR. TRENWITH.—They are exactly on the same lines—they are appointed by Parliament under the Act—but this is a matter of administration about which both Houses have legislated. When the Bill is passed, the matter of bringing other industries in is not an act of legislation which, if done by one Chamber only, would be an infringement of the Constitution; but it is an act of administration done under an Act passed by both Houses. On the other point, I submit that Sir Frederick Sargood's proposal is very much more cumbrous than the provision in the Bill. The provision of the Bill is that persons dissatisfied with their condition can make representations to the Government of the day, through the Chief Secretary, and if the Government is satisfied that there is sufficient ground for the dissatisfaction represented to exist, they notify that they are going to arrange for the appointment of a Board to deal with the conduct of that particular industry.

DR. EMBLING.—That is what we object to.

MR. TRENWITH.—I know that, but I wish to show that it is not cumbrous. That action can only be taken when Parliament is in session, which is a guarantee that the Minister is not going to disturb the industrial conditions at his own sweet will. Then it is done only when both Houses of Parliament have full information. Sir Frederick Sargood says it is assumed that the Government of the day has a majority—every Government has a majority, and it loses that majority by some act of its own. It is not at all improbable that if the Minister of the day were to exercise the powers this Bill proposes to give him in a way prejudicial to any industry, that act would convert his majority into a minority; therefore the carrying out of his will would be frustrated in a constitutional way by a vote of want of confidence. If, on the other hand, he acts in a way beneficial to the common weal, his majority will increase, so no injury is done

to any one, and there is no necessity for a check upon his action. Dealing now with Sir Frederick Sargood's suggestion, first of all there must be a majority of votes, and he arranges for the votes of the employers having a numerical value, according to the number of hands employed. Then there must be a test as to what is a majority, and that means that there must be a roll or a list of members. We all know that such a list would be very difficult to compile, would be continually varying, and would have to be re-made from time to time.

Mr. IRVINE.—Provision is made for that from time to time.

Mr. TRENWITH.—I know that; but I wish to show that it would be as cumbersome as providing a roll for a municipal election. In cases where sweating prevails, the more rampant it is, and the more necessity there is for the protection of this Act, the more difficult will it be to obtain the registration required. If you assume that there is an industry in which all the active members on the employers' side are engaged in sweating their people, that would be the industry of all others to which this Act would apply, but that would also be the industry in which you would not get any employers to sign the petition.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—Is there a trade where such a state of things exists?

Mr. TRENWITH.—No; but I am putting an extreme case. I do not want to claim more for my argument than it is legitimately entitled to; but, supposing there were such a case, this Act would be more required in that trade than anywhere else, and yet the Act could not operate. You may even take a case where a large percentage of the employers are sweating their employés, and a small percentage are honestly trying to do what is fair and reasonable; that small percentage would be anxious to come under this Act, but they would be powerless to do so under the conditions you impose. As to getting the signatures, I mentioned the case of the gas-workers. Some gas-workers waited upon me, and asked me what was to be done. I said one good thing would be to present a petition to the Legislative Council. I said I would undertake to submit it to some Members of the Council, who would do what was fair in the matter, but they said—"We could not give our names; the persons who gave their names to a petition of such a character in the sweating establishments would be persecuted."

Dr. EMBLING.—Are the gas companies sweaters?

Mr. TRENWITH.—I do not say so—I do not wish to say so; I only know that these men were afraid. I do not even say they were justified in being afraid, but I say there are many employés who are afraid to say what they feel because of the knowledge of the persecution they would be submitted to by their employers. It must be evident that a man who would do anything to get a profit out of his employés would exercise any terrorism to prevent their signing the petition.

Mr. LEVI.—They must be in the minority.

Mr. TRENWITH.—I do not know that. I know some printers who have large establishments, and it is a pleasure to go into the place to see how their employés are treated; they are well fed, comfortably clad, and they work in well ventilated, airy places. Those employers have to compete with the small places where a man runs a small paper, or a little business in which he does the whole of the work that requires a knowledge of the business, and the rest of the work is done by boys at any wage he likes to give them. In such places as those this proposal would fail entirely. I submit, in support of the Bill as it is, that we always have the control that public opinion exercises over a person in a position of responsibility. The Minister of the day is also controlled by his colleagues. When Sir Frederick Sargood was Minister of Defence, if he had proposed to raise our military force to 20,000 men he would not have been allowed to do it, or, if he had proposed to wipe it out altogether, he would not have been allowed to do it, so there is a certain control of the Minister by his colleagues. Then there is the further control of the Minister by Parliament, within reasonable limits, and we all know there is some control of Parliament itself by public opinion. I think all that control is a sufficient safeguard against any unfair or injurious action. The other proposal that has been made is so cumbersome, so difficult to operate, working the worst when it is required the most, that I think we had better adopt the Bill, with such little dangers as there are, on the ground that they are so remote that they are more on paper than in the air.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Mr. Trenwith is absolutely correct in saying that this would be a matter of executive action when the Bill is passed, but sending it to the Legislative Council simply means that you ask the Council to forego one of its privileges, and I think it only fair to say that the Council cannot under any circumstances agree to that. With regard to the petition I have been making inquiries among four or five trades, and I am assured that there will not be the difficulty he anticipates in getting signatures. He has mentioned the printing trade, which is one of the worst, and I am sure if that proposition of mine to give one vote for every ten employés were adopted, there would not be the slightest difficulty in getting the petition signed.

Mr. PEACOCK.—Referring to the printing trade, the master printers waited on me, and assured me that whilst they were anxious to get the Act passed, they absolutely preferred the proposal of the Assembly, because the risks in the other proposal were so great that it might become unworkable. Then there is the cigar trade, concerning which, when I was Chief Secretary, there were great complaints. Speaking from memory, I would say that eight out of nine of the large manufacturers petitioned for the trade to be brought under the Act, but it is a question for the Council to consider whether the man with a £5 licence is not entitled to be considered a manufacturer, and, if so, it is absolutely impossible for the cigar trade ever to come under the Act, because there is such a large number of those men. There are also other trades that waited on me asking to be brought under the Act, such as the saddlery trade. All the leading saddlers in the city, comprising some 70 employers, asked to be brought under the Act, and the master printers assured me this morning that unless Parliament does something promptly they will be forced to reduce the wages, which they do not wish to do. They gave me instances of 25s. per week being paid for work which has been in the hands of Members of Parliament, which Members have purchased lately. Those master printers assure me that they will be compelled to reduce the wages if something is not done, and they absolutely prefer the proposal of the Assembly. We cannot see the ramifications of the trade. I think it would be hardly possible in any of the trades to fall in with Sir Frederick Sargood's suggestion. I appreciate his motives in trying to solve the difficulty, but I think the proposal of the Government will work better, though it will mean a certain amount of delay. I think when the Managers of the Council look at it from the point of view that everything has been done to insure ample notice being given, they will see that the Minister of the day cannot act behind the back of Parliament. Though the matter has been discussed on the assumption that the Minister will act on his

own responsibility, all of us who have been Ministers know that a Minister never acts without consulting his colleagues in any matter of importance. No Minister would be faithful to his colleagues unless he brought forward any matter of importance, and allowed his colleagues to discuss it. Of course, it may be said, why not put these different trades in the Bill at once? That was the original idea our Cabinet had, but it is impossible, in many cases, to get the information. As to the petition, I am confident, with all due respect to the Managers of the Council, that we would not be able to get the petition signed, even if we only required a third or a fourth of the number. The men would feel they were running big risks; they might be dismissed—they would certainly be marked men, and it is unfair to place men in that position.

Dr. EMBLING.—We have had two propositions brought forward by Sir Frederick Sargood which have been traversed by Mr. Trenwith and Mr. Peacock. Mr. Trenwith's idea is that no sooner is a Bill passed, no matter what the nature of it is, than the administration of it must lie with the Assembly—the Council has nothing to do with it. I take exception to that. I say in relation to an Act like this the two Houses should be in the same position; we are not dealing with finance, we are dealing with the welfare of the country.

Mr. MCKENZIE.—Do you take up that position in regard to all laws?

Dr. EMBLING.—I am now speaking of the Factories Act. Mr. Trenwith takes up the position that as soon as the Act is passed the Council has nothing more to do with it. I take it that in factory legislation the two Houses ought to be in exactly the same position. In this clause that the Assembly sent up to us there are a number of words leading up to the fact that Members of Parliament are to be personally informed—that Parliament is to be informed, and that the papers are to lie on the table for 30 days. Everybody knows that papers that lie on the table for 30 days are never read. It is simply verbiage, and what does it lead to? What can you do? It does not say that Parliament is to do anything. Sir Frederick Sargood says if you reject our amendment we are perfectly willing to accept your clause except this useless paragraph, meaning nothing, leading to nothing, and utterly worthless. We propose that you shall take the advice of Parliament when a new trade wishes to come under the Act. You seem to think factory legislation is to go through on greased wheels, but in other countries an Act of Parliament is necessary. We say if a trade wishes to come under the provisions of the Factories Act the Governor in Council should simply lay before Parliament the fact that such a trade wishes to come under the Act; it is passed by the Assembly, comes up to our House, and, if there is no objection, the whole thing is done in 24 hours.

Mr. TRENWITH.—If both Houses are in accord that is so, but if there is any discussion there will be delay.

Dr. EMBLING.—I say if the question is raised at all it has to come before Parliament in that way. That is one proposition. Now, Sir Frederick Sargood gives you another proposition, and his second proposition is an addendum to our amendment to make the voting perfectly equal, and put every man's rights on a perfectly equal footing. Instead of giving every man a vote on his manhood, you say the man who employs a number of servants ought to be more considered than the man who only employs two, and on that ground Sir Frederick Sargood proposes to give the larger employer a greater number of votes. I do not see anything unfair in that, and one of these propositions I am afraid we must ask you to accept. There is another point. Mr. Trenwith stated that in Victoria workmen were afraid to sign a petition. I have had a great deal to do with Victorian workmen in the last 40 years; I have been practising among them, and I can honestly say I never met a workman yet who was afraid to give expression to his opinions or sign his name to any petition.

Mr. WATT.—It appears to me that the petition proposal which is given as one alternative is utterly impracticable, both from the employers' and the employes' stand-point—the employers', because of the difficulty in arriving at any fair system of voting; what might apply to the printing trade might not apply to the tanning or butchering trade, or any other trade. I can bear out what Messrs. Trenwith and Peacock have said as to the fear in the minds of many of the operatives in the trades of putting their names to a petition of this kind. They might not be afraid to sign a petition for another purpose, but where it appears that the interests of employers and employes are likely to conflict, they regard their positions as being the first consideration; so to my mind the petition proposal is the least feasible one of all that have been put forward.

Mr. MCLEAN.—In discussing this matter with the officers who have to administer the Act, they fully bore out what has been said by Mr. Trenwith, Mr. Peacock, and Mr. Watt, that it would be hopeless to expect to succeed by petition. In regard to the other point there seems a great deal of fairness in what Sir Frederick Sargood says as to the two Houses, but there is no attempt whatever to take from the Council any power that it now possesses, or to give any additional power to the Legislative Assembly. In the matter of legislation the two Houses are co-equal, and have co-ordinate powers, and no one desires to disturb that equality; but there are some matters in which the two Houses are not co-equal, such as finance, nor are they co-equal in controlling the Executive, and Sir Frederick Sargood will see that his proposition proposes for the first time to make them co-equal in the Executive.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—No.

Mr. MCLEAN.—This is a purely executive act. Parliament passes an Act giving certain powers to the Minister of the day. That Minister is controlled by the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. HARWOOD.—The question is, shall we pass that Act?

Mr. MCLEAN.—We do it in every Act. Every Act has to be administered by a responsible Minister, and there is only one House, either here or in the Imperial Parliament, that can directly control that Minister. This Bill does not propose to disturb or alter that power in any way whatever. The Assembly can turn the Minister out if he does wrong; the Council has never claimed to exercise that power. I am extremely anxious to meet the Managers of the Council in any fair or reasonable settlement of the question, but I think they must see that that fear is based upon a misapprehension of the present relations of the two Houses.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I do not think you are quite correct that we are seeking now to have a departure from what has been the practice in the past in connexion with practical legislation. Up to the present, in every instance where a trade is brought under the Factories Act both Houses have acted, and the consent of both Houses has been obtained. You now seek to allow one House to say whether a trade shall or shall not be brought in. Is not that a departure from the former practice?

Mr. McLEAN.—It is an administrative act.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—In every instance the inclusion of a trade in the past has not been an administrative action but a legislative action. Both Houses have been consulted, and both Houses have given their consent. Now you ask us to pass an Act which shall give the power to one House.

Mr. McLEAN.—Both Houses will be parties in passing the law.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—What is the object of sending a notice to every Member of Parliament?

Mr. McLEAN.—They can bring influence to bear in many ways.

Mr. PEACOCK.—That is so that they shall know what is going on.

Mr. HARWOOD.—Knowing that something is being done of which they disapprove.

Mr. TRENWITH.—That was only done at the suggestion of people who thought the Minister might act hastily. We, personally, would have no objection to its being struck out. We do not think it necessary, but some persons were afraid, and possibly reasonably afraid, that the Minister might act hastily.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—The fact of the notice being given would not prevent that.

Mr. TRENWITH.—The fact that notice cannot be given unless Parliament is in session is a guarantee that it cannot be done except in the full blaze of public opinion.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—Supposing this is passed, and this notice is given to the House, and supposing something is being done that the Legislative Council object to very much, what can they do?

Mr. TRENWITH.—As in almost every case of administration, they can do nothing but enter their protest. For instance, we have an Act passed by both branches of the Legislature empowering the Minister of Mines to do certain things at his own sweet will. We find by experience that the sense of responsibility that his office conveys prevents him from doing unwise or wicked things; but suppose he does, you have passed legislation empowering him to allow or disallow certain mining leases, and no injury has arisen. Then, in connexion with almost every Land Bill that we have passed, there are certain discretionary powers vested in the Minister of the day.

Mr. HARWOOD.—And you hear very many complaints about both Ministers every day.

Mr. TRENWITH.—That is true. Whatever we do as Parliament we hear complaints. I do not see that there is any danger, and there is certainly difficulty in doing it in any other way.

Mr. MCKENZIE.—Do we understand that the Managers of the Council have definitely decided that they will regard the inclusion of any fresh trade as legislation and not as administration, and that they demand that their co-ordinate powers shall be preserved in that respect?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Certainly, unless the principle of petition be adopted.

Mr. MCKENZIE.—Then we must confine ourselves to that or go back to the other proposal to see if it can be originated with the trades themselves.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Unless you can suggest any other plan.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—We are making far too much of this clause altogether. We are going to assume a lot of things. I take it for granted that the Minister will not act in any of those cases until he has been moved by some persons interested, and has fully investigated the matter, and has satisfied himself that sweating does exist; but even if he were to act in a case where sweating does not exist, what harm is done? All this does is to appoint a Board to fix a reasonable amount of remuneration to persons engaged in a particular work. If the amount of remuneration paid is a reasonable amount no possible harm can happen to the employers, but both parties will be satisfied. If, on the other hand, sweating does exist, it is our duty to do something that will enable that particular Board to put down sweating; so, on the whole, it seems to me you are making a mountain out of a mole-hill. The proposal of the late Government was such that no great harm could ensue, that the only effect of the appointment of a Board must be a benefit. We thought it was a simple matter to allow the whole matter to remain in the hands of the Governor in Council, knowing that he would not act until he had looked at the matter fairly and dispassionately. It appeared, however, to some Members of the Assembly (a minority of them) that too much power was placed in the hands of the Governor in Council, and we then suggested that we would so tie it up that no action could be taken except when Parliament was in session, and full notice should be given to every Member. We must realize the fact that the parties interested will know full well that this Board is about to be appointed. The public may take, and probably will take, very little interest in it. No one has much interest in it but the parties in the trade, and they will take good care that Members of Parliament are made to understand the subject before it is dealt with. Therefore we felt we were taking the greatest safeguards, but that has not met with the approval of the Council. They have put before us a proposal which, in any modification of it, is impracticable. They say men will sign a petition; we know men will not sign a petition when their bread and butter is dependent upon it, and, under those circumstances, we may say, as far as our House is concerned, we cannot, with any modification, accept the proposal of the Council. The difficulty in the other proposal is that the Council desire to block what would be an act for which the Government, to a great extent, would be responsible. We have had this difficulty before us in the Railways Act. We came to a compromise, when the Council thought they were giving up something, and the Assembly thought they were giving up something. In that Act we provided that if certain resolutions were passed in both Houses something should happen; but, failing that, we came to a compromise, which I offer for consideration now, that if the Assembly felt so strongly in regard to the action taken that they chose, knowing the views of the Council, to pass a resolution a second time at an interval of six weeks, the will of the Assembly should be supreme. We are all anxious to put down sweating, and we feel the proposal of the Council will not work. The Council feel that some modification of our proposal should take place. I would feel, myself, inclined to agree to the same compromise that was effected before. If you could work on those lines the Ministry would have no difficulty. They would be very careful before they took any steps. The Assembly would know the matter had been discussed by the Council, and the public attention had been arrested, and the Assembly would be very loath to pass a resolution a second time unless they were convinced the proper course had been taken by the Government. We are giving way a good deal in the matter, and I believe in 99 cases out of 100 the resolutions would be passed in both Houses, but I want a safety-valve in case a difficulty did arise. It is like the provisions we have made for dead-locks in our Constitution. They are there, but I believe they will very rarely be brought into operation. I am anxious this Bill should be passed, and though I feel we are giving way very much indeed, I would be prepared to give way to that extent,

and instead of having the procedure we have here, by which the Government of the day simply places before Parliament a notification that they intend to do something, and if Parliament does not move that something is done, I would go the great length of saying that before the Executive could do that particular act, a resolution would have to be passed in both Houses, which we agree would happen as a matter of course in nearly all cases. I think we must have the ultimate control in the Assembly. Our House will not agree to anything unless that is so. Therefore, unless we can agree to some such compromise, we must give up all hope of the Bill being passed.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Is this a proposal from the Members of the Assembly?

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—No; it is my own idea.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I am very glad that, towards the end of his remarks, Sir George Turner acknowledged that in 99 cases out of 100 the action of the Council and the Assembly would be alike, because he commenced by speaking about the Council blocking. I would remind him that every trade now under the Act has been cordially approved of by the Council, and one trade, the bakers, was put in by the Council, not by the Assembly.

Mr. MCKENZIE.—I thoroughly indorse Sir George Turner's opinion, that the procedure in regard to a petition will not be approved in our House at all.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—I am going strongly against my own opinion in the matter, and I only make the suggestion as, in my mind, a last hope.

The Conference then adjourned.

On resuming—

Mr. McLEAN.—This concession that is proposed by Sir George Turner goes a great deal further than several of our Managers thought of going, but we recognise that you are anxious to come to a settlement, and we are also anxious to settle the matter amicably, and we have finally agreed to make the concession. If this is agreed to, it appears to us that it does away with the necessity of the first month's delay—that is, laying it on the table for a month. It involves the necessity of the Government coming down with a resolution to both Houses, and, if both Houses pass that resolution, of course the matter is ended. If the Assembly pass the resolution and the Council disagrees with it, then the Assembly must wait for six weeks; and if they again pass the resolution that settles it.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—In a different session?

Mr. McLEAN.—I suppose an interval of six weeks is sufficient. There is another feature that I think we should consider. It might be proposed to bring two or three different trades under the operation of the Act; it appears to us the simple way would be to include those in one resolution in the first instance. Either House might strike out one or two of the trades, but the same proposal would apply to any trade that was struck out as if it was brought in by itself.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—What trade did you propose to bring in?

Mr. McLEAN.—We have not considered any trades at all yet. I mean it would not be necessary to bring a separate resolution for each trade; the resolution could be agreed to, or amended by striking out any particular trade. The same rule could be applied to that trade as if it had been brought in by itself.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I desire first to point out that in the existing Act, as I mentioned before, various trades have been included, and not the slightest exception has been taken by the Council to their inclusion. This occurred in previous Acts, and in the present Act another trade was put in, to which the Council has given its heartiest assent, and if one or two more trades had been included in which there were glaring cases of sweating, the Council would have concurred. The probability is that in 99 cases out of 100 submitted to the Council, the Council would agree with the Assembly in the proposal to include them. It has evidently not been needed in the past, or thought necessary, to restrict in any way the power given to the Council under the Constitution Act. It was not suggested in the Act of 1885, nor in the Act of 1896, neither was it suggested in this Bill when first brought in by the late Minister. The Council is at a loss, therefore, to understand upon what grounds there is now an attempt to restrict the privileges of the Legislative Council, as laid down in the Constitution Act, which prescribes that in all matters save finance the two Houses are co-ordinate in every respect. The Council cannot, with all due deference, accept this as a concession. If there be a concession, the concession will be on the part of the Council to the views of the Managers of the Assembly, because the Council considers that under the Constitution Act it stands absolutely on the same footing with the Assembly in matters of this kind. This is not fairly a matter of administration. I grant that it might be if we agreed to the Bill as brought up by the Ministry, but what you now propose is a provision similar to that in the Railway Commissioners' Act, under which the Assembly can by a resolution passed in two sessions with an interval of six weeks—I think that is what you propose?

Mr. McLEAN.—Not necessarily in two sessions.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Then you ask us to concede more than was conceded in the Railway Commissioners' Act of 1884. I may say at once that the Council consider that that was a mistake, in giving up privileges they undoubtedly possessed under the Constitution Act, and with the utmost desire to meet the Assembly in promoting and getting through this Bill, and giving other trades the benefit of it, they feel that they are in the position of trustees under the Constitution Act, and that whatever may have been done sixteen years ago to part with some of their privileges and rights, they can be no party now to parting with any more, neither can they again concede that which was unfortunately conceded in that Act of Parliament. We are, therefore, reluctantly compelled to say that we cannot concede anything that would place the Legislative Council on a different footing to that laid down in the Constitution Act.

Mr. TRENWITH.—I am inclined to think it is not a proposal that we ought to indorse very heartily, but I desire to say, with reference to the constitutional aspect, that we have, under the provisions of the Health Act, given powers vested in the Minister that are somewhat analogous to the powers proposed to be conferred under this Act. The first question is whether certain provision ought to be made against what is known as "sweating."

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—We are heartily with you there.

Mr. TRENWITH.—Sweating is a noxious method of carrying on an industry. We have, under the Health Act, power to prohibit the action of certain noxious trades. The Legislature decided that noxious trades should be limited in their operation, or compelled to be carried on under conditions that are not

prejudicial to health. Then, as a matter of administration, there is power to decide what are noxious trades. That seems to me to be an exactly parallel condition. Parliament having decided that sweating is noxious, that it shall be restricted and suppressed, extends the power to the Minister to say what industries shall be brought under the operation of this Act. It is equivalent to saying that the Health Department shall say what is noxious under the Health Act. It seems to me there is no departure whatever from the principle that has already been approved, a principle that has been adopted in the British Constitution, a principle round which there has been a great deal of struggle and conflict, but about which now there is no difference of opinion, that in affirming principles of legislation both Houses are equal, but when the principle has been affirmed the administration is under the control of the Commons. I submit that there is no intention or desire to infringe, and no feeling that there is any infringement of the constitutional privileges, in this proposed arrangement of the difficulty. There is practically the bringing into administration, or control of administration, the second Chamber, which, I confess, does not commend itself to me. I have wrestled with my scruples on the question, and for the purpose of adjusting this serious difficulty I have consented, if that can meet the difficulty, to agree to it. I would respectfully submit that there is the fullest safeguard against hasty or ill-considered action, because both Houses of Parliament are taken into consultation about the introduction of a new industry. I have recognised the force of the argument used by Sir Frederick Sargood, that, in the past, even taking in a new industry has required legislation, but, after all, the principle has been affirmed every time over again, and I would urge on Members of the Council that there does appear here to be a solution of the difficulty that derogates from the dignity of neither side, that gives most full and complete, I think too full, control, or an unnecessary safeguard against a possible evil, and which renders it possible within a reasonable time to extend the benefits of this Act to industries to which it ought to be extended, that is, to industries that are carried on under conditions that are noxious to public sentiment.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—When the first Bill was brought in the question was an entirely new one, and it was then thought wise to pick out what were notoriously known as the sweating trades. On that occasion we put those particular trades in the Bill as a mere experiment. That experiment has undoubtedly proved a success, and the principle has unquestionably been affirmed that wherever sweating exists those Boards should be in existence, as the only means known of putting down that particular evil. When we brought in the second Bill we took a far larger power than Sir Frederick Sargood thinks, because we took the power from the Council without any control at all, and we left the whole matter in the hands of the Government of the day.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Which matter?

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—As to which trade should be brought under the operation of the Act. That was our idea; to meet objections that were raised we modified it, but we did not give the power to the Council to over-rule which trades should be brought under the operation of the Act. Sir Frederick Sargood said the Council gave up a considerable amount of their power when they consented to that alteration of the Railway Act. I do not agree with that.

Mr. SACHSE.—Certainly they did, and that was a great mistake.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—If the Council are going to carry on the Government of the day, no doubt that was a mistake; but the Government have to carry on the government of the country, and they are responsible for doing so. I consider it was a concession by the Assembly to the Council, not by the Council to the Assembly. In this respect I regret, in one way, my friends will not meet us; in another way, I am very glad of it. I did what I have often done; that is, I went a long way further than I liked, to get a compromise and end the matter; but, as the Council will not meet us, I am very glad, because it will relieve me of feeling in my own mind that, with a desire to get rid of this sweating, I have gone a long way further than I ought to have gone.

Mr. PEACOCK.—The interests are so great in this matter that I would respectfully submit to the Council Managers that they should reconsider their decision. After the Conference, the Assembly Managers had a great diversity of opinion whether Sir George Turner's suggestion should be approved, and our Chamber will feel that there has been a great concession. I would like to put this to the Council Managers. I can quite understand the feeling which may exist in the minds of the Council Managers as to the danger of giving the Governor in Council this great power of bringing a trade under the operation of the Factories Act. They think that when a resolution is first brought in the supporters of the Government, though disapproving of it, would perforce support the Government. It seems to me that that requires careful consideration at the hands of the Council Managers, because before a trade is brought in the resolution would have to be carried, and it cannot be supposed that the Governor in Council would bring a trade under the Factories Act if it necessitated cracking the whip over the Government supporters, for fear it might be treated as a vote of want of confidence. Our present Act is expiring, and I would respectfully submit to the Council Managers that the responsibility is great upon them. No one is more anxious than I am to have the difficulty settled, and I would ask them, in the interests of those who cannot speak for themselves, not to allow us to separate without coming to a settlement of this difficulty.

Mr. IRVINE.—On the constitutional aspect of the case, it seems to me that once we assume that the appointment of these Boards should only be done, or the bringing of a new trade under the operation of this Act can only be done, by a legislative act, there is a great deal of force in Sir Frederick Sargood's argument that the Council would be derogating from its power by adopting Sir George Turner's suggestion, but I should like to point out that there are many cases in which the Legislature have already delegated their powers to the Governor in Council, as well as to other bodies. They have repeatedly enabled the Governor in Council to make regulations not merely regulating noxious trades, but a large number of other matters, and it, to my mind, becomes a matter for the consideration of both Houses of Parliament whether their powers of legislation ought or ought not to be delegated. It is a question of degree whether the Houses should give up their powers of legislation. One of the propositions that Sir Frederick Sargood has put before us involves the acceptance of this as being an executive act. The amendment was that the Governor in Council should have power, as set out in this Bill, to appoint a Board, and he was willing to accept that, provided his amendment on that was accepted, which was to enact that either House of Parliament should have the right to negative that act; in other words, one of his alternative proposals assumes the desirability of delegating this legislative power to the Governor in Council, thereby making it an executive and not a legislative act, provided either House had the right of controlling the exercise of that

right. Now, the position taken up by the Managers of the Council is this : you admit that you are prepared under certain conditions to make this an executive act, provided that you, the Council, have a joint controlling power over that executive act with the Assembly. Once you admit that to be an executive act then we, on behalf of the Assembly, cannot for one moment, without derogating from our constitutional privileges, accept your right to interfere with that executive act. Hence the whole basis of this proposition is that Parliament should delegate its powers, but we say we are not prepared to give you the absolute and final control over the exercise of that act, but we are prepared to surrender a certain portion of our rights by giving you an opportunity of delaying for a reasonable time the exercise of our executive power, to give time for re-consideration. That seems to me (and I have followed the arguments of Sir Frederick Sargood with great attention and respect) the true constitutional aspect of this question, and I think we can claim that we are not only making a concession, but a concession which may hereafter be used in a dangerous way against the privileges of our House. That is one fact that has given me great doubt as to whether we ought to make the concession or not. I would join with honorable Members of the Assembly in urging the Council Managers to reconsider their determination in this matter, seeing the difficulties that will arise if this Bill is lost.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I need hardly assure the Managers of the Assembly that, as far as the Council Managers are concerned, they are equally anxious that this Bill shall become law. We recognise that the clauses which have been passed, and the amendments we have agreed to to-night, are distinct steps in advance upon our existing Act ; so there is no difference between us as to that. We are simply coming to the question as to how it is to be done. I again say there is nothing to warrant the Assembly in asking us to depart from the practice since 1884, namely, that if fresh trades require to be brought in they shall be brought in by both Houses. So far, the Assembly Managers have not shown an iota of reason for that. Had the Council shown itself actively adverse to the extension of the benefits of the Act to new trades, there might have been reason for a change of front in the Assembly, but, so far from that being the case, on every occasion the Council has warmly assisted the Assembly, and in one instance it even went beyond the Assembly. With regard to Mr. Trenwith's analogy, I do not think it is on all-fours with this case. A noxious trade is a trade injurious to health, as to which all must be agreed that it should be stopped, but in this case it is more or less disputed. It is very well for some gentleman to say there is sweating in a certain trade, but that does not prove that it is so ; it may or may not be so. Again, while it affects the employés, bear in mind the question also affects the employer, and with the best intention, it is possible that legislation may take place avowedly in the interests of the employés and ultimately result in their injury. Again, under the Health Act, the Assembly is not called on to give its opinion as to each trade, but here it is called on to say yea or nay. Then the question comes in, is it wise, from a public point of view, to trust the Minister with the responsibility of admitting or rejecting a trade. The effect of his decision may be to ruin that trade, and he can only obtain that information from his officers. Probably, of his own knowledge, he knows nothing about it. I deeply regret the course that the Council Managers have had to decide upon. I have attempted to follow the Honorable the Attorney-General in his arguments with regard to our having already given up the principle, but I fail to follow him.

Mr. IRVINE.—I think your amendment implies having given up the principle.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I am quite unable to follow up the argument. Certainly it was never intended to do so. We are as anxious as the Assembly to pass this Bill into law, but under no consideration can the Council give up its rights under the Constitution Act.

Mr. WATT.—In the amendment in question the whole act of appointing a new Board is clearly contemplated as an executive act, because the Governor in Council, being empowered to appoint under petition, neither House of Parliament is called upon to interfere in any way. You provide that a safeguard is to be secured by getting the consent of Parliament to the Board being so appointed, but Parliament in either of its branches has not been asked to say yea or nay to an act of the Executive, clearly implying, to my mind, that it is an executive act pure and simple.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—The speakers in your House themselves acknowledged that your House would probably take action, and be moved for or against the decision of the Minister to issue this Order in Council. You yourselves have recognised that there should be legislative action by your own House, and that that action could not be taken by the Council ; the Government would take its own responsibility. I show that you provide for control by one branch of the Legislature, and you have recognised that, at all events, one portion of Parliament has to deal with the matter, therefore we claim that if Parliament in any way has to deal with it, Parliament as a whole should deal with it.

Mr. WATT.—But you suggested that Parliament should not do it at all in your amendment.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Precisely ; I take it away from Parliament altogether.

Mr. TRENWITH.—We have certain recognised proceedings with reference to acts of administration, copied from the Imperial custom. That administration goes on as long as the Commons do not object, but whenever the Commons do object, they do not legislate on the question, they simply decide that the administration is not going on to the approval of the House, and the constitutional usage is that whenever that occurs, the administrators are changed. It is clearly an administrative act controlled by that branch of Parliament which is composed of the Commons. With reference to the submission of the matter to both Houses of Parliament, the Assembly Managers will have no objection to withdraw that, and leave it to the Minister, subject to such constitutional checks as exist. After all, the injuries the honorable Member assumes cannot happen unless we assume that a Board composed of employers on the one hand, and of employés on the other, and a chairman, appointed because of his special ability and character for impartiality, agree to do an unjust act. The most the Minister can do is to appoint a court at which both parties are fairly and equally represented. That is the worst he can do. Assuming he does it hastily and inconsiderately, what serious injury can happen, having in view the constitution of the court ?

Mr. McLEAN.—I am afraid there is no chance of arriving at a satisfactory solution at present of this important question. Sir Frederick Sargood has made a suggestion that we might adjourn further consideration until to-morrow.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—I do not see any use in it. If the Council have made their minds up not to budge, there is no use bothering any more about it. There is only one suggestion I can make—that we should declare in the Bill that a Board should be appointed in all trades at once. No harm can possibly

result. All that has to be done is the appointment of a Board. That Board investigates the rate of pay, and if the rate of pay is fair and legitimate it enforces it, if not it ought to be dealt with. But if the Council have made up their minds they are going to refuse everything, there is no use adjourning. We would only go over the same ground for hours, and then be in the same position.

The Conference then adjourned until to-morrow at half-past Ten o'clock a.m

THURSDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

Present :

Council.

The Hon. Dr. W. H. Embling
The Hon. A. O. Sachse
The Hon. F. S. Grimwade
The Hon. W. Knox
The Hon. T. C. Harwood
The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood
The Hon. N. Levi.

Assembly.

The Hon. W. H. Irvine
The Hon. A. McLean
Mr. McKenzie
The Hon. A. J. Peacock
Mr. Trenwith
The Hon. W. A. Watt
The Right Hon. Sir George Turner.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I think it advisable to call attention to a statement that appears in this morning's issue of the *Age*. I should not have done so had it not been that any statement I make is made on behalf of the Council. The *Age* says :—"A curious constitutional objection was stated by Sir Frederick Sargood. He says that the Council can never permit a Minister to proclaim new trades under the Act, because that would be giving up to one House what is the right of both." I need hardly say I never stated anything of the kind. As a matter of fact, the amendment I proposed in the Council, and which the Council carried, gives the power to the Minister, subject to petition.

Mr. IRVINE.—It is rather a wide representation of your argument.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—It is evidently a misapprehension, and I thought it well to correct it. Since we adjourned we have all had the benefit of thinking over this matter, and it may be well for me to refresh our memories as to how the matter stands. As the Bill reached us, it contained the proposal that the Minister shall appoint a Board subject to the concurrence of the Assembly. As amended by us, it proposes that the Minister shall appoint a Board subject to a petition being presented. With regard to the Assembly's proposal, we pointed out that, in our opinion, if Parliament was called in at all both Houses under the Constitution stood alike, and therefore it should require the joint assent of the Houses. As to the Council's proposal, that the Minister should appoint only on the presentation of a petition, it was suggested by the Managers of the Assembly that a petition on behalf of the worse-sweated trades would be impossible to obtain and therefore the proposal could not be carried out. Personally, I do not think that objection would be realized, except in very few instances. I think there would be so few cases in which pressure would be brought to bear upon employes that it would not affect the result of the petition, but even if it were otherwise, it has occurred to me whether the difficulty might not be met by allowing the employes to vote by ballot. There would then be absolute protection for them. As far as the machinery is concerned, I do not see that there need be much difficulty in deciding who are employes, and who are not, and, in any case, we must bear in mind that it will only be once in the life-time of any trade.

Mr. TRENWITH.—Who would initiate the ballot?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—The Minister on his own responsibility. I recognise that that is an administrative act, and should be the act of the Minister.

Mr. IRVINE.—I do not think Sir Frederick Sargood's proposal effectually disposes of the difficulty as to the coercion of the employes, because in a small trade there would not be the slightest difficulty in discovering which way the employes voted. It also leaves absolutely untouched the graver objection, or the other very serious objection, that in some trades you would not get any employers at all to petition.

Mr. McLEAN.—That would be the case in the worst sweated trades.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—You mean that there are trades in which the majority of the employers are sweaters?

Mr. TRENWITH.—Yes; I tried to avoid using offensive language, but there are trades in which the majority of the employers live by adopting every means they can of taking advantage of those in their employment—they are continually scheming with that aim. In such a trade as that, even if you had perfect unanimity on the part of the employes, and you failed to get half the employers, you could not bring the Act into operation. That would be obviously more likely to be the case in a trade where it was necessary to bring the Act into operation than in other trades.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—That would only be in isolated cases. Could we not, while adopting this principle (which would protect the great body of the work-people and enable those trades to come in in which a large majority of the employes and some of the employers wish it) bring other trades under the Act by resolution of both Houses, not by an Act requiring to pass its first, second, and third readings?

Mr. TRENWITH.—The objection to that is that it really involves a great part of the delay necessary in passing a Bill. A second reading discussion at any rate must ensue, and that will take a great deal of time.

Mr. MCKENZIE.—You propose in the first instance to deal with every trade on the initiative of the Minister—the Minister would take the initiative and ask the trade to submit a petition?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—No; to take a vote.

Mr. MCKENZIE.—And in cases where the ballot was not satisfactory, you would then act by resolution of Parliament?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—No, as I understand, there are some cases where it is not a question of the men balloting, but the majority of the employers are sweaters. I say that in those isolated cases (because we all concur that they are the minority) we might fairly deal with them straight out.

Mr. MCKENZIE.—You would first have to test the matter by vote—you cannot select any particular trade and say—“This is a sweating trade, and we will deal with it by resolution.”

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—The most important thing in those cases would be to ascertain what the employers mean to do. If the employers stand aloof, and decline to do anything, I should say there is no necessity to trouble the employes with a ballot.

Mr. MCKENZIE.—It would mean an abortive attempt to decide by ballot in the first instance, and then acting on a resolution.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—No, not necessarily; we take it for granted the employes are anxious to come under the Act. The next thing is to move the employers who will not move of their own accord.

Mr. PEACOCK.—In the marble and stonecutting and polishing trade, the majority of the employers do not wish to come under the Act. There are only 147 employes in the trade, and it would be very easy for the employers to know which way the men voted. I can assure the Managers of the Council that I received several deputations, and they always requested that I would receive them after working hours, and that their names might not be mentioned. Those men were quite reasonable in discussing the matter. They did not complain that they were paid low wages, but their fear was that, owing to the cutting that had taken place on the part of the smaller manufacturers, their employers would be compelled to reduce the wages, but they always asked the press not to record their names. I quite recognise the honest attempt on the part of the Council to meet the difficulty, but I am afraid their proposal will be found to be full of difficulties in the practical working. Many difficulties have presented themselves to us here, even at this stage, and there will be lots of others that we cannot now foresee.

Mr. HARWOOD.—This Act is only to be a tentative one, so the difficulties will only exist for a short time, and the objections you seem to entertain may not be realized.

Mr. TRENWITH.—They may not be realized, but on the other hand they may, and we want to get the Act into operation as quickly as possible.

Mr. HARWOOD.—You will soon see whether the ballot system works well or not. If it does not, when you come to legislate again you can provide for all these cases. In the meantime, the fear on the part of those trades is that they may be brought under the Act without their desiring it.

Mr. TRENWITH.—I think the Managers of the Council are over-estimating the possible dangers. Suppose we have a very rash, impetuous Chief Secretary, who brings trades under the Act right and left, what harm is done? He is acting in a humane way to the employes. A Board is appointed, evidence is taken, and the Board says—“Things are going on all right; we see no need to make any change.”

Mr. McLEAN.—An idea occurred to me this morning, as I was walking across from my office. I do not put it forward as a definite proposal, because it is possible that when I have looked into it a little more fully I may see reasons to withdraw it; but, if there are no objections to it, it appears to me it might meet the difficulty that arose last night. As I understood the attitude of the Council Managers yesterday, there was no suspicion that they were less desirous than ourselves to make the Act effective. Their only objection to the proposal contained in the Bill is that it involves some surrender of their constitutional rights. For my own part, I need hardly repeat that I do not see that there is any surrender or invasion of the Council's rights involved; but that was the objection that was urged. Now, how would it do to provide that the Governor in Council may, on a resolution being passed by either House, appoint a Board for any particular trade? That will not make the Act less effective, but it puts the Houses on an absolute equality. The only difficulty that occurs to me is whether it does or does not give the Council a power of an executive character that they do not possess now. I do not think it does, because the Minister is still responsible to his own House if he does anything that that House disapproves of. There is no doubt that course would not make the Act less effective, it would not involve any loss of time whatever, it would enable the thing to be done promptly, and it would not involve any invasion of privileges or constitutional rights.

Mr. HARWOOD.—It would be ignoring the Council just as effectually as the present proposal. You say, on a resolution passed by either House, the Executive can take action. If the Council are opposed to and decline to pass the resolution, then the Assembly can do so, and ignore the Council.

Mr. McLEAN.—Do I understand that the Council wishes to stand in a higher position than the Assembly? If the Assembly is content that a Board shall be appointed on the resolution of the Council, is it not reasonable to expect the Council to be content to accept a Board on a resolution of the Assembly?

Mr. HARWOOD.—Even if the Council is opposed to the Board being appointed, a resolution of the Assembly will enable it to be done.

Mr. McLEAN.—And *vice versa*.

Mr. HARWOOD.—But we do not ask for that—we do not wish to coerce the Assembly.

Mr. McLEAN.—It is quite evident then there is something more in the Council's objection than was expressed last night. I tried to meet the difficulty that was expressed, but if there is anything behind, that is different.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—No; there is nothing kept back.

Mr. McLEAN.—You admit that my suggestion does not give one House any advantage over the other?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—You mean that either House, of its own initiative, either by a private member or a Minister, may pass a resolution that it is desirable that the Minister should appoint a Board for a certain trade, and the Minister may then appoint the Board. Let us follow that out. In the first instance, we will assume, for argument's sake, that a Member of the Council moves the resolution, and it is carried, that it is desirable to bring the marblemasons under the Act. That resolution is sent to the Minister, and he does not do anything; he simply folds his hands, because your suggestion is that he “may,” not that he “shall,” appoint the Board. Now, let us assume that instead of the Council passing the resolution the Assembly does so. In that case the Minister, as a matter of course, seeing that the resolution has been carried by a majority in the Assembly, appoints the Board. I think that is how it will work out.

Mr. McLEAN.—It would not be at all likely to work out in that way.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—The Minister certainly would not appoint the Board unless he thought it would meet the views of the majority in the Assembly, even if the Council did pass the resolution. It practically means that the decision whether a Board shall be appointed or not really lies with the Assembly.

Mr. TRENWITH.—That is undoubtedly the constitutional position. In all legislation the principle involved is dealt with by both Houses, but the execution in detail is an executive act, which may safely be left to the Minister under the control that there is over him in the very existence of Parliament.

Mr. IRVINE.—There is surely no constitutional difficulty in this.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—No; there is not.

Mr. IRVINE.—Then the only difficulty arises in the possibility of a hard-and-fast opposition in one of the Houses to the constitution of the Board, and as far as I can see there is not likely to be any opposition. I believe the Council are quite as anxious that the trades should be brought in as the Assembly. The only thing is that instead of Parliament delegating an absolute arbitrary unlimited power to the Minister to do this ministerial act, it imposes the condition precedent as a safeguard that the Minister shall have the sanction of one House or the other. It does not seem to me to involve any constitutional difficulty.

Mr. TRENWITH.—Not in that discretionary form.

Mr. MCLEAN.—It must be discretionary, but we know that that discretion will always be exercised. The Council is not likely to carry a rash resolution bringing in a trade if the Assembly are likely to censure the Minister for bringing it in. We have never known such a position as that, and I do not think it will be likely to arise in the future.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—There would probably be a competition between the two Houses as to which should bring in the most trades.

The Conference adjourned for a quarter of an hour.

Upon resuming—

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Will you again state your proposition, so that there can be no mistake about it?

Mr. MCLEAN.—I followed you carefully last night in the position you took up, and you certainly left the impression on my mind that the Council were as anxious as the Assembly to make the Act as effective as possible, and to extend it to any trade where there is a reasonable ground for believing that the necessity exists for the appointment of a Board, but you feared that the proposal of the Assembly involved to some extent the surrender of your constitutional rights—that is the way I understood it. You were not opposed to it on its merits, or feared that anything wrong would result from it, but it involved the surrender of your constitutional rights. I was trying to think how the difficulty could be got over, and still make the Act effective, and it appeared to me that one way would be to place both Houses on a footing of absolute equality, and make it a condition precedent to the appointment of a Board that either House should carry a resolution affirming the desirability of doing so.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Supposing that the Council passed a resolution that it was desirable to bring a certain trade in, the Minister would then take the necessary steps to have the Board elected?

Mr. MCLEAN.—Elected or appointed.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—There is a great difference between electing and appointing. If we agree to the word "appoint" it would have to be with the distinct understanding that the word "appoint" is in the sub-clause "as hereinafter provided." Conceding the word "appoint" does not mean that the Minister is to appoint. I am authorized on behalf of the majority of the Managers for the Council to say that they are prepared to accept that proposal. I do not mean to say it is all we ask for. We see what it means, but I can hardly conceive an instance where, after a trade has applied to the Council to be brought in, and the Council have passed a resolution to admit that trade, the Assembly would negative it, or instruct the Minister not to carry it out. We agree to that amendment. The next point is whether the Boards shall be appointed by the Minister or elected. You propose a sort of half-way course, namely, that in the first instance the Minister appoints ten members, and within a certain time the parties interested may take exception to those persons and nominate others. Then there shall be an election, but the ten nominated by the Government shall also stand for election. To begin with, there is one very serious objection to that in my mind. It is not at all probable that the ten men nominated by the Government would consent to stand for election when they knew they had not the support of the trade, and it would be a cruel thing to compel them to stand. Then there is the point that the evidence is absolutely overwhelming that those interested are strongly in favour of an elective and not a nominative Board.

Mr. PEACOCK.—I am personally in favour of a nominee Board. I believe in the Governor in Council, who is responsible, selecting the best persons on each side, but no doubt the feeling among employers and employés is in favour of an elected Board. The only thing is as to casual vacancies. If a representative of either the employers or the employés wanted to block the Board's work he could resign, and unless the Governor in Council had the power to fill up that vacancy an election would have to take place, rolls would have to be prepared, and a long delay would ensue, and after that had been settled another member of the Board could do the same thing, so it seems to me that the Governor in Council should have the power to fill up a vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—There is no objection to that.

Mr. TRENWITH.—I am always in favour of an election where it is practicable, but in this case experience teaches me that an election is never really an election in the proper sense—it is a selection by organizations. The employers' organization meets, and says—"So-and-so will be nominated," and they nominate the exact number, and the operatives do the same. That means that the persons organized to protect the interests of both sides really manage the thing as a rule, but there is, of course, the possibility of an individual, out of pure "cussedness," involving all the expense and trouble of an election, by getting himself nominated. If you have the elective principle you really have the nominee system, but you may have, besides, all the expense and trouble of an election which you do not want. We already have all the machinery requisite to secure complete representation, and the compiling of the rolls would be both troublesome and costly. I would suggest that the elective system in this instance is very costly, very difficult to work, and does not secure the end it contemplates, and there is machinery in existence now to serve the purpose.

Mr. McLEAN.—You have named the two objections to the elective system that are raised by the people who have had experience of the working of the Act—the delay, and the expense in preparing rolls when they really do not want an election. There is, however, no principle involved; it is only a matter of delay and expense.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Seeing that the trades want the elective system, I would strongly support it. I understand that what we have agreed to is that the Boards are to be elected, but vacancies are to be filled by the Governor in Council.

Mr. McLEAN.—That is so.

Mr. IRVINE.—Sub-clause 1 of clause 16 provides that, before the appointment of a Board, 30 days' notice shall be given to both Houses. I think that is unnecessary, and that the ordinary parliamentary notice should be sufficient.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I think so.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—What is an ordinary parliamentary notice?

Mr. McLEAN.—It might be a day or it might be a week—you must give notice.

Mr. TRENWITH.—It would very rarely happen that only one day's notice was given.

Mr. PEACOCK.—It is understood that any private Member can give notice.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Certainly. Now we come to amendment No. 6, with regard to gas and electricity, which was postponed last night. In connexion with that the statement was made, I think by Mr. Trenwith, that the gas employés were underpaid. I have had placed in my hands a document signed by the secretary of the Gas Company, stating that there is not a single man receiving less than 5s. 6d. per day, and those are the inexperienced and physically weakly men. They run from 5s. 6d. up to 10s. a day, and receive time and a quarter for Sunday work, at which all the men are employed.

Mr. PEACOCK.—It is only fair to the Council Managers to explain that this clause was put in simply to enable the gas companies to be registered. Some of the companies registered, but others did not. The matter was referred to the Crown Law authorities to see if we could get them registered. It was found that the clause was weak, and a note was made that when an Amending Act was brought in that clause should be amended so that they could be brought in. No request ever came as to the rate of wages, not even an anonymous letter as to sweating. I think we can fairly give way in this matter to the Council.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Then we will strike out gas and electricity. Now, with regard to clay-pits and quarries, we think that where there are pottery works or brick-yards, and on the land adjoining those places, and belonging to them, there are pits or quarries, then clearly those pits and quarries ought to come under the Act. It is evident, however, that the words "in connexion with" are too wide, because some clay comes from Bendigo to Brunswick, and some from Bacchus Marsh, and it was never intended those places should come under this clause.

Mr. WATT.—It was never intended to do that; the trouble was that in one case a very large brick-yard has a pottery across the street.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Would it do to say "worked in connexion with or proximity to"? Some of these clay-pits may be the freehold property of the brick-yards, and some may be leased. How would it do to say "clay-pits and quarries owned or leased by potteries or brick-yards"?

Mr. WATT.—That would bring in the Bendigo works.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I think not. I think the stuff is bought at so much per ton.

Mr. PEACOCK.—There is only one case that I know of in which they bring it from any distance.

Mr. IRVINE.—I will draft a clause to meet your wishes.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—With regard to our amendments on clause 43, the position of matters is this—Under the Act at present, and since it has been in operation, any trade can, by petition, decide that they wish to close on a certain day of the week, and that has been done in a considerable number of cases in the suburbs and elsewhere. At present, however, if a trade does not petition, the individual traders may keep open every day in the week if they choose, the only condition being that they must give their employés a half-holiday. There are a large number of small traders employing a very few hands, and many without any hands at all, excepting their own families, who have been struggling for years past, and to them the fact of keeping open or closing for an afternoon is practically the difference between living and insolvency. I am stating this as an absolute fact within my own knowledge. That applies to a large number in the suburbs, and even some in the city, and they appeal to the Council to leave things as they are. They say—"We have not the slightest objection to give our employés holidays, but we do not want to be forced to close our shops." Supposing Wednesday is decided upon as the day to close, and Tuesday is a wet day, there are two afternoons gone out of that week, and so close are they put to it now to make both ends meet that it is no flight of fancy to say that it means, in a good many cases, solvency or insolvency. It has been urged that the present plan does not give the employés fair play—that they are told all of a sudden that they may take a half-holiday. That occurs in very few cases, or it would utterly disorganize trade. You will find that, in the vast majority of cases, the employés know beforehand the afternoon on which they will have to take their half-holiday. That is more particularly the case in the larger shops, employing five or six hands and upwards. In those cases it is absolutely necessary, because the employers have to get in relieving hands for the afternoon during which their other employés are away, and that is a source of income to no inconsiderable number of employés, but if the shop is compelled to be closed on that afternoon, that source of income will be absolutely cut off from those relieving salesmen, so the compulsory closing would have an injurious effect upon the class of employés who now do get a certain amount of income from that source. In addition to that, the compulsory closing will be a cruel thing to a large number of small traders. It does not matter so much to the large traders, though a number of them prefer to keep open all the week round and have the relieving salesmen coming in. Those are the reasons I strongly urge the Members of the Assembly, in justice to the small men particularly, not to press this amendment.

Mr. McLEAN.—The petitions that came in with reference to this half-holiday were 4,300 for Saturday and 2,500 for Wednesday.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—That is the employés?

Mr. McLEAN.—No, the employers.

Mr. PEACOCK.—This question has been agitating the suburbs for a long time. After the Shops Act of 1896 was passed no subject was more fully discussed in the press and at meetings than the question

of Wednesday and Saturday, and there was a good deal of feeling. The deputations that waited on me were strongly against its being made compulsory to have either day, and our House was practically unanimous that we should leave it optional. Numbers of the shopkeepers are in this position, that they have to give their employés a half-holiday in the week, but they have to have no holiday themselves, and a large proportion of them are strong advocates for a holiday. The whole of the butchers close on Wednesday right through the metropolitan district. There must be a section of that trade that is struggling, and yet there have been no complaints, because the holiday is generally taken. In the town of Brunswick the drapers, hay and corn dealers, and pawnbrokers all close on the Wednesday. In Footscray the grocers, boot and shoe dealers, and hay, corn, and chaff dealers close, some on Wednesday, some on Thursday, and some on Saturday. In Hawthorn the grocers, drapers, boots and shoe dealers, hay and corn dealers, and dairy produce merchants close on Wednesday. In Northcote all the shops close on the Wednesday. In Prahran the grocers, pawnbrokers, boots and shoe dealers close on Wednesday; in South Melbourne the grocers, hay and corn dealers, oil and colour men, hardware dealers, and ironmongers close on Wednesday. There was a meeting called by the shopkeepers in the Town Hall, Melbourne, to consider the Bill which was foreshadowed by the Chief Inspector, eighteen months ago, as a solution of the difficulty. That was one of the largest meetings that ever met to discuss the question, and they unanimously approved of the suggestion that it should be Wednesday or Saturday optionally. In the suburbs Wednesday seems to be the day that meets with general approval, whereas in the city Saturday seems to be the day.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—Some of them close on Thursdays; what happens then?

Mr. PEACOCK.—Just before I left office some of the Thursday people were changing to the Wednesday, and Wednesday was getting to be the day generally chosen. I never heard one protest, all the time I was receiving deputations, against this suggestion. Numbers of the small shopkeepers said they never got a holiday, but their employés did, and they had a grievance against Parliament for giving the employés a holiday and not giving it to them.

Mr. WATT.—It is to the half-holiday being made compulsory that you object, not to the question of whether it is Wednesday or Saturday?

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—Yes. This is evidently a very important matter, and it is surrounded with great difficulties. There is considerable difference of opinion, and, as far as I can ascertain, the difference is increasing instead of decreasing, and there is an increasing feeling in favour of its not being compulsory. The Royal Commission that is about to sit will be appointed in a few months, and the Council is unanimously in favour of leaving this large question to be looked thoroughly into by that Commission. It will have to look into another cognate question, that is the question of the hours of closing, which is almost as difficult, in some respects it is more difficult, because on one side of the street you may have a shop closed at seven, and on the other side not till eight. That seems to me to go hand in hand with the Wednesday afternoon. I know the question of hours will be forcibly brought up before the commission, and I would strongly urge upon the Managers of the Assembly to let the present provisions stand as they are until the report of the Commission is received.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—Many people have waited on me from the district I represent, and I strongly urge the views brought forward by Sir Frederick Sargood. They do not want to shut up their shops, and it will be absolute ruin to them.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—If they all have to shut up on a particular day I fail to see how those men are to be ruined. If one afternoon a week will drive them to the Insolvent Court they must be in a very bad way.

Mr. GRIMWADE.—They are.

Mr. KNOX.—It is a very important change, and might be well left to the consideration of the Royal Commission.

Mr. WATT.—I live in and represent a district where the conditions mentioned by Sir Frederick Sargood would apply as keenly as in any of the other suburbs, and I have never heard the opinion expressed that it would mean insolvency. I know the small man has a violent objection to being compelled to close, but it is in the interests of proper business competition that he should do so, if the larger houses close. I know there is great diversity of opinion on the subject. I am willing to let it rest for the present, though I would rather see it through.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—There is one thing we ought to deal with. It is provided that the Act shall come into operation on the 1st of March next, but that is an impossibility. I think we ought to agree that the Act shall come into operation on the 1st of May.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—We are quite willing to agree to that. It will be necessary to appoint a small sub-committee to deal with the drafting of these amendments which, I presume, will be submitted to a further and final meeting of the Managers. With your consent, I move that the Drafting Committee consist of the Attorney-General, Sir George Turner, the Honorable T. C. Harwood, and myself.

Mr. PEACOCK.—I second that.—Carried.

The Conference then adjourned until half-past Two o'clock.

On resuming—

Mr. IRVINE.—The Drafting Committee have completed their labours, and have practically completed the drafting of the necessary alterations. They have agreed upon a report, stating the gist of the alterations to be presented to each House, in the following terms:—

1. That the Conference has arrived at an agreement upon all the points of difference between the two Houses.
2. That amendments embodying the result of its agreement will be printed and circulated at the earliest moment possible.
3. That the Conference has agreed to omit in clause 13 the words "any building or place in which gas or electricity is prepared or produced."
4. That the Conference has agreed to certain amendments in clause 16 under which the Governor in Council may on the resolution of either House appoint Special Boards to be elected as prescribed.
5. That it is agreed that as to the clothing trade there shall be only one Board.
6. That the question of fixing piece-work prices or rates in lieu of wages shall be decided by the Special Board on appeal by the employer.
7. That clause 36, relating to the compulsory half-holiday, shall be omitted.
8. That clause 41, limiting the hours of male shop assistants, shall be confined to the Metropolitan district.
9. That clause 43, giving power to the Governor in Council to limit the hours for carters and carriers and providing for a half-holiday, shall be made applicable to the Metropolitan district only.
10. That the Act shall remain in force for two years and thence until the end of the next ensuing session of Parliament.

It was quite impossible to present a report which would embody in detail all the amendments or agreements that have been made, and it was thought sufficient to state in this form the gist of all those that were thought of sufficient importance. The amendments are practically completed, with the exception of one or two verbal amendments.

Mr. LEVI.—I certainly disagree with some of the amendments.

Sir FREDERICK SARGOOD.—I think I may state that this report has been agreed upon by all the representatives of the Council and the Assembly, and embodies the leading points upon which agreement has been arrived at. There are a number of minor matters upon which we have already agreed, but it would be impossible in the short time to print and circulate them, therefore, I think that the Managers in both Houses can accept the assurance of the Committee that their wishes have been carried out. It only remains for me to congratulate the Managers upon having arrived at a conclusion of this very troublesome matter, and I may also add the high appreciation of the Managers of the Council of the courtesy they have received at the hands of the Assembly. I have attended more than one Conference, but I have never attended any Conference in which there has been such an evident determination on both sides to deal with the matter calmly and quietly, and I leave this Conference with feelings of great thankfulness and gratitude to the Managers of the Assembly for the way in which they have dealt with us.

Mr. MCLEAN.—I think that if I said "ditto" to all that Sir Frederick Sargood has said, I would express the feelings of all on this side of the table. I think it must be a source of gratification to us all that the Conference has succeeded in settling satisfactorily all the points at issue between the two Houses, without involving any surrender of principle on either side. That result was due to the good feeling on each side. There has been no friction, no display of temper. Every member of the Conference on both sides seemed anxious for only one result, that was to arrive at a satisfactory settlement. I think special thanks are due to Sir Frederick Sargood, not only for the valuable assistance he has rendered all through, and the admirable way he has conducted the proceedings, but for the valuable suggestion he made last night for the adjournment, because I was quite certain last night it was quite impossible for us to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion.

Mr. PEACOCK.—It was contemplated by the late Government—and I have discussed the matter with Sir Frederick Sargood—that there should be a consolidating measure in connexion with these Factories Acts. It is most difficult even for a legal mind, and it is much worse for the average layman, to follow out all the different points. There have been so many Amending Acts passed, and now this measure has gone through. Numbers of our citizens whose business is affected would like to have a consolidating measure, and I think it would be wise for us to consider whether it is not possible to put some one on to this work. It would be of great advantage to every one, directly or indirectly connected with a business, to know exactly what the law is.

Mr. IRVINE.—I heartily agree with the desirability of consolidating these Acts above all others, because it is almost impossible to follow the various divisions from Act to Act, and anything I can do in that way shall be done, though it will necessarily involve an enormous amount of labour.

Mr. PEACOCK.—Can you say about what time it will take?

Mr. IRVINE.—I can give no definite assurance as to that.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—We have officers in the Chief Secretary's department who are thoroughly acquainted with the whole of the working of these Acts, and a little handbook might be prepared for circulation, giving the principal effects of the various Acts, and any cross references that might be required that would be beneficial to the public.

Mr. MCLEAN.—That would do very well in the meantime.

Sir GEORGE TURNER.—A consolidation of this kind would take months to prepare, but that in the meantime might be of use to the persons affected, and the officers might put it in a form that would be readily understood.

Mr. PEACOCK.—It might be done during the recess, and the Government might see if they could not pass a consolidated measure in the special session.

The Conference then rose.

1899-1900.
—
VICTORIA.

REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ON THE

TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE AND MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed, 10th January, 1900.

By Authority:

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EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH OCTOBER, 1899.

6. PETITION.—The Honorable G. Godfrey, by leave, presented a Petition from P. M. Scott, Manager of the Co-operative Coupon Company, Limited, praying that the Council would reject the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill, or appoint a Select Committee to inquire into and report upon the said Bill, and in any case would grant the said company such relief as may appear just to the Council should the Bill become law.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.
- * * * * *
7. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—the Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That this Bill be committed.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, That the Bill be committed to a Select Committee.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Select Committee consist of the Honorables T. Comrie, J. M. Davies, G. Godfrey, D. Ham, T. C. Harwood, W. Knox, W. McCulloch, D. Melville, A. O. Sachse, and the Mover ; such Committee to have power to send for persons, papers, and records ; three to be the quorum.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

TUESDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 1899.

5. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL.—POWER TO HEAR COUNSEL.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill have power to hear counsel (to such extent as they shall think fit) on behalf of persons interested in the Bill.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

TUESDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 1899.

4. PETITIONS.—The following Petitions, praying that the Council would pass the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill, were presented as under :—
- By the Honorable C. J. Ham—
From the President and Members of Council of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce.
- By the Honorable Sir A. Snowden—
From certain shopkeepers and citizens of the Metropolitan District.
From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.
From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.
From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.
- By the Honorable Sir H. Cuthbert—
From certain business people of Maryborough.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.

WEDNESDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER, 1899.

4. PETITIONS. * * * * *
- The following Petitions, praying that the Council would pass the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill, were presented as under :—
- By the Honorable C. J. Ham—
From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.
From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.
- Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.

TUESDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER, 1899.

7. PETITIONS.—The following Petitions, praying that the Council would pass the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill, were presented as under :—
- By the Honorable C. J. Ham—
From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.
From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.
From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.
From certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria.
- By the Honorable S. Williamson—
From certain traders of Beaufort and elsewhere.
From certain traders of Stawell and elsewhere.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.

- * * * * *
10. PETITIONS.—The following Petitions, praying that the Council would pass the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill, were presented by the Honorable J. Y. McDonald :—
- From certain traders of Ballarat.
From certain traders of Ballarat.
From certain traders of Ballarat.
From certain traders of Ballarat.
From certain traders of Ballarat.
From certain traders of Ballarat.
From certain traders of Ballarat.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.

WEDNESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 1899.

5. PETITION.—The Honorable J. Y. McDonald presented a Petition from certain traders of Ballarat, praying that the Council would pass the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.

TUESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

4. PETITIONS.—The Honorable Sir A. Snowden presented a Petition from certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria, praying that the Council would pass the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.
The Honorable Sir A. Snowden presented a Petition from certain persons residing in the colony praying that the Council would reject the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.
Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and referred to the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.

TUESDAY, 9TH JANUARY, 1900.

8. TRADING COUPONS ABOLITION BILL.—The Honorable Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood moved, by leave, That the Honorables J. M. Davies and D. Melville be Members of the Select Committee on the Trading Coupons Abolition Bill.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed by your Honorable House on the 18th October, 1899, and to which was referred "A Bill to prevent the use of Trading Stamps Coupons and other Devices on the Sale or Exchange of Property," have the honour to report as follows:—

Your Committee have met fourteen times and examined 73 witnesses.

Both the supporters and the opponents of the Bill handed in lists of many more witnesses they were prepared to call had your Committee deemed it necessary to obtain more evidence. Your Committee, however, were satisfied that the further evidence proposed to be called would be merely a repetition of statements which had already been made, and that unless some new matter could be adduced it was unnecessary to hear further witnesses.

Your Committee find—

1. That the public at present obtain a discount on their cash purchases not previously given generally by traders.
2. That the discount is, however, not confined to cash purchases but has also been given to an increasing extent on goods sold upon credit.
3. That the average rate of such discount is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the total cash purchases.
4. That it is evident that neither the total volume of trade nor the aggregate amount of cash received by traders can be increased by the issue of coupons, the only result being to divert a certain portion of the cash trade from the trader who cannot give coupons to the trader who does give them.
5. That the traders who issue coupons declare the public do not at present pay higher prices nor obtain inferior goods in consequence of receiving the coupons.
6. It is, however, clear that with the present rate of profits traders cannot continue to allow the discount of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., hence, if the coupon system becomes general, there must be a general increase in the prices the public will have to pay, or the goods sold will be of an inferior quality.
7. That the coupon companies will chiefly benefit from such increased prices, while the public and the traders will suffer.
8. That the witnesses acknowledge that the issue of the coupons being restricted to certain traders creates a monopoly in favour of such traders.
9. That such monopoly is highly detrimental to the interests of the other traders, and if continued must be ruinous to them.
10. That the traders, and through them the public, appear to be unable to protect themselves against the injurious effects of the coupon system, hence their claim for Parliamentary assistance.

11. That the experience in Victoria is too limited to enable your Committee to arrive at any reliable conclusion as to the proportion of coupons never presented to the coupon companies for redemption, but the figures submitted by the companies prove—

- (a) That one company issued 315,500 coupons, and up to 31st October last only 99,000 had been presented for redemption.
- (b) That another company had from August, 1898, to 31st October, 1899, issued 19,516,616 coupons and had redeemed during the same time 8,183,850, leaving unredeemed 11,332,766, representing a cash value of £14,165 19s. 1d. owing to the public on 31st October, 1899.

12. That many of the witnesses called stated that the issue of coupons encouraged thrift amongst the working classes, but your Committee fail to see that such a result has been or can be attained.

The attention of your Committee has been called to the fact that clause 2 of the Bill provides, *inter alia*, “no person or company other than the person so selling or disposing of the property shall deliver any goods wares or merchandise upon presentation or sight of such stamp coupon or other device.” As this would render it illegal for the coupon companies (in the event of the Bill becoming law) to redeem their outstanding coupons an amendment to meet this case will be necessary.

After careful consideration, your Committee are of opinion that, in the general interests of the public and of legitimate trading, Parliament should give its assent to the Bill, but your Committee express no opinion as to whether persons who may be injuriously affected should receive compensation.

10th January, 1900.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

TUESDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 1899.

Members present :

The Hon. J. M. Davies
G. Godfrey
D. Ham
T. C. Harwood
W. Knox

The Hon. W. McCulloch
D. Melville
A. O. Sachse
Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood.

The Clerk read extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the 18th October, referring to the appointment of the Committee.

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. Sargood was called to the Chair.

A letter was read from Percy M. Scott, manager of the Co-operative Coupon Company, Limited, 107 Swanston-street, asking that the company be heard by counsel, and be allowed a week to prepare its case.

The Committee deliberated.

Ordered—That power be asked from the Council to hear counsel (to such extent as the Committee shall think fit) on behalf of persons interested in the Bill.

Ordered—That the evidence from the Co-operative Coupon Company be heard on Tuesday next, at half-past Two o'clock.

The Clerk read a Petition from the manager of the Co-operative Coupon Company, referred by the Council to the Committee.

Ordered—That the Co-operative Coupon Company be directed to produce its prospectus, balance-sheets, articles of association, and coupon books.

The Committee adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Two o'clock.

TUESDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 1899.

Members present :

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair ;	
The Hon. T. Comrie J. M. Davies G. Godfrey D. Ham	The Hon. T. C. Harwood W. Knox D. Melville A. O. Sachse.

The Clerk read extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the 24th October, referring to the power of the Committee to hear counsel.

Mr. Coldham, instructed by Mr. A. C. Walker, appeared on behalf of the Co-operative Coupon Company.

Mr. Deakin, instructed by Mr. J. C. Stewart, of Messrs. Malleison, England, and Stewart, appeared on behalf of traders in favour of the Bill.

Percy Macdonnell Scott examined by Mr. Coldham.

The Hon. D. Ham here entered the room and took his seat.

Examination of witness continued.

The Hon. T. C. Harwood here entered the room and took his seat.

Examination of witness continued.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

The Committee adjourned until to-morrow, at half-past Two o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present :

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair ;	
The Hon. T. Comrie J. M. Davies G. Godfrey D. Ham	The Hon. T. C. Harwood W. Knox A. O. Sachse.

The counsel and parties were called in.

Mr. Stewart, in the absence of Mr. Deakin, claimed, on behalf of traders, the right to examine witnesses on the balance-sheets put in by the Co-operative Coupon Company.

Mr. Coldham stated that he had no objection, if the proceedings were not published.

The room was cleared.

The Committee deliberated.

The Hon. D. Ham here entered the room and took his seat.

The Committee deliberated.

The counsel and parties were called in.

The Chairman announced that the Committee had decided that the contents of the general balance-sheet should be public, but that other details supplied would be treated at present as private information for the Committee.

Mr. Coldham was heard to address the Committee.

Mr. Deakin was heard to address the Committee.

Percy Macdonnell Scott further examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

John Fallon examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

The Committee adjourned until to-morrow, at half-past Three o'clock.

THURSDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present:

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair ;

The Hon. T. Comrie
J. M. Davies
G. Godfrey
T. C. Harwood

The Hon. W. Knox
D. Melville
A. O. Sachse.

The counsel and parties were called in.

Percival S. Laird examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Benjamin Pennington examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Alexander Dick examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

William Powne examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

James Levens examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Frank D. R. Pickersgill examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Joseph Dutton Bailey examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Francis Longmore examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Henry A. Pouton examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

James Ballantine examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Robert Gregg examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Alfred Horsley examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Thomas Henry Deakin examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Elijah Easterbrook examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

John Howie examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

The Committee adjourned until to-morrow, at half-past Three o'clock.

FRIDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present :

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair ;	
The Hon. J. M. Davies G. Godfrey W. Knox	The Hon. D. Melville A. O. Sachse.

The counsel and parties were called in.

Petitions from the president and members of the council of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce, shopkeepers, and citizens of the Metropolitan district, certain business people at Maryborough, and certain representatives of the wholesale and retail trade of Victoria, which were referred by the Council to the Committee, were laid before the Committee.

Richard Prichard examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

The Hon. A. O. Sachse here entered the room and took his seat.

Examination of witness continued.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Harry Wallis examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

William Snell examined by Mr. Coldham.

Frederick Usher examined by Mr. Coldham.

The Hon. W. Knox here entered the room and took his seat.

William J. Peirce examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Robert Davison examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Edward Thompson examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Mortimer Griffiths examined by Mr. Coldham.

Reuben Auty examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Edward Lee examined by Mr. Coldham.

Samuel G. Gaylard examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

The Committee adjourned until Wednesday next, at half-past Three o'clock.

TUESDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present :

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair ;	
The Hon. T. Comrie J. M. Davies G. Godfrey T. C. Harwood	The Hon. W. Knox D. Melville A. O. Sachse.

The counsel and parties were called in.

The room was cleared.

The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Walker, solicitor for the Co-operative Coupon Company, relative to the calling of 27 witnesses from the country, together with the Chairman's minute thereon reducing the number to 15, also Mr. Walker's letter in reply protesting against the closing of the company's case on that day.

The Committee deliberated.

The counsel and parties were called in.

The Chairman announced that the Committee had decided that they were prepared to take for granted that the company could produce more witnesses to give evidence similar to what had already been given ; that the Committee would exercise the right of calling upon the company to produce further witnesses if it were thought necessary ; but that, before calling any of those witnesses, a list of the names and an abstract of the evidence to be given should be submitted to the Committee in order to prevent a waste of time by repetition.

Mr. Coldham was heard to address the Committee.

David McGrath examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Adam Ramage examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Hugh Lonie examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

William Henry Potter examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

W. H. Blezard examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

J. A. Hamilton examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Robert Williams examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 George H. Smith examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 John F. Moore examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 W. A. McNamara examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 Henry W. Nash examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by Mr. Stewart.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 Thomas Crawford examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by Mr. Stewart.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 Harry Dolly examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by Mr. Stewart.
 Thomas Freeman examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 The Hon. W. Knox here entered the room and took his seat.
 Examination of witness continued.
 Henry G. Mudie examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 Maurice Blayney examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 David Davis examined by Mr. Coldham.
 The Hon. A. O. Sachse here entered the room and took his seat.
 James Herschell examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 The Committee adjourned until to-morrow, at half-past Two o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present:

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair ;	
The Hon. T. Comrie J. M. Davies G. Godfrey T. C. Harwood	The Hon. W. Knox D. Melville A. O. Sachse.

The counsel and parties were called in.

The Clerk read a letter from W. Archer, Richmond Meat Supply, asking for permission to place his and his neighbours' views before the Committee.

Ordered—That a reply be sent stating that the Committee will afford Mr. Archer and his neighbours the opportunity asked for, if it is thought necessary.

John Seidel examined by Mr. Deakin.

The Hon. J. M. Davies here entered the room and took his seat.

Examination of witness continued.

The Hon. D. Melville here entered the room and took his seat.

Examination of witness continued.

Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.

The Hon. A. O. Sachse here entered the room and took his seat.

Examination of witness continued.

The Hon. G. Godfrey here entered the room and took his seat.

Examination of witness continued.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Samuel Epstein examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.

Alexander Cattach examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Ernest Little examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

James H. Mason examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Thomas H. Whitworth examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.

James Collins examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Edward Purvis examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

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Percy Rendle examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 The Committee adjourned until to-morrow, at half-past Two o'clock.

THURSDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present :

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair;	
The Hon. T. Comrie	The Hon. W. Knox
J. M. Davies	W. McCulloch
G. Godfrey	D. Melville.
T. C. Harwood	

The counsel and parties were called in.
 David Kerr examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.
 The Hon. G. Godfrey here entered the room and took his seat.
 Examination of witness continued.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 Martin Kennedy examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 Albert J. Thomas examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 William Fimmel examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 James Sainsbery examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.
 William F. Cocks examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 James Alfred Pittard examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 Richard Opie examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 Walter Cornell examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 Robert Harris examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.
 The Committee adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven o'clock.

TUESDAY, 21st NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present :

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair ;	
The Hon. T. Comrie	The Hon. W. Knox
J. M. Davies	D. Melville
G. Godfrey	A. O. Sachse.
D. Ham	

The counsel and parties were called in.
 The Clerk read letters from P. J. Powell, M. Pitman, E. Lloyd (two), F. Cavey (two), and W. Robinson in favour of the coupon system, and against the Bill.

The Clerk of the Parliaments requested the ruling of the Chairman on the contention of Mr. Walker, solicitor to the Co-operative Coupon Company, contained in three letters which were read, that the three days allowed for the return of some of the witnesses' proofs of evidence was insufficient, and was not in accordance with parliamentary practice as laid down in *May*, which gave six days. Mr. Walker had also intimated that the proofs would not be returned under that time.

The Chairman stated the practice in this matter, and said that the Committee were of opinion the Clerk of the Parliaments had carried out the law and practice of Parliament as laid down in *May*, and that Mr. Walker was incorrect in his contention.

Bernard Trahair examined by Mr. Deakin.
 The Hon. A. O. Sachse here entered the room and took his seat.
 Examination of witness continued.
 Witness examined by Mr. Walker (in the absence of Mr. Coldham).
 The Hon. G. Godfrey here entered the room and took his seat.
 Examination of witness continued.
 Witness examined by the Committee.

Christopher Costello examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 Daniel Buchanan examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 Frederick William McDonald examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.
 Witness examined by the Committee.
 Percy Macdonnell Scott further examined by the Committee.
 The Committee adjourned until to-morrow, at half-past Eleven o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present:

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair ;	
The Hon. T. Comrie	The Hon. W. Knox
J. M. Davies	D. Melville
G. Godfrey	A. O. Sachse.
D. Ham	

The counsel and parties were called in.

The Clerk laid before the Committee Petitions referred to the Committee by the Council from certain wholesale and retail traders of Victoria, certain traders of Beaufort and elsewhere, certain traders of Stawell and elsewhere, and certain traders of Ballarat, all in favour of the Bill.

Charles Bethune examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.

The Hon. W. Knox here entered the room and took his seat.

Examination of witness continued.

Witness examined by the Committee.

John Hardie examined by Mr. Deakin.

The Hon. D. Ham here entered the room and took his seat.

Examination of witness continued.

The Hon. G. Godfrey here entered the room and took his seat.

Examination of witness continued.

Witness examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by the Committee.

The Hon. A. O. Sachse here entered the room and took his seat.

Arthur Lee Crichton examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Richard Edwards examined by Mr. Coldham.

Witness examined by Mr. Deakin.

Witness examined by the Committee.

Joseph D. Bailey further examined by the Committee.

Witness further examined by Mr. Coldham.

The Committee adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven o'clock.

TUESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present:

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair ;	
The Hon. T. Comrie	The Hon. T. C. Harwood
J. M. Davies	W. Knox
G. Godfrey	D. Melville
D. Ham	A. O. Sachse.

The counsel and parties were called in.

The Clerk laid before the Committee a Petition from certain traders of Ballarat, referred by the Council to the Committee.

Mr. Walker, solicitor for the Co-operative Coupon Company, applied for an adjournment until Two o'clock, owing to counsel being unavoidably detained.

The Chairman stated that the Committee would accede to the request on condition that the balance-sheet of the Company asked for was produced for the consideration of the Committee.

Mr. Deakin produced a list of witnesses who, if called, were prepared to give evidence in support of the Bill.

The Hon. D. Melville here entered the room and took his seat.

Mr. Walker objected to the list being accepted as evidence.

The Chairman stated the list would be accepted for what it was worth.

Mr. Walker produced the balance-sheet of the Company to the 30th June, 1899.

The counsel and parties withdrew until Two o'clock.

The Committee deliberated.

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The Hon. G. Godfrey here entered the room and took his seat.
 The Committee further deliberated.
 Percy Macdonnell Scott further examined by the Committee.
 Witness further examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Joseph D. Bailey further examined by the Committee.
 Percy Macdonnell Scott further examined by Mr. Deakin.
 Witness further examined by the Committee.
 The Committee adjourned until to-morrow, at half-past Two o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present :

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair ;	
The Hon. T. Comrie	The Hon. W. Knox
J. M. Davies	W. McCulloch
G. Godfrey	D. Melville
T. C. Harwood	A. O. Sachse.

The counsel and parties were called in.

The Clerk laid before the Committee a Petition from certain wholesale and retail traders of Melbourne in favour of the Bill, and one from certain persons residing in the colony asking for the Bill to be rejected by the Council ; both Petitions referred by the Council to the Committee.

Mr. Deakin was heard to address the Committee.

The Hon. D. Melville here entered the room and took his seat.

Address of counsel continued.

The Hon. G. Godfrey here entered the room and took his seat.

Address of counsel continued.

Mr. Coldham was heard to address the Committee.

Mr. Walker, for the Co-operative Coupon Company, produced a list of witnesses who, if called, were prepared to give evidence in support of the coupon system.

The Committee adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Two o'clock.

TUESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER, 1899.

Members present :

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair ;	
The Hon. T. Comrie	The Hon. W. Knox
G. Godfrey	W. McCulloch
T. C. Harwood	A. O. Sachse.

The Committee considered certain suggestions submitted by the Chairman for a Draft Report.

The suggestions were as follow :—

SUGGESTIONS FOR REPORT.

Your Committee have met thirteen times and examined 73 witnesses.

Both the supporters and opponents of the Bill handed in lists of many more witnesses they were prepared to call if your Committee had deemed it necessary to obtain more evidence.

Your Committee report that the evidence proves that—

1. The public at present obtain a discount on their cash purchases not previously given by the trader.
2. The discount is not confined to cash purchases but has also been given to an increasing extent on goods sold on credit.
3. The average rate of such discount is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the gross cash purchases.
4. It is self-evident that neither the total volume of trade nor the amount of cash can be increased by the issue of coupons, which result only in diverting a certain portion of the cash trade from the trader who cannot give coupons to the trader who does issue them.
5. The evidence is contradictory as to whether the public do or do not pay higher prices or obtain inferior goods in consequence of receiving the coupons.
6. It is clear that with the present rate of profits traders cannot continue to allow the discount of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., hence the prices of goods must in the near future be increased to the public.
7. All the witnesses acknowledge that the issue of the coupons being restricted to certain traders creates a monopoly in favour of such traders.
8. Such monopoly is detrimental to the interests of the other traders.
9. If the coupon system becomes general there must be a general increase in the prices the public will have to pay.
10. The coupon company will alone benefit from such increased prices, while the public and traders will suffer.
11. The traders, and through them the public, appear to be unable to protect themselves against the injurious effects of the coupon system, hence their demand for Parliamentary assistance.

12. The experience here is too limited to arrive at any conclusion as to the proportion of coupons never presented to the coupon company for payment, but the figures submitted prove—

- (a) That one small company issued 315,500 coupons, and up to 31st October only 99,000 had been presented for redemption.
- (b) That another company had from August, 1898, to 31st October, 1899, issued 19,516,616 coupons, and redeemed during the same time 8,183,850, leaving unredeemed 11,332,766, representing a cash value of £14,165 19s. 1d. as owing to the public on 31st October, 1899.

13. The attention of your Committee has been called to the fact that clause 2 of the Bill provides “no person or company other than the person so selling or disposing of property shall deliver any goods wares or merchandise upon presentation or sight of such stamp coupon or other device.” As this would render it illegal for the coupon companies (in the event of the Bill becoming law) to redeem their outstanding coupons an amendment to meet this case will be necessary.

After careful consideration your Committee are of opinion that in the general interests of the public and of legitimate trade Parliament should give its assent to the Bill.

Paragraph 1 was agreed to.

Paragraph 2 was amended, and at the end of the paragraph the following words were ordered to be added—“Your Committee, however, were satisfied that the further evidence proposed to be called would be merely a repetition of statements which had already been made, and that, unless some new matter could be adduced, it was unnecessary to hear further witnesses.”

Sub-paragraphs 1 to 4 were amended and agreed to.

Sub-paragraph 5 was omitted, and the following sub-paragraph inserted:—“That the traders who issue coupons declare that the public do not at present pay higher prices nor obtain inferior goods in consequence of receiving the coupons.”

Sub-paragraphs 6 and 7 were amended and agreed to.

Sub-paragraph 8—Question put—That sub-paragraph 8 be amended by the insertion of the word “highly” after “is” in the first line, and by the addition of the following words at the end of the sub-paragraph—“and if continued must be ruinous to them.”

The Hon. W. McCulloch here entered the room and took his seat.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 4.

The Hon. T. Comrie
T. C. Harwood
W. Knox
A. O. Sachse.

Noes, 2.

The Hon. G. Godfrey
W. McCulloch.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Sub-paragraph 8, as amended, was agreed to.

Sub-paragraphs 9 and 10 were amended and agreed to.

Sub-paragraph 11—The Hon. G. Godfrey moved—“That sub-paragraph 11 be omitted.”

Question—put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 2.

The Hon. G. Godfrey
W. McCulloch.

Noes, 4.

The Hon. T. Comrie
T. C. Harwood
W. Knox
A. O. Sachse.

And so it passed in the negative.

Sub-paragraph 11 was amended and agreed to.

Sub-paragraphs 12 and 13 were agreed to.

Ordered—That the following new sub-paragraph be inserted—“That many of the witnesses called stated that the issue of coupons encouraged thrift amongst the working classes, but your Committee fail to see that such a result has been or can be obtained.”

Question—That the last paragraph stand part of the Draft Report—put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 4.

The Hon. T. Comrie
T. C. Harwood
W. Knox
A. O. Sachse.

Noes, 2.

The Hon. G. Godfrey
W. McCulloch.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

The Committee adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, 10TH JANUARY, 1900.

Members present :

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair ;

The Hon. T. Comrie
J. M. Davies

The Hon. T. C. Harwood
D. Ham.

The Chairman submitted the Draft Report, which was amended and agreed to.

Ordered—That the Chairman report to the Council.

The Committee adjourned.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

TUESDAY, 31st OCTOBER, 1899.

Members present :

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair ;		
The Hon. J. M. Davies,	|	The Hon. D. Melville,
The Hon. G. Godfrey,		The Hon. W. Knox,
The Hon. T. Comrie,		The Hon. D. Ham,
The Hon. A. O. Sachse,		The Hon. T. C. Harwood.

Mr. Coldham (instructed by Mr. A. C. Walker) appeared for the Co-operative Coupon Company.

Mr. Deakin (instructed by Mr. J. C. Stewart, of Messrs. Malleon, England, and Stewart) appeared in support of the Bill.

Percy M. Scott, examined.

1. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—Manager of the Co-operative Coupon Company ; I appear here to oppose the Bill.

2. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you occupied the position of manager of this company?—For eight months ; since February of this year.

3. Is the company incorporated in Victoria?—It is registered here under the foreign Companies Act ; it is incorporated in New South Wales.

4. Will you explain the objects of the company as it is at present carried on?—Primarily the encouragement of cash trade, and to increase the turnover of those who give out our coupons. It also has for its object the encouragement of thrift, and co-operation with the public, who receive certain benefits by collecting the coupons. The tradesman and the public are alike benefited—the tradesman is benefited by the encouragement of cash trade and increased turnover, giving him more cash to spend, and the public benefit by getting what they never could get before under any other system, a discount for cash on small purchases.

5. What is the system you adopt?—We, as a company, took over this business in Victoria as the Co-operative Coupon Company Limited ; we copyrighted the coupon in Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia, where we are at the present time carrying on business. I produce the memorandum and articles of association—[*handing in the same*].

6. What do you mean by "taking over the business?" was there an existing business then?—I can only go by the articles of association, and one clause says—" (1) To acquire and take over as a going concern the business and undertaking now being carried on at Melbourne, in the colony of Victoria, under the style or firm of the Co-operative Coupon Company, and all of the assets and liabilities of the proprietor of that business in connexion therewith, including the benefit of all contracts in connexion therewith, and with a view thereto to enter into an agreement, a draft of which has already been prepared, and is expressed to be made between David Brown Thomas of the one part, and the Co-operative Coupon Company Limited of the other part, a copy whereof has for the purpose of identification been subscribed by Goddard William Ash, a solicitor of the Supreme Court, and to carry the same into effect with or without modification. (2) To carry on in all its branches the business heretofore carried on as aforesaid as the Co-operative Coupon Company."

7. When you came here you found an existing business, the management of which you took over?—That is so.

8. How do you carry out your business?—The methods of the company at that time were that they had a coupon which had been copyrighted, and was known as the Co-operative Coupon. The company organized their system of business, and said—"We will make this coupon of value to the public, and ask traders to distribute the coupon, which has a specific value, in lieu of a cash discount, and as an inducement to their customers to do a cash trade. This coupon will be redeemed by our company in due course." We then went to the traders and asked them to adopt this system of giving cash discount to their customers, with the result that a great number took our system up, and distributed our coupons to their customers, which are being redeemed every day. The traders have found that it has been a great advantage to them.

9. Your company prints these coupons in large numbers?—Yes.

10. How do you distribute them to the traders?—They are distributed to the traders under the form of agreement.

11. During your term of office you have entered into two distinct forms of agreement with the traders who buy your coupons?—There is only one agreement ; the original agreement has an amended clause in red ink across the face of it :—"We hereby agree not to supply any other tradesman with coupons under any circumstances."

12. When was that particular part of your agreement discontinued?—That is the latest edition ; there is another form that is obsolete ; it was used for the first three months.

13. When did that form of agreement come into operation?—It was in operation before I came to Melbourne.

14. Does that agreement contemplate the giving of coupons by retailers in respect of any sales except cash sales?—No.

15. Under that agreement you supply coupons to the retailers?—Yes, at the price shown in the agreement, 2s. 6d. per 100, less 4 per cent. for cash.

16. What would the retailer have to pay for 500 coupons?—12s. 6d. on credit, but if he paid cash he would get 4 per cent. discount.

17. Are all the coupons that you issue of the same value?—Yes, I believe the value is three-tenths of a penny.
18. Each individual coupon represents a percentage upon what minimum sale?—6d. for each coupon.
19. Supposing instead of a 6d. purchase there is a purchase to the value of 11d., how many coupons are distributed to the purchaser?—Only one.
20. And on a 5d. purchase?—No coupons.
21. What is the system under which it is contemplated that these coupons will be distributed by the retailers?—On cash payments only in the first place at the rate of one for every 6d. in cash spent in the shop. The agreement binds them down to give the coupons for cash only, and they are not allowed to give them for credit sales. No coupon is given for the odd money between the sixpences. For a purchase to the value of 1s. two coupons are given, and up to 1s. 5d. only two coupons are given, and so on.
22. When the retailers have distributed the coupons, what is the system whereby they are brought back to the Co-operative Company?—They are pasted into books until the book is full. Each book holds 495 coupons.
23. Do all the books issued hold the same number?—No, some hold 990; those are what are called full books. The books produced are called half-books.
24. Supposing a customer has filled up one of those books, what course does he pursue?—He brings his book to the company's show-rooms, and receives goods to the face value of the coupons, which is a shade under 12s. 6d. for a half-book.
25. What class of goods do you supply in exchange for these coupons?—We supply a variety of goods, principally electro-plated ware, crockery, vases, clocks, lamps, watches, and all classes of goods which are retailed in Melbourne which are supposed to carry a good profit.
26. You only give those goods which carry a large percentage of profit?—Yes, those are the only goods we deal in. We do not supply fencing wire, or galvanized iron for instance.
27. Do you personally attend to the supply of customers with the goods in exchange for coupons?—No, my manager, Mr. Bailey, does that.
28. Is he under an agreement with you?—Yes, this is the agreement—[*producing the same*]—it was made by my predecessor, Mr. Thomas.
29. Is he still with you?—Yes.
30. Has there been any variation of the instructions given in that agreement?—There has been no variation of the instructions; there have been from time to time verbal instructions from me to see that the goods are marked at the coupon value in the show-room, so that everyone can see what the prices are, and that they are not above the ordinary retail price at which the same goods are sold elsewhere.
31. Is your show-room available for inspection by the Members of the Committee?—Yes.
32. Can they see the value at which your goods are marked?—They can.
33. It has been suggested that some of your goods could be purchased at a less price at some of the retail establishments in the city?—We do not profess to mark our goods either above or below, but we say the average value we offer to the public for coupons is the average value asked by retail shopkeepers elsewhere. We do not promise that every lamp that we sell for 12s. 6d. will be asked the same price for elsewhere; it may be 10s. or it may be 15s., but we say our average values will compare favorably with the average values in the city of Melbourne or elsewhere.
34. If you added up the coupon values of all the goods offered for sale in your show-rooms, and took the value of those goods in the retail shops throughout Melbourne, they would about correspond?—They would; we recognise that we have masters as well as the ordinary retailer. Our masters are the public, and if the public are not satisfied with the value of goods they receive from us, there would be a dearth of collectors, the people would say the coupons were not worth collecting, and they would not take the trouble to collect them.
35. Have you had letters from large numbers of persons who have received goods in exchange for coupons, expressing opinions as to the value of them?—We say that those who get goods are perfectly satisfied with what they get for their coupons when they leave the show-rooms. While they are there looking at the goods we never hear a complaint, and lately we have received letters from a good many people who have had goods in exchange for coupons, certifying that they are satisfied with the values given.
36. Those letters were obtained for the purpose of producing before this Committee?—Yes.
37. Have you those letters here?—Yes, they were obtained when Mr. McGregor introduced the Bill into the Legislative Assembly.
38. What advantages do you allege that the retailer can possibly gain from the supply of those coupons by you?—In the first place they gain an advantage in the encouragement of a cash trade, and an increase in the turnover, thus giving them more cash to spend, and probably a freer hand in buying.
39. Does it affect the question of bad or doubtful debts?—It reduces the liability to bad debts through their not having so many people on their books, and they have not to go to the expense of soliciting orders to the same extent as they had before.
40. Does it have any effect upon the distribution of orders?—A great many traders will not give coupons if they have to deliver the goods. I do not say that it is the general practice.
41. Does it affect the cost of collecting monthly accounts?—It makes the difference that a cash trade against a credit trade always makes; it is only recently that I have noticed in a great many insolvencies a man who is earning £2 or £3 per week has been running up bills, and I have seen criticisms from Judge Molesworth about the folly of giving those people credit; a good many of our traders say that they have induced many of their customers to pay cash who formerly used to run up bills; no doubt our system has been a great inducement to cash trading.
42. Is not the retailer who receives cash in a better position when he comes to buy from a wholesale man?—Yes, he has more cash to spend; he can pay cash for his goods, and, therefore, he can get a discount on the amount of his purchases.
43. In addition to that do you assist the trader in any way as far as the advertising of his shop or his wares is concerned?—We advertise them very freely; we spend a great amount of money in advertising. Under the agreement we agree to advertise the issue of coupons, it is a distinct contract between us. He agrees to distribute our coupons and pay us for them, and we agree to advertise him.

44. Do you in fact advertise on behalf of the people who take coupons from you?—We advertise freely in all the suburbs.

45. In what form do you advertise?—In all forms; we advertise in something like 40 papers in Melbourne. We advertise our traders collectively; we advertise by the distribution of these books; we advertise by a personal canvass to householders; and we print and publish signs for display in the tradesmen's windows, by which a purchaser going down the street will know that that particular tradesman gives coupons. We also supply printed matter free of charge. In addition to that we enter into extensive contracts for posters which we have displayed on all the Victorian railways, on the tramways, and on all the hoardings in the city and suburbs for the purpose of directing trade to the distributors of coupons.

46. You do not pretend that the issue of these coupons increases the volume of trade to any appreciable extent?—No.

47. The effect is simply to attract trade from the other retailers to the man you advertise?—That is so.

48. Do you regard it as anything more than a mere advertisement?—I do not regard the company as anything more than an advertising agency to attract custom from one man to another. One man may spend £1,000 a year in advertising, and another may not spend a penny, and the man who advertises will naturally do more trade than the other.

49. It has been stated in some of the documents that have been referred to in Parliament that this system means a 5 per cent. tax on the gross receipts of the retailer?—That is stated by our opponents when the thing is being discussed outside. Our opponents say they cannot afford to give 5 per cent. away.

50. The 5 per cent. is not upon the gross takings, but upon the cash takings?—The 5 per cent., if it is called 5 per cent., is upon their cash takings only, it does not refer to their credit takings.

51. What have you to say as to the statement that these coupons represent a tax of 5 per cent. upon the gross cash takings?—That is not correct. Our agreement says they shall give one coupon, and one only, when asked for; they are not supposed to give coupons unless they are asked for; if they do so, they do it to encourage trade; some do, and some do not do it, therefore a certain percentage of cash customers spend their cash, and are not collecting coupons, because they do not ask for them. That proportion of the trade is done without coupons. Others go in and buy goods to small amounts between the various sixpences—they buy 9d., or 1s. 5d. worth, on which only a certain proportion of coupons is given. Taking all these things into consideration, it costs the retailer on the average from 3 per cent. to 3½ per cent. and not 5 per cent., as has been publicly stated.

52. What does your source of income arise from?—From the distribution of goods in exchange for the coupons for which money has been received—in the difference between the wholesale and the retail price.

53. Out of that difference what charges have you to meet?—It is necessary to maintain premises, to stock them, to maintain a staff to conduct the business, to advertise the traders, pay for the cost of all stationery and printing connected with the business, make a personal canvass for business, and, in fact, defray the general expenses of an ordinary business, with the cost of advertising our members in addition.

54. It was suggested in the discussion on the second reading of the Bill that the soliciting of the patronage of the distributors was practically a system of black-mail, what do you say in answer to that?—That is an incorrect statement altogether. Since I came to manage this business I have only had two canvassers employed in Victoria, Mr. Ballantine and Mr. Pickersgill.

55. What are your instructions to the canvassers?—Merely to put before traders the advantages of adopting this system as a means of encouraging trade and increasing the turnover.

56. Have you ever heard a suggestion of black-mail from any source whatever except from the opponents of this system?—Never.

57. How many retailers have you now on your books who supply coupons?—In Victoria, I think, 2,200.

58. Have you received testimonials from numbers of those traders with regard to the success of the system?—Yes.

59. How many out of all those who have taken your coupons have since ceased to take them?—I think we have more traders on our books at the present time than we ever had before. Some traders when there was not a great demand for the coupons said they did not think they would continue them, but they have since taken them on again, and are distributing them to-day with very great success.

60. Have you witnesses available to give evidence as to the effect the system has had upon their business?—I have.

61. In addition to the Melbourne branches what other branches have you in Victoria?—We have a branch in Ballarat and another in Geelong, both conducted under the same system.

62. When is your yearly balance?—June 30th. I have a balance-sheet here. I produce three balance-sheets for the information of the Committee.

63. Do those balance-sheets correctly represent the trading as shown by your books for Melbourne, Geelong, and Ballarat, up to the 30th June last?—Yes, as far as I know.

64. What is the system of bookkeeping adopted; have you a separate account for the Victorian business as a whole?—We keep a separate account for the various branches of the Victorian business.

65. What becomes of the balance-sheets?—They are sent to the head office at Sydney.

66. Does the head office make any charge against the Victorian branch for supervision?—No.

67. Do you pursue the same method of advertisement with regard to Geelong and Ballarat that you do in Melbourne?—Precisely the same.

68. It has been suggested that there are only two methods possible whereby the retailers will be able to bear this tax you put upon them—either by reducing the quality of their goods or by sweating their employés, what have you to say as to that?—That is a statement that is made use of by our opponents, but we can refute it; it is made without any just grounds; there is no justification for it whatever. I do not ask the Committee to take my word for anything I say, but I say that is quite untrue, and I propose to produce evidence to refute it.

69. Have you been in communication constantly with the men who take your coupons for the purpose of distribution?—Yes.

70. And you have assured yourself upon that point?—I have.

71. It is stated also that you agree to supply only one person in a particular trade in a particular block or in a certain street—do you know whether it is an ordinary thing for special concessions to be made to special classes of persons who are distributing certain classes of goods?—We have no standing rule as to that, but we do not profess to supply everybody. We consider the coupon which has been copyrighted, and on which some thousands of pounds have been spent to make it of value to the public, and to make it well known, is wholly and solely our property, and we have a right to do with it what we like; no one else has spent money on it, and if we go to a trader and say—“You assist us in distributing this coupon, which is copyright, and which is ours, and we will give you a certain amount of protection.” We consider we have a right to offer him that protection. On the other hand, if we go to a trader, who is some distance away from a centre, he may say—“This will cost me money, and I will get no profit from it for some time, will you give me some protection—will you protect me against the man on each side of me,” and we say “Yes.” That man distributes the coupons for some time, and does not get any benefit until the public get to know that it is of value to them to collect the coupons, and then they go to him for their orders. Then the man next to him comes to me and asks me to supply him with coupons, but I say—“No, we cannot do it.” We have a perfect right to supply coupons to any one we think fit—we claim that right.

72. Is this granting of monopolies to any particular trader peculiar to your company?—Decidedly not, it occurs in cases of every-day trading. Every day merchants go to certain firms and say—“We have some very nice goods to offer.” The other man says—“I will give you an order, but I want the sole right of distribution, or the sole right of sale.” Then the merchant says—“All right, how many are you prepared to order?” That is the regular way of doing business; it is a practice which is very common in trade.

73. Do you claim any monopoly for the coupon system—suppose a cash grocer wants to pay 5 per cent. discount, but objects to your company, is there anything to prevent his giving that discount in any form he likes?—There is nothing to prevent his giving the same discount we give, or a bigger one if he likes; we do not claim any right to the system, it is only to our coupons that we claim a right.

74. Is the system peculiar to Victoria?—No, there are other companies in New South Wales.

75. Have they reputable men attached to them?—There is the Merchants' Discount Coupon Company, which was started in New South Wales before we started there.

76. Who were the original directors?—It is a limited company. Then there is the Traders' Mutual Coupon Company, the directors of which, in Sydney, are Mr. Hoskins, of William Gardiner and Company, Mr. Keep, of John Keep and Sons, J. P. McArthur, of W. and A. McArthur, and Mr. Tillock, of the firm of Tillock and Co., wholesale grocers. They are in competition with us in Sydney.

77. In addition to the Traders' Mutual Coupon Company, how many other companies are in operation in Sydney?—One, known as the Merchants' Discount Coupon Company.

78. Is there anything of the lottery system in your company?—Nothing whatever; each coupon has its specific value. I think the actual value of one coupon is three-tenths of a penny—that is the purchasing power.

79. It was suggested during the debate in the Legislative Council that there was no guarantee that your company would be able to fulfil its obligations; is your company in a position to fulfil all the obligations at present outstanding?—Decidedly; the company is in a good financial position, and is prepared to meet all its liabilities. If there is any question of a guarantee the company is quite prepared to do what is required; on the other hand it cannot make laws to govern itself.

80. Supposing Parliament thought it desirable that the company should give a guarantee the same as the trustees companies do, would there be any objection to that?—None whatever.

81. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Your coupons are sold at 2s. 6d. a hundred, or 25s. per thousand?—
Yes.

82. This Traders' Mutual Coupon Company offers to sell them at 20s. a thousand, and in addition promises to return to the coupon buyer 75 per cent. of the net profits of the coupon company?—Yes.

83. Those terms are more liberal than yours?—Yes.

84. They say—“This will materially reduce the actual cost of the coupons”?—I do not understand that prospectus, and I should not like to manage a company that was governed by that prospectus.

85. They go on to say that they guarantee to return to the traders 15 per cent. of the amount paid for coupons at the end of each half-year; you do not do anything of that kind?—No.

86. This company considers the terms which they offer are necessary to establish themselves?—
I do not admit that.

87. Why do they do it then?—They are offering coupons at a “cut” price, probably with the object of getting in or encouraging business.

88. You were not here in the early days of the company in this colony?—No.

89. Did they adopt any such means as that to get a start?—No, they did not.

90. They took no steps whatever more than they are now taking to establish themselves?—They were the pioneers here, and the system they worked on when they first started business here was precisely the same as the system we are working on at the present time.

91. You have a different agreement now?—The forms are almost identical.

92. As far as you know, they make no other provisions?—None whatever.

93. What is the capital of your company?—£10,000.

94. How much of that is paid up?—£2,500.

95. Who are the directors?—There is only one director I know of, in Sydney, that is Mr. David Brown Thomas.

96. How many shareholders are there?—I do not know; in the articles of association there are only seven shareholders' names attached.

97. Are you aware whether they are the only shareholders?—I know they are not the only shareholders, but I do not know how many shareholders there are.

98. Your registered office is in Sydney?—Yes.

99. You say you do not claim that the introduction of this system increases the volume of trade at all?—No, I do not claim that.

100. What you say is that, although no more is bought and sold under your system than would be bought and sold without it, by means of your coupons you are able to direct that trade into certain channels?—As an advertising medium that is the effect of it.

101. It may attract trade from certain persons to other persons?—I do not say from certain persons, but from other persons to certain persons.

102. You claim that the person to whom you concede this privilege in his particular locality will gain at the expense of those in the neighbourhood who do not enjoy the advantage of your coupons?—He will gain trade; I do not say at the expense of any one in particular.

103. At the expense of those in the locality?—He will gain trade.

104. It must come from somebody?—He will gain trade as he would by adopting any other means of advertising.

105. Advertising is not the only means of increasing a man's trade?—Then say by adopting any other inducement.

106. You object to the statement that this coupon system involves a tax of 5 per cent. on the trader's profits?—I say that statement is incorrect.

107. Does not it involve a tax of 5 per cent. in all cases in which the coupon is given?—No, one coupon on a purchase to the value of 11d. would not be 5 per cent.

108. The difference is made up of the odd pence in each transaction?—Where coupons are given that is so, but that is not on the whole business.

109. On the business on which coupons are given it amounts to 5 per cent. subject to that reduction?—Yes.

110. For your system to be a success it is not sufficient for the trader to purchase the coupons?—No.

111. You would not be satisfied to conduct a business in which you sold coupons and did nothing else?—I would soon have to shut up shop.

112. Then when you say your object is not simply to sell coupons, your object must be to sell them in such a way that the public shall ask for them?—Yes.

113. And the extent to which they do not ask for coupons, you look upon as interfering with your business?—To an extent—the demand for coupons depends entirely upon our own efforts.

114. You mean that what the trader does is nothing in the way of creating a demand for coupons?—It is something, but if we remained idle, there would not be a demand for the coupons at all. If we did not go to the public and advertise thoroughly, making it widely known that the coupons were of value and were worth collecting, there would be no demand for them.

115. Are you the only person who does this work?—No, but we are the only persons attacked, I believe.

116. The advertisements on railway stations advertise your company?—They advertise our system and all traders distributing coupons collectively.

117. Have you had any experience of this system outside of Victoria?—No, I speak simply from my knowledge of it, as practised in Melbourne.

118. Do I understand you to say that the profit in this business consists simply of the difference between the retail and the wholesale price of the goods you give in exchange for coupons?—That is our only profit, we do not enter into competition by offering goods for sale.

119. The profits that are to be gained by your business are only the profits to be gained in a miscellaneous business of goods yielding a high percentage of profit?—That is so.

120. And the costs that you speak of in printing coupons, employing travellers, and so on, are costs which are incurred for the purpose of advertising and disposing of those goods?—Yes.

121. You claim that the prices of your goods are on the average the same as the prices charged for similar goods in Melbourne?—Yes.

122. You deal with a great variety of articles?—Yes, my experience and the experience of my manager are sufficient to enable us to dispose of an article for its retail value in coupons.

123. Would an ordinary fancy goods business embrace the articles in which you deal?—No.

124. I have here a printed statement, signed by yourself as manager, in which I see this item—“Cost of redeeming coupons liability outstanding, £9,155.” What number of coupons does that represent?—Roughly, seven millions.

125. Until you get what you call a half-book, containing 495 coupons, you do not recognise the coupons at all?—No.

126. No matter how many people start with the intention of making up a half-book and abandon the intention, you are under no liability at all, it must be a completed book?—It must be a completed book before it is presented at the show-rooms.

127. Are the coupons transferable?—They are.

128. I presume your experience is not long enough to say what proportion of the books that are issued are never presented?—No, the books go out empty, and we cannot say how many are thrown away just as they go out; we issue the books in hundreds.

129. The coupons are checked because you sell them and are paid for them?—Yes.

130. In the course of the year you can see the number of coupons you have parted with?—Yes.

131. And you can tell the number of coupons you are debited with?—Yes.

132. You cannot tell the number of books in course of construction, or the number of coupons that will never be presented?—No.

133. That is an element in your profit?—Possibly so; in making out our accounts we do not reckon on making any profit out of lost coupons.

134. Are you not acquainted with the circumstance that this element of lost coupons is reckoned a very important element indeed in other companies of a similar character?—I am not.

135. On the back of the coupon-book it says—“Collect co-operative coupons; they cost you nothing, and can be exchanged absolutely free for valuable articles;” you say that the public would not seek these if they did not get their value?—That is so.

136. If they cost them nothing, and the public is invited to enter into the coupon business because they cost them nothing, it is not very hard to get at their value. Is it to be expected that the public will

look at a 12s. 6d. article for the half-book in the same careful way that they would if they had to pay the 12s. 6d. out of their own pockets there and then?—My experience is that they do.

137. They are getting something for nothing, are they going to look a gift horse in the mouth?—My experience is that they do: when they come in to get their 12s. 6d. worth of goods for the half-book they know the value of the half-book, just as they know the value of the 12s. 6d.

138. All the goods in your show-room are marked?—Yes.

139. Are they obliged to take goods to the exact value represented by their coupons; are all your goods either 12s. 6d. or some multiple of 12s. 6d.?—No, they may be 12s. 6d., 13s., 15s., or any price above 12s. 6d. More than that, they can get articles of various values, making up a total amount of 12s. 6d.

140. Do you take any cash in your trade to make up a difference in value?—No.

141. Supposing I come in with a 12s. 6d. book, and I see something at 14s. 6d. that I desire, how can I get it?—You cannot get it.

142. Not by paying the extra 2s.?—No, in no other way than by obtaining an additional quantity of coupons.

143. Do I need to get another full book?—No, anything over 12s. 6d. we redeem. A customer coming in with, say 750 coupons, can obtain any article from 12s. 6d. up to the value of those coupons, and if the value does not amount to the number of coupons he has got, a new book is given with the difference in coupons pasted in the first sheet, and he carries that difference on to the next book.

144. You have no standing rule as to the area within which you grant the exclusive right to use these coupons?—No.

145. It varies with the trade, or the locality, or with the individual case in each instance?—It is a matter of arrangement in each case.

146. A grocer in one locality may be dealt with in quite a different way to a grocer in another?—Yes.

147. What proportion of the 2,200 persons have any monopoly?—About 10 per cent. have an agreement with an endorsement giving them a monopoly; the remainder have no such endorsement.

148. In those other cases do you not refuse to supply coupons to persons who might come into conflict with the 90 per cent.?—Yes, I do refuse; I exercise my judgment.

149. If you chose, subject to your discretion, the whole of the 90 per cent. might get similar privileges?—Yes.

150. Is it not the fact that the whole of your customers are safe-guarded by a monopoly to some extent?—Not by a monopoly; they are safe-guarded to some extent.

151. By distance?—No, not by any standing rule that you can express.

152. Can you mention any case of two drapers or two grocers, immediately adjoining each other who are using your coupons?—I think so, almost next door; there are not a great many, but there are a few.

153. You claim to make your profit on the goods you sell?—Yes.

154. And to a certain extent on the coupons?—No, there is no profit on the coupons at all; we do not profess to make any profit on them.

155. You get 2s. 6d. per 100 and if there are any that are not presented they go to your profit?—We expect them all to be presented.

156. If not presented they have to be taken into account; you have not been here long enough to say of any coupons that they will not be presented?—We are here to redeem all coupons presented, and we believe that more than 95 per cent. will be presented.

157. Your half-book contains 495 coupons representing 495 sixpences, or roughly £12 10s., so that before any advantage can be taken of the coupons purchases to the value of £12 10s. must have been made?—Yes.

158. The grocer purchases them from you at the rate of 2s. 6d. per 100?—Yes, unless he pays cash.

159. It takes sales to the value of £5 to clear him of that 100?—Yes.

160. He gives no other discount with the coupons?—Not so far as I know.

161. Those who previously had cash customers in many of these businesses allowed them cash discount?—I do not know; some did, I think, when the purchase was over £1.

162. Under the new system those sums that were formerly returned as discount go into the coupons?—I assume so.

163. A certain number of other purchasers received discount when they paid their weekly or monthly accounts?—I believe discount on monthly purchases is a regular thing.

164. Do you say that that practice has been diverted into this system?—I do not say that anything has been diverted; I think the trader who gives coupons does not give a cash discount, and *vice versa*.

165. The whole of the discounts that were formerly given have a tendency to be diverted into coupons under your system?—There is a possibility of it.

166. The only new development of the discount practice that you claim is that your traders are encouraged to give discounts on the small cash purchases?—We claim that under this system there is a better scope for giving discounts on cash purchases.

167. The trader has now to pay a discount on his small sales which he did not previously pay?—I do not know that he did not give discount before; I know nothing about what traders gave before.

168. You say the novel element in your system is that it encourages and provides for discounts on the smallest purchases?—Yes, and it is therefore particularly applicable to the small purchases made by the working classes.

169. If that was not paid before, and is paid now, it is paid by the trader?—Yes.

170. Consequently he pays a discount which he did not previously pay?—Yes.

171. Then where does he get his gain?—He does a larger trade, and he induces a cash trade.

172. Does that mean that he is drawing from somebody else small purchasers who come in to get a benefit by the coupon system that they did not get under the old system?—He is attracting trade.

173. That is the kind of trade he is likely to attract?—I do not think it varies very much; he is likely to attract trade, I cannot say what kind of trade.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow, at half-past Two o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 1st NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present :

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair ;	
The Hon. J. M. Davies,	The Hon. T. C. Harwood,
The Hon. G. Godfrey,	The Hon. W. Knox,
The Hon. T. Comrie,	The Hon. D. Ham.
The Hon. A. O. Sachse,	

Percy M. Scott, further examined.

174. *By Mr. Deakin.*—You are aware that before your arrival here, and the establishment of this company, there were a certain number of firms in Melbourne which were wholly cash businesses?—I believe that is so.

175. A certain number of those firms are now your customers for coupons?—Some few of them are.

176. You are also aware that customers of yours who choose to do so have the power of giving, and do give, coupons to those who deal with them by weekly and monthly accounts?—I am not aware of that. It has been stated.

177. Do you contradict the statement?—I do not contradict it definitely. I say if it is done it is very exceptional, and opposed to the terms of the agreement.

178. Can you point to any advertisement you give to the traders who purchase your coupons except the small books we have seen?—Yes, we give them signs for their windows, and we advertise those signs in the papers.

179. When that sign appears in a window the public will naturally infer that the person using the sign is dealing with you?—That is so.

180. There is no advertisement of the name of the particular person?—No, we advertise collectively, not individually.

181. In the books you advertise individually?—Yes.

182. You are responsible for this circular that has been presented to Parliament?—I am.

183. In this circular, in two places, in your replies to statements Nos. 3 and 4, you imply that the statement that 5 per cent. of the profits is paid to you is correct?—I deal with clauses 3 and 4, which quote 5 per cent.

184. You do not contradict the statement that it is 5 per cent?—Yes, I do. I refer you to my evidence of yesterday.

185. You do not do so in this reply?—No, I did not think it worth while.

186. Certain meetings have been held in connexion with this agitation about the use of coupons?—I am aware of that.

187. Have you communicated with those people who have issued your coupons, as to attending those meetings?—Yes; I have invited their attendance if they happened to be members of the particular body.

188. Do you look upon those who issue your coupons as constituting a special body or organization?—No.

189. Then why do you communicate with them?—They represent their own interests.

190. They represent your interests, too?—Certainly.

191. Is that what you mean by calling yourselves a co-operative company?—We are a co-operative company, inasmuch as we do ourselves good, the traders good, and the public good.

192. In what other sense are you co-operative than any ordinary trader?—The discount which the purchaser receives on small purchases is not obtainable under other circumstances.

193. That does not make it co-operative?—Yes, it does, if they get a benefit by their small purchases.

194. Is that the only sense in which you can claim to be co-operative?—We are co-operative because it benefits the public and the trader in that way.

195. Would it suit you if every trader in the community took your coupons?—I have not considered that point.

196. Did you not say yesterday that, as a matter of fact, if it became universal the whole motive and incentive of it would be gone?—No; that was not the effect of my evidence. I said nothing about it yesterday.

197. Would it be consonant with the continuance of your business if the coupon system became universal?—We would prefer not.

198. The essence of it is that it should be limited to certain numbers, upon whom it confers certain advantages?—We prefer to conduct the business as we are conducting it at the present time.

199. That is the essence of it—that certain persons get certain advantages for which they pay you—is that a fair statement?—No. I say we prefer to conduct our business as we are conducting it now—that is, to distribute our coupons as we wish to a certain number of traders, and to limit the number of traders as we consider desirable.

200. The essence of it is that you should have a free choice in the selection of the men who are to distribute your coupons?—Yes.

201. It could not be worked to your satisfaction or to their satisfaction unless there was that choice?—It might be worked to our satisfaction—it would not be worked to theirs.

202. Are you aware whether coupons are ever re-purchased from the public by shopkeepers?—It has been reported to me.

203. Have you any idea of the extent to which that is carried on?—To a very small extent.

204. What makes you think that?—The output of coupons is increasing, and the redemption of the coupons is also increasing, and we would see a difference between the two if there were very much done in that way.

205. What is there to indicate that the same coupons are not used two or three times between the trader and the customer?—If that were done to any great extent the output of coupons would be materially lessened; instead of our selling the coupons the public would be selling the coupons to the trader.

206. It is quite possible for them to deal with the same coupons two or three times over, and as long as they come into you finally they are reckoned?—I form my opinion from what I have said.

207. Do you know what prices the shopkeepers have paid when they have repurchased them?—I hear it is about 2s., but I cannot give any definite evidence about it.

208. How many coupons have you issued in Victoria since you started?—Up to the 30th of June last ten millions, roughly speaking, of which about three millions have been redeemed.

209. You say you only employ two canvassers?—I should have said in Melbourne—there is another canvasser in Ballarat.

210. Does no other person act for you except those three men?—No other persons in that capacity.

211. What other outside persons do you employ?—We employ four lady canvassers.

212. In what way do their duties differ from those of the male canvassers?—The lady canvassers call on the public and the male canvassers call on the tradesmen.

213. What are the functions of the ladies who go to the public—how do they recommend your business to the public?—They explain the system, point out its advantages, and leave a directory book.

214. Do they confine themselves to any particular area, or is it left to their own discretion as to what members of the public they shall call upon?—They are directed as to where they shall go.

215. Are they directed occasionally to the State Schools?—No.

216. If they go there it is of their own accord?—Yes.

217. Is it the practice of your company to distribute books with a few coupons pasted in by way of encouragement?—Books of that kind have been distributed as an advertisement.

218. They are given away to induce custom?—To encourage thrift.

219. Those books may be given in schools or anywhere else at the discretion of the lady canvassers?—No, the lady canvassers do not go to schools.

220. When you give them those books do you limit them to the persons to whom they may give them?—Those books are not distributed by the lady canvassers, only by the male canvassers or employés of the company other than the lady canvassers.

221. Are you aware that those books are occasionally distributed among children at schools?—
I am.

222. You do not regard that as illegitimate?—Certainly not. I think it is a good advertisement.

223. You advertise freely?—Yes.

224. In newspapers as well as in other ways?—Yes.

225. Is the advertising under your direct control?—In Victoria it is.

226. Has the advertising account increased or diminished within the last few months?—It is about the same.

227. It has not enlarged during the last three months?—I think not.

228. Has not its distribution been altered?—Not that I am aware of.

229. Am I correctly informed that advertisements are now appearing in a number of suburban papers in which they did not appear before?—You are incorrectly informed as to that. I cannot specify the number of contracts we enter into. We may enter into one or more this week, and drop another, but the average is about the same.

230. Do you only advertise by contract?—That is all.

231. What is the shortest period you advertise for?—For a newspaper advertisement, three months.

232. Never less?—Never less.

233. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Who signs the red endorsement in the agreement?—The tradesman.

234. The tradesman who buys from you is under this guarantee not to sell your coupons to somebody else?—That is so.

235. Do you retain these agreements when they are signed?—Yes, I retain them; but the customer has a duplicate agreement, if he wishes, signed by myself.

236. What is the capital of the company?—The paid-up capital is 10,000 shares fully paid up to £1; 7,500 of the shares were allotted. I wish to correct my evidence of yesterday; the £2,500 has been paid up since.

237. To whom were these shares allotted?—To one of the shareholders.

238. What was the £2,500 you referred to yesterday?—Mr. Deakin asked me how much capital had been put into the business; I said £2,500, and that is correct, but 7,500 out of the 10,000 shares were allotted for good-will.

239. As a fact, the cash put in is £2,500?—Yes.

240. Is that capital used in the Victorian, the Adelaide, and the Sydney businesses?—Yes.

241. That £2,500 really represents the whole of the cash capital in the three colonies?—Yes, which is put into the business.

242. Did you get tangible assets for the 7,500 shares, or was it merely for the good-will?—I understood it was for the good-will; there was some amount of money expended prior to its being taken over, and that was included in the £7,500.

243. Was the whole of that £7,500 expended?—I do not think the whole sum was expended; but I understand a portion of it was tangible assets at that time.

244. Have you any idea of the value of the coupons issued in Adelaide?—Roughly speaking, I should say about £2,000 worth.

245. How much of that has been redeemed?—I think about one-fourth.

246. How much has been issued in Sydney?—A very small quantity—only about a million coupons, representing £1,250, and almost the same quantity has been redeemed.

247. In Victoria you have issued coupons to the extent of about fifteen millions?—Yes; and we have redeemed £3,000 worth up to June 30th.

248. You have obtained £15,000 for coupons from the public in Victoria, £2,000 in Adelaide, and £1,250 in Sydney, or a total of about £18,000 in cash obtained from the public on a paid-up capital of £2,500?—That is so.

249. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—If a woman has a book of coupons can she go into your show-room and get a particular article?—Yes.
250. May she select any article?—Yes.
251. Must she hand the book in first?—No; she brings the book in, and has a look round the show-room.
252. If there is nothing there to suit her she may take the book away again?—Decidedly.

The witness withdrew.

John Fallon, examined.

253. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A draper, carrying on business in Chapel-street, Windsor.
254. How long have you been there?—Twelve years.
255. *By Mr. Coldham.*—I believe you are the senior partner of the firm of Fallon and Ridgway?—I was, but we have dissolved partnership lately, and I am the only one in the business now.
256. You know the coupon system?—Yes.
257. What experience have you had of it?—We were approached by the company when they first came out, a little over twelve months ago. In the first instance we declined to take the coupons, but after a time we found that people were asking for them, and when people ask for things you must supply the demand, so we went in for the coupons.
258. How long is it since you first took them?—September twelve months.
259. Was your business prior to your taking the coupons both a cash and a credit business?—You could not call it a credit business; we have done no credit business to speak of; it is practically a cash business.
260. Do you supply the coupons to all your cash customers?—Not unless they ask for them.
261. Can you form any opinion as to what proportion of your cash customers require coupons?—I reckon it costs us about 3 per cent. of the gross cash turnover.
262. It is suggested in one of the documents before the Committee that the only way in which the retailer can afford to pay 3 per cent. in cash discount by coupons is by either reducing the quality of the goods or by sweating his employés. Have you found it necessary to pursue either of those two courses?—Not at all.
263. Have you found that this system has been “most pernicious and injurious in its operation” to you?—No, as far as we are concerned, it has not. We give it the credit of increasing the business.
264. This circular says—“Shoppers and traders of every class have suffered from its evil effects.” What evil effects have you found in it?—I cannot see any evil effects, as far as we are concerned.
265. You recognise, of course, that if you increase your business it is probably at the expense of somebody else?—Possibly.
266. You, as a capable trader, are always trying to increase your business, and such increase is necessarily at the expense of someone else?—Yes, we do the best we can.
267. Do you regard this as anything more than a system of advertising that catches on with the public?—No, that is what I put it down as, indirect advertising.
268. Have any people who got coupons come to you and made complaint that the goods they received in exchange for these coupons were not of sufficient value?—No, I have had no complaints.
269. If it improves your business, it increases your cash takings and the turnover?—Yes, I give it credit for that.
270. Is there any way whereby you can give discount upon small cash purchases except by coupons?—I do not think people would value the cash discount on very small purchases; it would be worthless.
271. You could not give a discount of 5 per cent. upon a purchase of 9d.?—No.
272. Have you had experience of both cash and credit business?—We had a credit business in the country, but my late partner conducted that, so I cannot speak about it.
273. You say you have found no disadvantages from the system—do you mean to say that no “set” was made against you by any body of drapers?—Not that I am aware of.
274. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Do you sell all kinds of drapery?—Yes, with the exception of furnishings.
275. What is the average profit of drapery reckoned at, taking all the lines together?—We reckon that if we make 10 per cent. on the turnover we do well—that is the net profit; we do not always do that.
276. How long have you been established in Chapel-street?—Twelve years.
277. During the whole of that time have you had a business of your own?—Yes.
278. Is not the drapery business one that fluctuates with the times?—Considerably.
279. The experience you have had with the coupons is of last year as against the preceding years?—Yes.
280. You say you give credit for some increase to this particular system?—Yes.
281. Have not the times generally been supposed to have improved during the last twelve months?—They have.
282. Might not that account for some portion of the increase?—It might.
283. You follow styles to a certain extent in drapery?—Yes.
284. You back your judgment against your neighbours in putting goods in the window to attract the public?—Yes, we always try to do the best we can.
285. There are a number of circumstances in your business which affect the amount of your turnover from year to year, and this coupon system is one of them?—Yes.
286. Are you prepared to disengage this particular advantage from the other advantages during the last twelve months so as to give us any precise estimate of what its value has been to you?—That is a very hard matter to arrive at, our trade has increased since we took on the coupons; it might have done so in any case of course, but we give the system credit for it. I reckon we spend the money in coupons instead of advertising; they advertise for us, we do not advertise now.

287. Do you reckon that you have reduced your advertising expenses by about the amount you pay to the Coupon Company?—The coupons may cost a shade more, but I reckon they have done more good.

288. Your expenses have not materially increased in consequence of the system?—No, to a very small extent. Of course your expenses increase as your business increases, but the percentage has not increased.

289. Did you, when you commenced this coupon system, have the same terms and arrangement with the company that you have now?—We are on a little better footing at present, we get a rebate if we take 50,000 at once.

290. You pay cash for them?—Yes.

291. It is practically a discount on your cash?—Yes.

292. How far is the nearest draper from you that employs the coupon system?—I think there is one at the other end of Chapel-street; some of the smaller shops in our line have coupons I think.

293. Have you any special agreement with the company as to that?—Yes.

294. What is the limit on competition?—They were not to sell the coupons to anybody near us, we named the people they were not to sell them to.

295. Is that agreement adhered to?—Yes.

296. Can you say whether the extra trade you have gained has been drawn from the shops in your immediate vicinity?—I hardly know that.

297. The probability is that a certain proportion of it is?—I do not know; we get a great many people from the outer suburbs—floating trade.

298. Supposing the persons you specified, who were to be excluded from the utilization of the system, obtained the coupons, would the system be of any value to you?—If everybody had coupons the value would drop; I imagine there would be no advantage in it.

299. Has your percentage of increase during the last twelve months over the average of previous years been more than 3 per cent.—supposing your general profit for the preceding two or three years was 8 per cent., has it been relatively more than 11 per cent. this year?—It has been a shade more than 3 per cent. increase.

300. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—You do a cash trade entirely?—Yes.

301. Prior to the introduction of the coupons did you give any discount?—No.

302. You now give a discount which equals 3 per cent.?—Yes.

303. Does that come out of your profits?—We put it as an expense—it comes out of the profits of course.

304. In consequence of the coupons your profits are 3 per cent. less than they would otherwise be?—We look to the increase of trade to make up for that.

305. Apart from the question of advertising you think that the increase in your sales has made up for the loss of that 3 per cent.?—Yes.

306. In addition to that you also save in some advertising?—Yes.

307. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—You do not give coupons on all your sales?—No, only when they are asked for.

308. Though you make a net profit of 10 per cent., the cost would not be 3 per cent. on the 10 per cent., it would only be 3 per cent. on the purchases on which you give coupons?—If we gave coupons to every one it would mean 5 per cent.—it means 3 per cent. on the whole turnover.

309. Have you had to take the coupons in self-defence, or have you taken them as a matter of business?—I took them because people were asking for them, and I thought it was a good thing.

310. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Supposing your neighbour had the coupons and you had not, what would be the result?—I suppose I would be worried.

311. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—I suppose it was stipulated that they should not be given to your neighbour?—Yes, that is one of the advantages of the system.

312. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—If it is such an advantage why do you not urge all your customers to take them?—If they wish to pay for a thing without getting discount I do not insist upon it. We look to the coupon system to advertise us, but if a customer comes in without knowing anything of the coupons we do not enlighten her.

313. Do not the customers tell each other?—Some of them do, but a lot of people are quite ignorant of it.

314. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—How did you come to get these coupons in the first instance?—I was waited upon by Mr. Thomas, I think it was, who wanted me to enter on the business right away. I refused him in the first instance. I said—“No; I do not see why you should participate in 5 per cent. of my profits,” but after a while people came in and said—“Do you give coupons?” And when people ask for things you must supply the demand.

315. Did they lead you to suppose that they would not take their business to you if you did not give them the coupons?—People have actually gone out of the shop if I did not give them coupons.

316. As a draper, would you have any objection to the Coupon Company giving drapery in exchange for the coupons to people who were your customers?—I do not think it would matter much to us; they do give drapery in some instances—they give curtains.

317. And you have no objection to that?—I do not see that it would make much difference.

318. What is your principal item of business?—Dress materials, Manchester goods.

319. Would you have any objection to their giving dress materials in exchange for coupons?—No, I do not think so.

320. *By the Hon. D. Ham.*—You said you gave certain names of people to whom the company should not supply coupons—were those drapers?—Yes, people in my own trade. That was the arrangement; if we took the coupons the company were to sell them to no one else in our line within a certain radius.

321. By that means you might be doing others an injustice, and creating a monopoly which would be very disadvantageous to men competing with you in the same street or in the same vicinity?—I think it is a matter of business; if we thought that by giving coupons we could increase the price of our goods we would be making a great mistake—we cannot do that.

322. What is the advantage in your preventing other people getting them?—If every one had them they would be no advantage to us.

323. Do you sell your goods cheaper than those who do not give coupons?—I could not say that; we must get the average profit; it is a matter of who is first in the field.

324. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—You say the advantage of the system is the increased business?—I give the Coupon Company credit for the increased business. I look upon it as an advertisement, and the thing has caught on.

325. You adopt the system because it increases your sales, not because it brings you cash?—No, we always did a cash business.

326. Did you not give a discount on big amounts before?—Not unless it was asked for.

327. You do not give the coupons unless they are asked for?—No.

328. Out of ten customers how many would ask for coupons?—About two-thirds.

329. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—Does the purchaser who gets the coupon get an article at the same price as the one who does not get a coupon?—Exactly the same.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow, at Two o'clock.

THURSDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present:

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair;

The Hon. T. C. Harwood,
The Hon. W. Knox,
The Hon. A. O. Sachse,
The Hon. J. M. Davies,

The Hon. G. Godfrey,
The Hon. D. Melville,
The Hon. T. Comrie.

Percival S. Laird, examined.

330. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A butcher, carrying on business at No. 277 Smith-street, Fitzroy.

331. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you carried on business in Fitzroy?—Three years last July.

332. Is yours a cash or a credit business?—Principally cash.

333. What percentage of the business is cash?—About 80 per cent. I should think.

334. Before this coupon system came into force did you give discount for cash?—None whatever.

335. Do you now distribute coupons?—Yes, I have done so for fourteen months; I commenced taking them in September, 1898.

336. Do you distribute your coupons to both cash and credit customers?—I make a distinction—to cash customers I give one coupon for every 6d., to credit customers, if they pay weekly, I give one for every 1s. if they ask for them.

337. If their credit is over a week you do not give any coupons at all?—No.

338. Do you give them only to the cash customers who ask for them or to all?—I give them freely to all; certain persons do not take them, but I ask them if they want them.

339. Since you have distributed coupons have you observed any change in the amount of your business?—Yes, there has been an increase in the cash takings.

340. Have you been able to reduce the expenses of your business, since you have taken the coupons, by cutting down the advertising?—The only advertising I do is the coupons and the companies' circulars.

341. Prior to taking the coupons did you advertise?—Yes, in the local paper and on programmes.

342. Can you give the Committee any idea as to what cost, if any, is imposed upon your business by taking these coupons?—I think, with the increased trade and the less advertising, there is not any cost at all.

343. Have you been able to form any opinion as to whether the system benefits any particular type of trader; that is, whether the small trader or the large trader is more likely to be benefited?—The small trader, I think.

344. It has been suggested that the taking of coupons would necessarily mean that the retailer must either reduce the quality of his goods or reduce his employés' wages to make up that percentage of profit; have you done either of those things?—Neither. I buy all my cattle alive, and they are killed under the supervision of the Board of Health.

345. How was it that you came to take the coupons in the first instance?—I thought they would be an inducement to the general public to patronize me.

346. Did the canvasser call on you?—Yes.

347. It has been stated that this is a system of black-mail; was there anything in the fashion in which you were induced to take coupons that savoured of black-mail?—I cannot say that there was; I was asked if I would take them, and told that if I took them my neighbour would not be able to get them.

348. Since you have taken them, have you found your big neighbours make any "set" against you?—Very much.

349. In what way?—When I took them on there was a lot of ill-feeling between my neighbour and myself; he drew on the window a coffin with coupons in it, and the words—"Death to the coupons."

350. He did not think much of the system?—No. I met him in the market one day and said to him—"What is all this ill-feeling in Smith-street about?" He said—"If all they say is true, my business is going to be transferred to you—that you are the only one in Smith-street capable of doing the business." I replied—"If all they say is true you are going to run me out in three months, or make me lose £300 in the meantime." I told him I had not the £300 to lose, and therefore I could not lose it, but at the end of three months we would both be there. He said—"You took on this confounded coupon system, and

you must recognise that if your neighbour has any business ability he will do something." The consequence was, that he issued a circular to the general public stating that the slaughtered was going to be slain, at prices that never were heard of before, and he put up on his window—"Full weight and no coupons," insinuating that I did not give full weight, so I put up a notice—"Full weight and coupons."

351. Are you satisfied with the result of the coupon system on your trade?—Yes.

352. Have you had any complaints from your customers, either as to the material supplied by you, or the articles they get in exchange for the coupons?—Some may have said that they got 8s. worth for the 12s. 6d., but the majority of the customers are well pleased.

353. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Does your exclusive right only extend to the prohibition of one competitor?—The two nearest competitors; I am in between two.

354. How far have you to go in Smith-street before you come to another butcher who uses the coupon system?—I should say about 200 yards.

355. And after that how far would you have to go?—I do not know of another in Smith-street who issues them; a third party used to give them, but he has given it up.

356. You two are the only two in Smith-street?—So far as I know.

357. Do you reckon that with the saving in advertising, and the increased trade, you about balance the cost of the coupons, or that you gain?—I think I gain.

358. You have had three years' experience as a butcher on your own account?—Yes.

359. Your business, I suppose, is affected by the seasons and other fluctuations?—Yes.

360. Has the last twelve months been a good time for butchers?—Very good.

361. How do you discriminate between the general benefit of the good times and the profit of the coupon system?—The increase in the turnover; I can work a larger turnover with the same expense.

362. There may be greater purchasing power on the part of the customers?—Other people are offering inducements to get that purchasing power away from me.

363. You give good meat?—Yes, absolutely the best.

364. And at the lowest prices?—Yes.

365. Can you give us any proof of the truth of your opinion that the increase of business is owing to the coupon system?—I do not say it is entirely owing to the system, but it helps. If I did not take them I reckon I could not hold my present trade if my neighbour did take them.

366. If your neighbour had the coupons and you had not, you would expect to lose certain customers?—Slightly.

367. From whom does your increased trade come?—From my two nearest neighbours.

368. They cannot get the coupons?—They have not got them—they say they can get them.

369. You consider you have gained by adopting the coupon system?—Yes.

370. What percentage of your profit do you attribute to the use of the coupons?—I could not say.

371. Have you any objection to say what you reckon the increase in your business has been since you adopted the system?—I could not say; the second or third Saturday I took them the takings jumped up by £17.

372. What did you consider a fair Saturday's takings before that?—That was on the average Saturday's takings; they are pretty consistent.

373. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—You give coupons for weekly accounts?—Yes.

374. Do you give them to other good paying people on credit accounts?—No, I do very little booking trade.

375. Did you take these coupons on because you thought they would bring you a cash trade?—I thought they would encourage a cash trade, that was the only reason. I did a cash trade before, and I have done more since; we are always trying to increase our cash trade.

376. *By Mr. Deakin.*—If you had not taken them, some one else would?—That might be so.

377. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—What are the neighbours doing who have an ill-will against you for taking these coupons?—One threatened to run me out for taking them, and they are canvassing customers in the street at the present moment, who are coming down to my shop.

378. Do the other storekeepers in the different lines of business attack you?—No.

379. Where do you sell your meat?—In Fitzroy principally, in the shop; they come and take it away.

380. Do you not deliver meat at all?—A little.

381. When people pay cash at their own houses, do you give them coupons?—I give them one for 1s., if they ask for them.

382. Who gets the coupons?—The mistress very often, sometimes the servant gets them.

383. Do you ever give them to servants?—I give them to whoever pays the bill—it is usually one of the family.

384. Do you find servants come to your store to buy meat for the family?—I do not know of any instance where they do, the people themselves generally come to the shop; it is mostly the mother who comes.

385. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—Have you had any complaints from your customers that they did not get good value for the 12s. 6d. worth of coupons?—There might have been one or two.

386. Do you ever buy the coupons from your customers?—I have done so.

387. What do you give for them?—2s. per 100.

388. You are willing to do that?—I am not willing to do it, but they ask me if I will take them; I do not want them, but to oblige a customer I will take them.

389. You make a profit of 6d. per 100 on them?—Not quite, because you get a discount from the Coupon Company when you pay cash.

390. But purchasing at 2s. per 100 would give you a larger discount than the company allow?—Yes, but I have not bought more than 200 or 300 in the twelve months.

391. If a customer wishes to sell them you buy them?—Not from everybody; I have refused to buy them. I have bought 200 or 300 at the outside during the fourteen months.

392. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—Will the Coupon Company give you cash for the coupons?—I do not know, I have never tried.

393. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Does the company object to your buying back the coupons?—I do not think they know anything about it; it is not a practice, it is only occasionally that it happens.

394. They would object if they knew?—They might.

395. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—How many of these coupons have you got through in the fourteen months?—About 3,000 per week.

The witness withdrew.

Benjamin Pennington, examined.

396. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business at 264 Clarendon-street, South Melbourne.

397. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business there?—Since the 31st of July of last year.

398. Do you hold a grocer's licence in connexion with the business?—No.

399. Have you taken coupons from the Co-operative Company?—Yes, since the 20th August of last year.

400. How was it that you came to take those coupons?—When I started there I wanted to do a cash trade, knowing the baneful effects of the credit system. I thought if I wanted to do a cash trade I must give the public some inducement to pay cash, otherwise half my trade would be on the books. The coupons came on the scene then; and two or three of my customers asked me if I was going to take them on. I sent for the canvasser to come out, and he explained the system to me, and then I took the coupons.

401. Did you sign the company's agreement?—Yes.

402. What change has taken place in your business in the period during which you have taken the coupons?—I was only there for three weeks before I took them, but I have been managing a grocer's trade for the last 25 years. When I took this shop it had been closed for two years and a half previously, but prior to that, with an intermission of twelve months, I had run that shop for another company for seven years, so I had a good opportunity of judging what the business was.

403. In your opinion did the taking the coupons, and the distribution of them among your customers, affect your business in any way?—It is about the best system that has been brought under my notice to create a cash trade.

404. Have your customers expressed approbation of the system?—They have expressed disapprobation of this Committee sitting, or the Government trying to put the system down.

405. How does the system suit your customers?—Very well indeed.

406. Have you had any complaints with regard to the goods supplied in exchange for the coupons?—I have never heard a complaint, and when my customers go in with a half-book or a whole book, and bring out an article, they invariably show it to me. I like to see the article, because if the company did not keep faith and give good articles I should discontinue distributing the coupons, but in every case the people have expressed satisfaction.

407. How far from you is the next man in your line of business who distributes coupons?—I am surrounded with them.

408. And notwithstanding that you keep your cash trade?—I have made a cash trade.

409. Do you do a distributing business in addition; do you send out goods?—Yes.

410. Is that a credit business in the majority of cases?—No, I do not do any credit business, it is absolutely cash.

411. Do you give your coupons to every person who pays cash?—Yes, I insist upon their being given in the same way as change.

412. Do you give them upon every part of your business?—Yes; of course if the sale is 11d. I only give one coupon upon the 6d.

413. Has it made any difference in your advertising expenses?—I do not advertise.

414. You attribute the whole of the benefit to the coupon system?—Yes, practically.

415. *By Mr. Deakin.*—What do you reckon your average profits to be?—Anything between 10 per cent. and 15 per cent.

416. Do you get that on your total turnover in grocery?—Yes.

417. What is your gross profit?—That is my gross profit, I could not say what the net profit is, I have only been there fifteen months. I took stock when I was there six months, and I have not taken stock since.

418. Can you form any idea of the net profit, after paying all your working expenses, the cost of the coupons, and everything else?—From 2 per cent. to 4 per cent. on the turnover.

419. Your profit varies on different lines?—Very much.

420. What profit is there on sugar?—It depends upon how it is sold and how it is bought.

421. What do you reckon the profit to be upon your turnover of sugar?—Between 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. gross, there is no net profit on sugar.

422. Do you deal in bread?—Yes.

423. What is the net profit on that?—It depends upon what it costs; if we cannot get 3d. per dozen loaves profit we look for nothing.

424. Those are lines on which you calculate to make very small profits?—We do not look for a profit at all on them; they are to draw people to the shop.

425. If you give coupons on those lines which are not profitable without the coupons, with the coupons they must be almost unprofitable?—People do not come for those lines separately.

426. If you dealt in those two lines alone you could not keep on in your line of business?—I would not deal in those two lines alone.

427. Have you an agreement with the company restricting them from selling coupons to other people engaged in the same business?—Only as to one man; that is my nearest neighbour.

428. How many assistants do you employ?—Nine.

429. All male?—Yes.

430. What do their wages amount to?—From 17s. 6d. upwards—it might go up to £2.

431. Is 17s. 6d. the lowest wage you pay?—For an assistant—I have a boy whom I pay 8s. I am always putting on new hands and always raising the wages. A man who started with me first as an assistant got 10s.—he is now getting 25s.

432. When were those increases made?—Every three months. I advertise for an assistant; I ask the applicant what he has been getting, and I say—“Well, I will give you so much to commence with; if you suit me in a month I will give you an increase of 2s. 6d., and in another three months I will give another 2s. 6d.”

433. When were the last increases?—Last month, the month before that, and the month before that.

434. Were increases made before the last three months?—Yes, I have been increasing wages ever since I took on the coupons.

435. What do you pay for the coupons?—2s. 6d. per 100, with 4 per cent. discount for cash, and if I take 50,000 at a time I get another 6 per cent.

436. Do you sell coupons to the company?—No.

437. Do you take them from your customers?—No, I never took them in my life.

438. If your next door neighbour had the coupons would the system be of any value?—He has had coupons—the Australian coupons—he may have them now for all I know.

439. If he had the same coupons as you have, would they be of any value to you?—I think so; I think I could hold my own against him.

440. You do not depend upon the coupons in your contest with him?—Not entirely.

441. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—You think the coupon system has enabled you to increase the wages of your employes?—Yes.

442. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—You have had considerable experience in the business?—Yes, about 32 years.

443. Is not your success to some extent to be ascribed to your knowledge of the business?—A little—I do not claim the whole success for the coupons, but they have materially helped me—the main thing is to look after the business.

444. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—You sell first-class goods?—I will not sell any other if I know of it.

445. You say your neighbour has Australian coupons?—He did take them, I do not know if he takes them now. They were started in South Melbourne—they were given out there.

446. Do you know if they were successful?—I do not know anything about them. I know my customers will not take them; they say they can only get goods for them. When they have 50 they have to go in and get half a pound of tea, but with these coupons they can get something to beautify their homes.

447. Does not this Co-operative Company give tea and sugar for their coupons?—Not to my knowledge.

The witness withdrew.

Alexander Dick, examined.

448. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A butcher, carrying on business in Lygon-street, Brunswick.

449. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You are a member of the firm of Dick Brothers?—Yes.

450. How long have you been carrying on business at the present address?—Thirteen years.

451. During any portion of that time have you taken coupons from the Co-operative Coupon Company?—I have taken them ever since they have been offered to the public.

452. How did you come to take them?—When the proposition was made to me I thought it was about the fairest method of making a distinction between cash and booking that I had ever seen, and on that principle I adopted it.

453. Was there any black-mail about it?—No.

454. As far as experience has shown you, what effect has it had upon your business?—It has converted a good many of my booking customers into cash customers, and caused a slight increase of outside or fresh cash trade as well. We have increased the general turnover and increased the number of cash customers as well.

455. Do you deliver coupons to credit customers?—None at all.

456. Do you give them to all the cash customers?—Every one who pays cash gets coupons whether he asks for them or not—I offer them to everybody, and very few object.

457. Are you satisfied with the result of taking those coupons on your business as a whole?—Yes, perfectly satisfied.

458. What do you pay for the coupons?—25s. per 1,000, less a slight discount.

459. Are you content to have that tax on your business for the sake of the benefit you obtain?—Certainly.

460. Has it affected your advertising?—No, I continue my advertising just the same.

461. Have you had any complaints from your customers with regard to the system, or the effects of it?—They seem pleased with the system—practically no one has complained—you could count those who have complained on your fingers.

462. Do you supply inferior goods in consequence of this system?—I buy the best quality of meat.

463. Have you sweated your employes in order to make up for this tax?—No, not at all.

464. *By Mr. Deakin.*—About what percentage of your booking customers became cash customers since the coupon system was introduced?—Roughly speaking, I suppose about 15 per cent.

465. Is yours mainly a cash business?—It was about half-and-half before I started with the coupons; now I should say about 15 per cent. more are paying cash.

466. Did you give a discount before?—No, I made no distinction between booking for a week and cash over the counter, and I thought it was very unfair.

467. What was the percentage of increase in the outside trade?—Roughly speaking, I suppose about 5 per cent.

468. Did that come from shops that did not give coupons?—I could not say; there is a shop giving the same coupons within 50 yards of me, and there are two shops, one within 200 yards, and another within a quarter of a mile, giving another sort of coupons.

469. Why should people object to taking coupons which are given, as they suppose, for nothing?—That is a question I cannot answer. There are very few who refuse, they may say they do not care about the coupons, and we put them back into the till.

470. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—What other company distributes coupons?—I think I have noticed as I passed by the shops—"Full cash value coupons;" they are distributed by some company I think. I see the placards hanging in the shops.

471. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Has that company waited upon you?—Yes, one other called on me some time ago, but I was on with this company at the time.

472. Do you deliver much meat at the houses?—Yes, very nearly half my trade is delivered at the houses.

473. What do you do when people pay you at the doors?—If people pay cash on delivery we treat them as we do cash payments in the shop; we give them coupons, and they appreciate them very much.

474. Who deals with you at the house—is it the servant?—No, we deal principally with the lady of the house; the majority of the people are working people who do not keep servants.

475. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—Does your man carry the coupons round with him?—Every order that comes from the rounds is booked into the day book, and when I give out the meat I also give out the coupons for each person.

476. The man who delivers the meat takes the coupons with him to deliver to the customers?—Certainly.

477. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—How do you know he gives the coupons to the customers?—I come in contact with a great many of my customers during the week, and I frequently give them myself, and I know if they were forgotten they would ask for them.

478. Have your men ever brought any coupons back to you and said the customers did not want them?—No, I have no doubt the people get them; I have every confidence in my employés.

479. Do your men think the coupons are popular?—They have to carry out instructions.

480. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Are your customers principally artisans?—Yes, and people of that class, the majority of them.

481. And you think they appreciate the coupons?—I am sure they do.

482. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You say your cash customers have increased from 50 to 65 per cent. since the introduction of this system?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

William Powne, examined.

483. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A draper, carrying on business in Bank-street, South Melbourne, and at 76 Clarendon-street, South Melbourne.

484. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Have you had any experience in the drapery trade?—Fifty years.

485. Where were you engaged prior to carrying on business for yourself?—At George and George's, and Christie's in Ballarat, for thirteen years.

486. Have you had any experience of this coupon system as worked by the Co-operative Company?—From the first; that is, for fifteen months.

487. How did you come to adopt the system?—I started with a very small capital, taking 12½ per cent. cash payments on goods, consequently I had no stock to speak of. I started with less than £50, so I travelled round as a hawker, and took 12½ per cent. weekly time-payments. Eventually I was able to take a shop and stock it.

488. How did you come to distribute coupons?—Nearly all my trade was book business, and I wanted some ready money, and that was the reason I took on the coupons. I consider it is a very just and good system indeed.

489. Were you forced into it by threats or black-mail?—No. I am the only one in the street—there is no other draper in Bank-street but myself.

490. What effect have you found it to have upon your business?—The best of my customers pay cash now instead of booking.

491. How does that benefit you?—The risk is reduced; there are very few bad debts. I do not advertise much now, it is done for me.

492. Do you deliver goods?—I keep an errand boy.

493. That expense remains the same?—Yes.

494. Can you say what percentage of increase upon your total turnover has taken place during the last twelve months?—During the last twelve months I have just held my own and not much more—trade has not been very good, but I have held my own and made a profit.

495. Notwithstanding the fact that you have not increased your business, are you satisfied with the coupon system?—Yes, particularly as to the Clarendon-street business. That branch is all a cash business, and there it has benefited me very much.

496. Do you give coupons to all your cash customers, whether they ask for them or not?—Every one.

497. Do you give them to your credit customers?—If they pay within the week I reckon that as cash.

498. Have you reduced your employés' wages or decreased the quality of the goods you supply, in consequence of this system?—Never.

499. *By Mr. Deakin.*—How long is it since you opened in Clarendon-street?—Since the 1st of June of this year.

500. You were giving the coupons when you opened that branch?—No, my neighbours took the coupons and objected to my taking them, but when the year expired I had the privilege of coming in with them; there are four in Clarendon-street who have them.

501. How near is the nearest to you?—50 or 60 yards, and there is another within 50 yards of him.

502. When did you get permission from the company to use the coupons in Clarendon-street?—

About the 1st of August.

503. Can you say what percentage of increase you have had in your business since then?—Perhaps 20 per cent. in the Clarendon-street branch.

504. These are the spring months?—It has been a very bad October. Spring does not affect the suburban draper as it does those in the city.

505. What kind of business do you do?—A general drapery business; that does not include millinery.

506. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—You have not sold any inferior article in consequence of the coupons—you give the same value with the coupon as you did before you gave the coupons?—Yes, every article is marked in plain figures.

507. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—How many coupons have you distributed since you went into Clarendon-street?—Between 1,000 and 2,000 per week.

The witness withdrew.

James Levens, examined.

508. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A draper, carrying on business in Wellington-street, Collingwood.

509. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business as a draper?—Forty years in this colony.

510. I believe you are a Justice of the Peace?—Yes, and have been for many years.

511. What experience have you had of the coupons of this company?—I took the first coupons that came out. They asked me if I would take them, and I thought I could see then there was something in it. I thought it would be a good thing, and I said I would take them, and I got about the first lot of coupons issued by the company.

512. Were you black-mailed in any way?—No.

513. Have you used them ever since you first took them?—Yes.

514. What advantages do you consider you derive as a retailer from the use of this coupon system?—It has increased the volume of my business.

515. What percentage is the increase?—I pay cash, and I keep very few books. This has been a very bad year with the drapers, but we have taken more than we did for the same period of last year, and I consider we have done very well indeed.

516. You think it increases the volume of trade?—Yes.

517. What other advantages does the retailer obtain from the system?—I generally have a good many more customers than I had before, and the customers that come to me are very keen after the coupons, and will not go away without them. We give them to every one paying cash, and to no one else.

518. Has it made any difference in your advertising account?—Yes. I do not advertise at all now. I used to advertise in the Collingwood papers and sometimes in the *Age*, but I leave that to the Coupon Company to do now.

519. What effect has it had upon the collection of bad debts?—We have had very few bad debts since the coupon system has been introduced.

520. The fact that you increase your cash trade means that the cost of bookkeeping is reduced?—It is very little now.

521. Can you give us any idea as to the average amount outstanding weekly in the books before the coupon system was taken up, and what it has been since?—We used to have about £100 standing in the books; at the present time it is a little under £20.

522. Do you attribute that reduction in the amount outstanding to this coupon system?—I do.

523. Have you had any complaints from the public with regard to this system?—No; on the contrary, they have expressed approbation. One woman who was burnt out by the fires in Gippsland has been getting coupons ever since, and her sister asked me if I thought this Bill was going to pass to upset the coupon system. I said—“No, I do not think it is; I do not think they can do it; it is nothing but what is legal.” She said—“I hope they do not, because my sister, when she came down, had lost everything, and now she has got as nice-looking nick-nacks on her table as Sir Frederick Sargood has.” I consider the system tends to thrift.

524. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—Did she get the nick-nacks from the Coupon Company?—Yes.

525. Did she buy largely from you?—No, she had not the money to do it; but when she got a half-book she would take it down to the company's show-rooms and get a cruet or something like that. She would not go anywhere where she did not get coupons.

526. How long after the fire did it take her to get these things?—Perhaps a couple of years.

527. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Were you a cash draper before the introduction of this system?—Not entirely, I always had about £100 on the books.

528. The greater part of your business was cash?—Yes.

529. Did you give discount to your customers?—No.

530. You have been taking coupons for fifteen months?—Yes.

531. You say this has been a bad year?—A very bad year.

532. Worse than last year?—Yes.

533. You have always paid cash to the wholesale houses?—Yes; I get 3 per cent. discount.

534. Have you made any change in the method of carrying on your business during the last three years?—No.

535. You take the same goods year after year?—We vary in fancy goods sometimes.

536. You use your own judgment in buying?—Yes.

537. Does not it count for something if you hit the taste of the public?—I do not think it makes any difference; we get what is going.

538. Is there any man in your street in the same business giving coupons besides yourself?—The nearest is about 250 yards away, in another street—there is no one else in my street.

539. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—You think this system encourages cash purchases?—Yes.

540. It encourages thrift in the whole people?—Yes.

541. They accumulate these coupons, and get articles which they would not otherwise get?—Yes.

542. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Do you take coupons for the purchases that your family make with other tradesmen?—My daughter deals largely in coupons, and we deal with her. I do not take them from her, but I take them from the butcher.

543. It is the general custom for people in shops to take them as well as give them?—Yes, we give them to the butcher.

544. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—You deal with tradespeople who distribute coupons just as you do?—Some of them.

545. What do you do with your coupons?—Put them in the till and give them to my customers.

The witness withdrew.

Frank D. R. Pickersgill, examined.

546. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A canvasser for the Co-operative Coupon Company.

547. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you occupied that position?—About fourteen months.

548. Where have you been employed during that time?—In Melbourne and suburbs, and Ballarat.

549. Mr. Thomas was the manager of the Melbourne office when you were first employed?—Yes.

550. Did you receive any instructions from him as to the duties, and the discharge of those duties, by the canvasser?—Yes, he told me to call upon tradesmen and show them to the best of my ability the advantages they would derive from adopting our system.

551. Did he post you up as to what those advantages were?—Yes.

552. When Mr. Scott came here as manager, did he give you instructions also?—I have continued the same system.

553. What was your mode of canvass?—I took contract forms and the directory book with me.

554. How did you select any particular tradesman in the first instance?—It just depended upon where we wanted a certain tradesman.

555. Suppose you went into Clarendon-street, South Melbourne, and you found two men carrying on business side by side, how would you determine upon which man you would call?—In many instances I would call on both.

556. Would you call on both if the first man were agreeable to take the coupons?—Certainly not. I would only call on both if the first man refused to take them.

557. What system did you pursue to endeavour to get a man to take coupons?—I would introduce myself as coming from the Coupon Company, and I would try and show him the advantages he would derive from adopting our system.

558. What were those advantages?—I would tell him that the coupons would increase his cash turnover; I always maintained that our system was the most efficacious form of advertising ever introduced into the colony, and I advised the tradesman to take it up more as an advertising medium than anything else—those were the inducements I held out. Of course, they might argue against it, and I would discuss the matter with them.

559. If the first man refused, you would go on to the next?—Yes.

560. Before you left the first man did you ever use threats that you would ruin his business?—No; I always recognised the fact that I was representing a company carrying on business in a business-like manner.

561. Did you not represent that other men might take your offer, and so injure his business?—I advised him to get in early.

562. Beyond that, did you hold out anything in the nature or suggestion of a threat?—Certainly not.

563. When you got a man to agree to adopt the system, he would sign the agreement?—I would read it through, or let him read it through, whichever he preferred.

564. Did you always see that the man clearly understood the terms of the agreement before he signed it?—Yes.

565. Have you had any complaints from any of the tradesmen that they have signed this agreement under a misapprehension?—None whatever.

566. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—Is your whole time occupied with the work of this company?—Yes, I do nothing else.

567. How do you select the tradesmen in a particular street?—I use my own judgment.

568. *By Mr. Deakin.*—What determines your judgment?—It depends upon the look of the shop, or the look of the tradesman.

569. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—When you go to a man do you say that you will confine the advantages that you offer to him only?—Not necessarily.

570. After selecting a man you would not go to the man next door?—It depends, if he had no objection I would take the two of them; many tradesmen have no objection to the opposition adopting the system.

571. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—Is that anything like the general practice?—We have very few agreements with guarantees in them at all.

572. When you are canvassing a man, do you not tell him that if he does not come to an agreement with you you will go to another man in the same street?—Not always, I generally try to show him the advantages he will derive.

573. But do you tell him that if he does not adopt the system some one else will?—I say—"You have the first refusal, and I would advise you strongly to adopt our system."

574. If he refuses you would go to some one else?—Certainly.

575. Do they not mind whether you go to some one else or not?—Not much.

576. They do not care about your agreeing with them not to supply coupons to any one else in the same street?—No.

577. Do they value the monopoly?—In some cases; it depends upon how they are situated. As a rule, they have no objection to our taking members on each side, within a fair distance.

578. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Do you do that to any extent?—Yes.

579. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Can you give an instance where there are two tradesmen alongside each other who take the coupons?—I can give an instance where there are two at opposite corners.

580. Can you give more than one instance?—Not at present.

581. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—Personally you do not think there is much advantage in having the exclusive right to give coupons in a particular street?—In some cases I do; it depends upon the locality. I can name dozens of opposition shops that take our coupons.

582. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Within what distance of one another?—Less than 100 yards.

583. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—What reasons do those who refuse to take the coupons give for not taking them?—Various reasons. Some object to have anything to do with the system at all. They do not think it will suit them.

584. Do they give you no reason why it will not suit them?—No. I always tell them if they alter their minds they know where to find us, and in dozens of cases they have altered their minds, and they have joined us.

585. Does that arise from the loss of customers who have left them and gone to tradesmen who did give coupons?—No. In many cases they wish to talk it over with their wives. I do not know what their other reasons are. They simply come in, and say they have altered their minds, and would like to join.

586. Have you had many refusals in Ballarat?—One or two in each trade. We are pretty well represented up there. A lot of them signed on, and then some one went round and induced them not to accept delivery of the coupons.

587. Have many people come to you and complained that owing to your having sold coupons to their rivals they have lost their trade, and said that they wanted to get the coupons?—No, never since I have been connected with the company.

588. In what districts have you canvassed?—Melbourne and suburbs, Ballarat, Clunes, Maryborough, Alleendale, Mornington, and other places.

589. Have you heard that in Richmond people who had at first refused them have found their business going, and have come to you and asked to be allowed to take the coupons?—It has not come under my notice. I have nothing to do with the office work at all.

The witness withdrew.

Joseph D. Bailey, examined.

590. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—The buyer and manager of the show-room of the Co operative Coupon Company.

591. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in the employment of the company?—Thirteen months.

592. Were you under a written agreement with Mr. Thomas?—Yes.

593. After Mr. Thomas, Mr. Scott came here as manager?—Yes.

594. Was any alteration made by Mr. Scott as to the terms of the agreement or the method in which you should carry out your agreement?—None whatever.

595. Have you had any instructions from Mr. Scott as to what you should do?—Only to follow out what Mr. Thomas had told me.

596. What experience have you had in the trade?—About fourteen years in this colony. I have been practically all my life in the crockery and china trade. I have also had experience in glass ware, china, and plated ware and cutlery—that covers the goods we deal in.

597. How are the goods that are required for distribution obtained?—I buy goods direct, and also from the wholesale merchants in Melbourne.

598. On what terms do you buy?—The usual month's terms.

599. When you get the goods into stock are you responsible for the marking?—Yes.

600. Throughout all the departments?—As far as the goods are concerned.

601. You keep books of account under your agreement?—I keep a stock book.

602. In that you enter your purchases?—Yes.

603. In the balance-sheet up to the 30th of June did you check the coupon account and the stock account?—I did not check the coupon account; I checked the stock-taking.

604. Does the amount in the balance-sheet correctly represent the amount of stock?—I did not take the balance-sheet, I simply checked the stock assets.

605. In what position do you give out goods—suppose a person wants goods in exchange for coupons, what procedure do you follow?—All our goods in the show-room are marked in plain figures at their coupon value, they are marked one book, half a book, and so many coupons—600 coupons, 495 coupons, and so on; it is in coupon value, not cash.

606. Do you sell any goods for cash?—None whatever; we have sold several lines for cash, but not in the show-room; they have been sold outside, by brokerage.

607. The books are brought in by the various customers, the number of coupons is checked, and they can take out any article and get it delivered to them in exchange for the book?—Yes, and they have their own choice; we never dictate what they shall take.

608. Is there anything to show in each book what goods have been handed over to the customer for that book?—Yes, in almost every instance the wholesale price of the article is marked in the book.

609. Are those books available for the inspection of the Committee if desired?—Yes, they are down at the office.

610. Are the wholesale prices marked in these books—that is, the correct wholesale prices at which you purchase them?—They are the correct cost price to us.

611. Have you had any complaints from purchasers as to the value of the goods delivered to them?—Very few indeed; there are some people you can never satisfy, but the complaints have been very trifling.

612. Supposing a person bought an article for a 12s. 6d. book, and was dissatisfied with it, and brought it back, would you change it?—Yes, immediately.

613. Have you sufficient knowledge or sufficient opportunity to compare your marked prices with the marked prices in retail houses in Melbourne such as Chambers and Seymour, McLean Brothers and Rigg, McEwan and Co., and others?—Yes.

614. What is the comparison between your prices and theirs?—I should say our prices compare very favorably indeed, and the goods are equal to anything in the city of Melbourne.
615. *By Mr. Deakin.*—You give no discount?—No, we do not handle any cash in the show-room.
616. The goods are taken at their face value in coupons?—Yes.
617. You have a book which shows on one side the wholesale cost to you of a particular article, and on the other side the coupon rate at which it is sold?—We mark at the back of the book the goods taken, with their cost price to us.
618. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Where do you get the cost price from?—From the goods themselves—all the goods are marked, and the cost of the redemption value. The selling price is on one side of the ticket, and on the other is the stock number, and the cost of the goods to us.
619. That has nothing to do with the cost of the company in carrying on the business?—No, I do not take that into consideration.
620. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Do you mark all your goods with the same amount of profit?—No, not at all; on some articles the profit is much larger than on others.
621. Are there any lines which you sell to your purchasers at practically cost price, or very near it?—There are some that we have cut very, very fine indeed.
622. Was that in order to dispose of a particular line?—Not necessarily; principally because it is an every-day line, and every-day lines will not stand a profit.
623. What is the average profit you put on your cost price?—That is a matter I have never gone into.
624. What is the minimum and maximum profit?—I do not see that I can give that. We simply mark the goods according to what they are worth from a retail stand-point, judging from past experience.
625. What is the highest profit you mark on any line of goods?—That is a matter that I have not at my fingers' ends, and in any case it is a matter that ought to be kept private.
626. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—Will the company's books show those particulars?—The stock book shows the buying price.
627. Do not the books show the cost of carrying on the concern?—I believe the balance-sheet will show the profit on goods for the year, but I have nothing to do with the office whatever.
628. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Is every article entered in your books at its cost price and its selling price?—In our redemption book we have the selling price and the cost price; the stock book carries the cost of the goods to us.
629. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Do you buy the goods?—Yes.
630. Do you mark them?—I either mark them or they are marked by my direction.
631. Do you buy on terms?—No.
632. Have you a discount on your goods?—No, we buy on the ordinary month's terms, as any other merchant does.
633. Do you retain the invoices of your purchases?—Yes.
634. Will those invoices indicate clearly the cost without any discounts or bounties?—There are no discounts on our goods.
635. Do you mark the goods by a hieroglyphic?—We mark all goods in hieroglyphics.
636. You can explain that hieroglyphic to the Committee?—Yes.
637. That represents the selling price, and the invoice represents the purchasing price?—The hieroglyphics represent the cost price; the selling price is printed in green ink—we have everything marked up in plain figures.
638. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—These books are for 495 coupons, and you call them 500 coupons?—No, we give goods for 495 coupons, but we have often to give the extra five coupons so that they will come out even.
639. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—You pay cash and get no discount?—We get the usual monthly terms—all merchants have different cash terms for their monthly purchases.
640. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Do you say you have no discount?—We have the usual $2\frac{1}{2}$ discount—I do not mean an exorbitant discount.
641. What is the maximum discount you have on hardware?—We do not carry hardware.
642. What is it on cutlery?— $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
643. Is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. the maximum discount you get?—There are various discounts; in buying goods from England some people give 40 per cent., others 50 per cent., while others again only give 25 per cent., but as far as Melbourne purchases are concerned, they never carry more than 3 per cent.
644. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—When you get the 50 per cent. or the 40 per cent. discount, do you mark the cost to your company with that discount off?—It is the actual cost to us after deducting the discount.
645. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—If an article is imported at 1s. and there is 50 per cent. discount, you reckon that article at 6d.?—That is so.

The witness withdrew.

Francis Longmore, examined.

646. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A chemist, carrying on business in Bourke-street.
647. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business?—Twenty-five years in Melbourne.
648. Is your business a cash or a credit business?—Partly cash and partly credit; the bulk of it is credit.
649. Have you had any experience of this coupon system?—Yes, twelve or fifteen months.
650. Prior to that time did you give any discount upon cash purchases?—No.
651. How did you come to take these coupons?—As an advertising medium.
652. You have continued taking them up to the present time?—Yes.
653. What effect have you found the coupons had on your trade?—I think they tend to make people pay cash, which is a great advantage.
654. In what way is it an advantage in your business?—It saves losses.

655. Can you give the Committee any idea as to what effect the coupon system has had in converting your credit business into a cash business?—We have not had sufficient experience of it yet to say that.

656. You recognise this as a tax upon your takings, which you look upon as an advertisement?—This is only another form of taxation, if you look upon advertising as a tax.

657. Are you sufficiently satisfied with the results to continue the system?—Yes.

658. Have you had any complaints from your customers as to the class of goods they have obtained from the Coupon Company?—No, they have always spoken in terms of the highest praise and satisfaction of the goods.

659. Have you had many customers discussing the matter?—Yes, a number of them.

660. *By Mr. Deakin.*—You are of opinion that this system distinguishes you from others in the same line of business?—No, I looked at it in this way—if you want to do business, you must advertise, and I looked upon it as a way in which the tradesman might save, because it encourages people to come, without having to advertise so extensively.

661. If your neighbour in Bourke-street had the coupon system already, would that affect its value to you?—I do not think so very much.

662. You do not attach much importance to its being limited to yourself?—Not so very much. To a certain extent I think it would do away with my advertising.

663. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—This coupon is a mere bagatelle in your business. You are indifferent to the coupon?—We often sell things for 0½d. profit.

664. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—You do not sell inferior drugs to those who take the coupons?—No.

665. You give them the same kind of articles as you previously did before you gave the coupons?—Yes. You do not know whether a customer will desire coupons until you have served him.

666. There is no inferiority in the goods?—I have not room to keep two classes of goods in my place.

667. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—If you sold a 2s. 9d. article at a profit of 0½d., and you were asked for coupons, you would make a loss?—I think we would object to give the coupons in that case.

668. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—How many other chemists are there in Bourke-street?—Eleven, I think.

669. Are you the only one who gives coupons?—Yes, as far as I know.

670. If the system were generally adopted among all chemists, would you still care about it?—I think not. I look upon it as an advertising medium. I consider I advertise more extensively than most others, and this is one means of advertising.

671. You would drop it if it were general?—I would try another method of advertising.

672. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—How many coupons do you issue in a week on the average?—From 300 to 700.

The witness withdrew.

Henry A. Pouton, examined.

673. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer and ironmonger carrying on business in Wellington-street, Collingwood.

674. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business?—Twenty-nine years.

675. Is your business both cash and credit?—Yes.

676. Have you taken the coupons of this company?—Yes, for a little over twelve months, I think, ever since they started in Collingwood.

677. How did you come to take them?—The system was brought under my notice.

678. Were threats of any kind used?—Certainly not.

679. You have continued taking them ever since?—Yes.

680. How many coupons do you use in a week?—Between 3,000 and 4,000—sometimes it goes over the 4,000.

681. Do you give your coupons to both cash and credit customers?—No.

682. Do you give credit customers coupons if they pay within a week?—If a man gives me an order I send the goods to his place, and also the coupons, and if the money is paid on delivery, the coupons are given.

683. Do you find that there is a demand among your cash customers for the coupons?—Yes, decidedly. The bulk of them ask for them.

684. Do you offer them to everybody?—Generally we ask if they collect them, and we generally find that they do.

685. What effect has the system had upon your business as a whole?—It has increased the cash trade and decreased the credit trade.

686. Has it increased your business on the whole?—Yes.

687. Have you any idea what the proportionate increase of your cash business has been?—I could not say without going into figures, but it has increased it.

688. You recognise that this payment to the Coupon Company is so much out of your pocket; notwithstanding that, are you satisfied with the system?—Perfectly. I expect a discount on cash purchases myself, and I am quite willing to give a discount to my customers for cash purchases. As far as I can see, the coupon is the simplest way of giving discount on small sums, and is far more valued by the customer than a cash discount would be.

689. Have you had any complaints from customers as to the quality of the goods they have obtained under this system?—No. A lady told me a fortnight ago that she got a pair of vases for 550 coupons similar to a pair that she had seen marked up in another shop at 25s., showing that she was more than satisfied with what she had got.

690. Have you found it necessary to reduce the quality of your goods in order to cope with this payment to the Coupon Company?—Certainly not; I would not dream of it for the 3 per cent. discount.

691. Have you found it necessary to reduce the wages of your employés?—No.

692. If you did reduce the wages of your employés, and the tradesman next door who had not adopted the system gave his employés the same wages, your employés would leave you?—Yes.

693. And if you sold inferior goods you would soon be without customers?—Yes.

694. Did you advertise before you took the coupons?—Not much, but I notice that the company's advertising does bring customers, people have told me they have come through seeing the names advertised in the books.

695. Do you know of cases in which monopolies are granted by wholesale houses or importers to various people in connexion with particular lines of goods?—I know one firm that has a monopoly in the Welsbach burners. I believe the cost to make those burners is 2s. 10½d., and I think I paid 20s. for mine.

696. *By Mr. Deakin.*—How long have you been in Wellington-street?—Fifteen years, and about the same time in Peel-street, within 250 yards of my present place.

697. Are you the only grocer in Wellington-street who gives these coupons?—I do not know.

698. Have you only the one place of business?—I have a branch in St. George's-road, Fitzroy.

699. Do you give coupons at both places?—Yes.

700. How long have you had the branch at St. George's-road?—I think about five or six months.

701. Would the coupons be a determining factor in your opening in St. George's-road?—I am not quite sure whether that would have decided me altogether. I intended from the first to get them.

702. Do any of the other grocers in St. George's-road take them?—I do not know. I know they could have had them if they had wanted them.

703. Did they not refuse to take them?—I do not know.

704. Have you not altered your prices since you gave coupons?—Not in any line.

705. Are there never any alterations in prices in your business?—I have not altered prices in consequence of the coupons. Of course butter may be 6d. a pound one week and 1s. the next.

The witness withdrew.

James Ballantine, examined.

706. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—I travel for the Coupon Company.

707. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in their employment?—Since August, 1898.

708. You had your instructions in the first place from Mr. Thomas?—Yes.

709. What were those instructions as to the business, and the fashion in which you were to conduct it?—I was to approach shopkeepers in different lines of business, put the benefits of the system before them, and endeavour to induce them to take up the system, but to be always polite and courteous in doing so.

710. Had you any instructions as to which men you should approach in any particular business?—I was to use my own judgment and to pick the men I thought would be most advantageous to the business of the company—to pick certain tradesmen in different lines, grocers, butchers, boot and shoe dealers, and so on.

711. Did you do anything more than you were instructed to do by Mr. Thomas in canvassing people in the first instance?—Nothing whatever.

712. Did you use any threats of any kind to any of the people with whom you proposed to do business?—Never in one instance.

713. When Mr. Scott came here did you receive any instructions from him as to your method of procedure?—I was just to call on our members, to look them up, and see how they were doing—to see if they were satisfied or had any complaints to make of the system, and to get new members where they were required.

714. Was it part of your business to go round to those who were members and make inquiries as to whether they were satisfied?—Yes.

715. Is that still part of your business?—Yes, I do it periodically.

716. Have you had complaints in some cases where men have given up the system after having adopted it?—Yes, perhaps about 50 have dropped it.

717. In addition to coming into contact with the retailers themselves, have you come in contact with the members of the public—the customers of the tradesmen?—Yes, I have met them.

718. Have you heard any complaints from the public as to the working of the system?—No.

719. In your canvassing, you would not take "No" for an answer?—No, I was prepared to call a second time if I thought there was any chance of getting a customer. I have called as many as five or six or even ten times.

720. Between those visits you would have opportunities of offering the system to other people in the same street?—Yes, frequent opportunities.

721. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—Do you as a rule select one person in a street, or do you get as many as you can irrespective of their nearness to one another?—It depends upon the size of the street—we might take one or a dozen, there is no standing rule.

722. You take as many as you can get in a street?—No.

723. You make a selection?—To a certain extent; we might take two out of four tradesmen in a street.

724. What distance do you keep them apart?—There is no standard rule, we try and get them not too close to each other.

725. Do you hold it out as an inducement that no one else shall have them within a certain distance of the particular tradesman?—As a rule, a man will say that he supposes he will not be surrounded on all sides with tradesmen in the same line of business as himself also giving coupons, and I make an agreement with him as to that, subject to the manager's approval.

726. You find that those who take your coupons do not want their next door neighbour to have them too?—Yes.

727. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Where do you travel?—In the different suburbs of Melbourne.

728. What kinds of arguments do the people use upon whom you call five or six times?—A man might say the idea was new to him, and he wants to think it over. Perhaps in a month's time I may call on him again and then he will say—"I have not thought much about it, I would like to have more time to think over it," and he will put me off from time to time in that way.

729. What arguments do you use?—I explain that it is a good advertising medium, his name appears in the directory, and we bring the public to him by advertising in every possible way.

730. What is the directory?—The coupon books.

731. What advantage does a man get under this system?—I explain the system to him and tell him that we sell the coupons at 2s. 6d. per 100, and one of the coupons is given for every 6d. of cash purchase. The great point is to encourage cash trade, to do away with booking and with bad debts, and to save time in running round after people who owe him money, it saves legal expenses also, and in fact reduces his expenses generally.

732. Suppose he says that his profits are so small that he cannot afford a new tax, what do you say?—I ask him what he reckons the percentage will be, he may say it is 5 per cent., and I then point out that it amounts to only 3 per cent. or $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on his turnover.

733. Supposing he does not take the coupons will you then give them to an opponent?—If one man will not take them and another will I let him have them.

734. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—The more coupons your company sell the more profit they make?—Yes.

735. Then you have no objection to issue coupons to every storekeeper in a street?—If we did that our members would not take them.

736. Why not?—They reckon that it is an advertisement for themselves, and if everybody had them the system would not be so advantageous to them.

The witness withdrew.

Robert Gregg, examined.

737. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A draper, carrying on business in Richmond.

738. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You are a member of the firm of Gregg and Davidson?—Yes.

739. How long have you been carrying on business in the Bridge-road?—About seven years.

740. Is your business both a cash and credit one?—Yes.

741. Has it always been so?—Yes.

742. Prior to the introduction of the coupon system, were you in the habit of giving any discount to cash customers?—No.

743. I believe you have adopted the coupon system, as introduced by this Co-operative Coupon Company?—Yes; perhaps for about two or three months.

744. How many coupons do you get from the company per week?—I suppose we would use about 30,000 per week—between 20,000 and 30,000.

745. Do you distribute all those coupons to all your customers?—The cash customers.

746. Is that for spot cash only?—Yes.

747. Have you found since you introduced this system that there has been any difference in your business?—Yes; the cash takings are considerably more. I think it has increased the trade fully 50 per cent.; for every £100 I was taking before, I am now taking £150.

748. Has the credit business increased or decreased?—I notice that a number of the customers to whom I used to give credit now prefer to pay cash, and take the coupons. The credit business has decreased. I can see it coming down every day.

749. Was it of their own free will that they left off getting credit and took the coupons?—Yes; they have adopted it of their own free will.

750. Buying the coupons from the company means money out of your pocket in the first instance—do you consider you have a sufficient return for the money so expended?—Yes; if I did not I would not keep them.

751. In what way do you get the money back?—It has increased my turnover.

752. Has it made any difference in your advertising?—Yes, I think it has lessened the advertising.

753. You still advertise?—Yes.

754. In your advertisements you make a point of the fact that you distribute coupons for cash trade?—Yes, I want to let the people know it.

755. It has been suggested that, to meet this increased expenditure, you have reduced the quality of the goods you supply, is there any truth in that?—No.

756. Have you made any difference in the wages of your employes since you found your cash business increasing?—Yes, I have been able to advance some of their salaries.

757. To what do you attribute this improvement in your business?—To the coupons. I am sure that it is the coupons that have increased my trade.

758. You recognise that to increase your trade means to decrease some one else's?—Yes.

759. Is there anything illegitimate in that?—Certainly not, we are all trying to cut each other's throats.

760. Do you think that the coupon system is equivalent, pound for pound, to an advertisement in the leading journals?—Yes, I consider it much better.

761. *By Mr. Deakin.*—You have tried this system for two or three months?—Yes.

762. And since then you have raised your assistants' salaries?—Yes, I think five or six of them.

763. Have you been in the habit of raising their salaries?—I have not done it to any extent for the last twelve months.

764. The spring time is your busy time as a rule?—Yes.

765. When you compare your takings for the last two or three months, do you compare them with the preceding two or three months or with the last spring?—I compare September with the month before.

766. Is not September always a better month than August?—Yes.

767. Would not that account for part of your increase?—Yes, for part of it; not for the whole.

768. When you get an increase of business you allow your assistants to share in it?—Yes, if I give them a small advance they take more interest in the business. The more I pay them the harder they work.

769. You think the coupons have helped you to give them that advance?—I am sure of it.

770. It has increased your trade?—Yes.

771. Are you the only man in the Bridge-road who gives coupons?—There is another little place down below, but he does not affect me at all. There is one other draper, and there may be two, who take coupons.

772. Do you rely only on the coupons to draw trade?—No, I advertise as well.
773. Do you offer any special advantages to your customers?—Yes, we always offer special advantages. We have special lines.
774. Do you not give inducements to people to come to you from a distance?—Yes, any customer spending 5s. gets her return railway fare.
775. In point of fact, you adopt any means by which you can attract trade?—Yes.
776. You have got increased custom you say, but are you able to trace from whence that custom is derived?—It keeps a lot of the people in my own suburb from going elsewhere, running into the city, or into big places.
777. People in your own suburb do not get a railway fare?—No.
778. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Do you give coupons to all your cash customers, or only to those who ask?—I ask them all if they will have coupons.
779. Do they all take them?—Yes.
780. The issue of about 30,000 coupons a week means a turnover of nearly £1,000?—Some weeks I do £1,000 worth of trade in cash; but on the average it is between £750 and £1,000. In the good months the first week of the month will be £1,000 or over.
781. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—You never gave any discount for cash before you introduced the coupon system?—No.
782. If you were paid an account within 30 days would you not allow any discount?—No; there were a few dressmakers that I used to allow discount to, but since I have taken up the coupons I have stopped that, because they collect the coupons.
783. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Did you take up this system in order to get cash?—To increase my trade.
784. How would it increase your trade?—I found the trade was falling away. Ball and Welch had opened a big place in the city, and the people were leaving their own suburbs to go there.
785. Do those big firms give coupons?—No, they do not.
786. Then how did they attract your business?—In many instances they will give twelve months or two years' credit, and I cannot afford to do that.
787. Do you value the coupons as an advertisement?—I do if they bring me extra trade.
788. Does it bring you extra trade because it is an advertisement?—It is a big advertisement.
789. Within what time did it bring you an increase in trade?—I noticed it in the first month.
790. Where does the advertisement come in—you are not in the book?—No, but the people know I give coupons away although I am not in that book. If a lady gets a dress from me, and gets coupons, she will tell her friends that they can get coupons at my shop, and that is an advertisement for me.
791. You are all engaged in an ordinary business competition?—Yes, it is always one against the other.
792. This coupon system gives you a superior weapon in the conflict?—No, because others in the suburbs have them as well as I.
793. Does your competitor in the same street sell the same goods as you do?—He does not sell as much as I do.
794. You approve of the coupon system?—I do—it has done me good, and therefore I like it.
795. If every draper in the colony had coupons for distribution would it still be a good thing?—It would be a good thing for the general public.
796. You would not care for every draper to have them?—No, I would not like any one to have them except myself.
797. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Are your customers principally of the artisan class?—Yes.
798. Does this coupon system encourage thrift?—It encourages thrift among the general public—they all collect them, and get something for them.
799. And it encourages a cash system instead of a credit system?—Yes, I am sure of it.
800. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Have you not found that every one is experiencing good times now?—No, I think a lot of people have not experienced good times lately—I am satisfied that it is the coupons that have increased my trade.
801. How many coupons have you distributed altogether?—Up to date I have got through £112 worth of coupons.
802. Do you keep travellers?—No.
803. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Did you suffer much from bad debts before you adopted the coupon system?—There were a lot that I did not want at all; they would stick on the books for twelve months, whereas now I have on my books only about £300.
804. What would you have in the ordinary course?—Those people are not increasing their accounts; instead of having the goods booked they are paying cash and taking the coupons. I think I will eventually be able to get rid of the book debts altogether.
805. Did you ever form an estimate of what you lost in bad debts?—No.
806. Would it be 5 per cent.?—No, I do not think so; it would not be 2 per cent. on my turnover.
807. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—You say there is a little shop in the same road that issues coupons; what would you say if that place had the coupons and you had not?—I would say it served me right for not taking them before.
808. Would that shop cut into your business then?—No doubt.
809. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—The cost of these coupons comes to about 3 per cent. on the turnover?—Yes, it would come to more than that, because I ask the people to take them.
810. A number of people do not take them, which brings it down to 3 per cent.?—It costs me more than that; it might cost me $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or 5 per cent.
811. Your bad debts cost you about 2 per cent.?—Yes.
812. So you lose the difference?—No, because I increase my trade.
813. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Do you not do some sensational advertising?—Yes, I have always done a lot of advertising. At one time I used to advertise more than I do now.

Alfred Horsley, examined.

814. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A draper, carrying on business in Bourke-street.

815. *By Mr. Coldham.*—What experience have you had as a draper?—About twenty years.

816. Is your business both a cash and a credit business?—It is largely cash, and has always been so.

817. To encourage cash trading would not make much difference to your business then?—Yes, it brings us a better class of family trade; ladies buy larger parcels than they would do if they did not receive coupons.

818. Does it benefit your cash business in any other way?—No.

819. How long have you been using these coupons?—Fifteen months.

820. What number do you issue each week?—About 4,000.

821. It is suggested that this is a system of monopoly. From your experience as a draper, do you know that other monopolies of various kinds exist in the trade?—Yes, we very often buy lines that we get confined to us exclusively by the wholesale trade.

822. If you went to a leading firm to buy a particular line, they would sell it to you with the condition that they would not supply that line to any one else in the same street?—Yes.

823. Is there anything unfair in that?—No.

824. Is that the universal practice?—Yes.

825. That is merely a means of advertising the particular house that has those goods in this street. How does it affect rival traders?—It prevents the price of that line being cut more than anything else.

826. Do you know of any other system tending in a similar direction, where special conditions are given?—No.

827. You have had fifteen months' experience of these coupons. What has the actual effect been on your trade?—It has helped to increase the turnover.

828. On which side of the business has that increase in the turnover happened?—On the cash side.

829. Has it affected the credit business at all?—No, it has remained about stationary. All the increase has been in the cash business.

830. Have you been able to form any conclusion as to what it costs you upon the turnover?—About 1 per cent.

831. Do you give coupons to all your cash purchasers?—No, we confine it to those who ask for them.

832. If you issued coupons to everybody it would mean 5 per cent. on the turnover. How do you reduce it to 1 per cent.?—By the quantity of goods we sell without giving the coupons.

833. Do you advertise in the shop that you issue coupons?—We have notices in the window.

833A. Have you made any difference in your system of advertising?—We have reduced the cost of advertising in the daily papers.

834. Have you made any difference in the class of goods which you supply at a certain price, in consequence of this system?—No.

835. Have you made any change in the wages of your employés?—They earn a larger salary if there is a larger turnover. We pay them a fixed wage and a commission.

836. Have you had any complaints from any of your customers as to the operation of the system?—No; we have had it spoken favorably of.

837. Have any complaints whatever come to your ears as to the system, or as to the quality of the goods supplied by the Co-operative Company in exchange for the coupons?—The customers have expressed satisfaction with the goods received.

838. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Are you the only draper in Bourke-street issuing the coupons of this company?—I believe so.

839. Was there any stipulation with the company as to their not issuing coupons to any other draper in the neighbourhood?—Yes, there is a written agreement.

840. Does that cover the whole of the street?—Only my side of the street.

841. You realize that if all the drapers in Bourke-street took these coupons, your advantage would dwindle away?—Certainly.

842. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—What class of people take these coupons?—The middle class, principally.

843. Not the artisans?—We do not cater for that class of trade.

844. Do you think this cash payment system encourages thrift?—Yes.

845. You do not give an inferior article to the one that you would give if you did not issue coupons?—No, it is the same article.

846. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—When you say that the coupon system costs you 1 per cent. on the turnover, do you mean on the total cash turnover, or on the turnover of the whole business?—On the whole turnover.

847. What proportion of that turnover is cash?—Ninety per cent.

848. Then it costs you a little over 1 per cent. on the cash turnover?—Yes.

849. If you gave those coupons to every customer it would cost you nearly 5 per cent.?—Yes.

850. How is it that it only costs you 1 per cent.?—Until the last few weeks we have allowed our customers to ask for the coupons.

851. If the coupons are a draw, and increase your business, how is it that so few ask for them?—In some of our largest departments the coupons are not asked for at all; for instance, in the men's clothing department men do not care about them; it is the ladies who like a bargain.

The witness withdrew.

Thomas Henry Deakin, examined.

852. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—Boots dealer (manager for G. Deakin), carrying on business in the City-road, South Melbourne.

853. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business in South Melbourne?—Nearly 30 years.

854. Is yours both a cash and a credit business?—Yes.

855. Have you had any experience with this coupon system?—Yes, extending over about fifteen months.

856. Do you know what number of coupons is distributed in your business per week?—I could not say just now.

857. What effect has the coupon system had upon your business?—It has increased the cash trade materially; it has increased the other trade also, but the cash trade more particularly.

858. What was the percentage of cash to credit before you adopted the coupon system?—I cannot say what the percentage was, but it has materially increased the proportion of cash to credit business.

859. Do you give your coupons away to all your cash customers?—Usually—sometimes we forget, and sometimes they do not ask for them, but usually we offer them.

860. Do you give them to the credit customers?—No.

861. What percentage upon your cash takings does the purchase of coupons represent?—I have not had time to work that out.

862. Have you altered in any way the wages of your employés in consequence of this coupon system?—No, it has made no difference.

863. Has it made any difference in the class of goods that you supply?—I think we have sold rather a better class of goods—at least, we have sold more of the better class than we did before. Having more cash at our command, we have been able to buy cheaper, and, therefore, we have been able to give a rather superior article for the same price, if there is any difference at all.

864. Have you made any difference at all in the amount of your advertising since the introduction of this new system?—No, it is just about the same, I think.

865. Have you heard any complaints from the customers as to the effects of this system?—No, none whatever, we have found that they have received every satisfaction in the goods received—of course, you will always find grumblers.

866. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Are you the only boot dealer in the City-road who takes the coupons?—Yes.

867. The value of the system to you lies in the fact that it distinguishes you from other boot dealers?—Yes.

868. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Did you adopt this system to get rid of the credit system?—Partly, and partly as a draw.

869. Did you find that it got rid of credit, and brought in a cash trade?—I had given up business and gone away to Western Australia, so I had lost the run of the people, but taking the coupons advertised us in a manner we could not have done otherwise—it was a draw to our old customers.

870. It put your business on a healthy footing?—Yes.

871. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Are the coupons taken by the artisans and mechanics in your locality more than by the other classes?—No; every one comes to find out the value of them.

872. Do you think the coupons encourage thrift?—Yes.

873. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—You have the business that somebody else has lost?—I suppose that is so. We get the business to the loss of the monopolist.

874. Are not you a monopolist?—There are many monopolists in the boot trade. We have only one boot shop.

875. Have you not a monopoly in this matter?—We have, but we are obliged to do something to protect ourselves against the larger monopolists.

876. By means of these coupons you have got business that other people formerly had?—That some of the monopolists had.

877. What is a man to do who has not got coupons to distribute?—I cannot advise any one else. I do the best I can for myself. There is a monopolist in the street where I am, therefore I am protecting myself against him. He has shops in several of the suburbs.

878. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What do you call a monopolist?—A man with a number of shops.

879. Why should he be a monopolist?—He has a number of shops and uses one shop against another to put down the smaller trader. He uses the profits of one shop to put down the small man alongside of him in another suburb.

880. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You mean that if a man has a number of shops throughout the suburbs he can come and set up a shop alongside a little man and undersell him until the little man has lost his capital?—Not only can he do it, but he does do it. There is one man in Port Melbourne underselling the other people in order to get the trade away from them.

881. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—You find that the coupon system enables you to compete against the monopolist?—Yes.

882. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—The monopolist would ask one price for an article in a district where he was trying to crush a rival, and a different price altogether in another where he had no rival?—Yes.

883. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—What would happen if the monopolist had these coupons?—He cannot get them.

884. *By Mr. Deakin.*—You have not got them for all time?—No, for twelve months at a time.

885. Cannot the monopolist come in at the end of the twelve months?—No, the Coupon Company has dealt fairly with me—a monopolist wanted the coupons, and they would not give them to him because I was their first customer.

886. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Supposing a monopolist got the coupons and crushed you out, there would be nothing to prevent his turning round and saying to the Coupon Company—“Now I will crush you out”?—He would certainly do it.

The witness withdrew.

Elijah Easterbrook, examined.

887. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A boot dealer, managing for Mr. King at 153 Clarendon-street, South Melbourne.

888. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Is the business both a cash and a credit business?—Yes.

889. Are you acquainted with this coupon system?—Yes, for four or five months.

890. What number do you issue?—We give co-operative coupons to every customer who comes into the shop, and very few refuse them—they all seem very anxious to get them.

891. Do you give them to both credit and cash customers?—No; we give them to all cash customers, not to credit customers at all.

892. What effect has the system had upon your business?—A beneficial one, by increasing the trade and preventing customers running away into town to the big houses. We are getting the money, instead of those big houses, and we are very pleased with the system.

893. Has the percentage of cash trade to credit trade altered?—We have increased our cash trade, and the credit trade is gradually dwindling away. Customers whose names have always been put down in the books are coming now and paying ready cash.

894. People whom you were perfectly willing to trust have adopted the system of their own free will?—Yes; without any suggestion from us whatever, they have come in, squared off their accounts, and have taken coupons for cash.

895. Have you made any difference in the quality of the articles you supply for a certain price?—No difference whatever. If anything, we give the customers better value, because we buy for cash, and buy in a cheaper market.

896. The coupon system enables you to buy for cash instead of on bills?—Since Mr. King has taken over the business, we have never purchased on bills—that is two years ago now.

897. The coupon system has not made any difference in your cash dealing, but it has given you more available cash to buy with?—Yes.

898. Have you made any difference in the wages of your employés?—Yes; Mr. King has increased their wages since the coupons have been taken on. Since then, I have had a little more to take every week. I am paid by wages and commission.

899. As an advertising medium, is the system of any advantage?—It is a very great advantage.

900. Has it made any difference in your advertising account?—No, not much, I think we have done a little more.

901. You are perfectly satisfied with the financial results of the system?—Yes.

902. You supply a better article, you pay your employés more, you pay for more advertising, and still you are satisfied to pay this money to the Coupon Company?—Yes.

903. It is suggested that if this is an advertisement it is an advertisement which gives a monopoly to certain individuals—do you know any system of advertising which does not depend for its efficacy on being confined to a limited number of people who can take advantage of it?—No.

904. Do you know that monopolies are given to various men in various trades, with regard to certain lines, and sometimes lines have to be sold within certain limits?—No doubt.

905. *By Mr. Deakin.*—You say you have increased your advertising?—Slightly.

906. You would not do that unless you thought it would pay?—Our advertising has increased because we advertise on programmes and so on.

907. You are one of two or three tradesmen who give these coupons in Clarendon-street?—Yes, there is one about 200 yards away.

908. Have you got any particular agreement with the company?—Yes, I believe there is an agreement that they will give the coupons to no other boot shop between Coventry-street and Park-street, except the one that has already got them.

909. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Are you selling boots or manufacturing them?—Selling them, we manufacture very few.

910. You are not associated with a factory in another suburb?—No.

911. How many hands did the increase in wages affect?—Two, besides myself, we have also Mr. King's wife in the shop.

912. Was this rise in the wages expected by the employés for any length of time?—I think we can fully expect a rise while business remains as it is, and if it improves still further I have no doubt we will get more.

913. Were the wages lowered in the bad times?—The wages were good for all of us before we took the coupons on.

914. The higher wages are given because the employés are good men?—Yes; as the business has improved we have been rewarded.

915. Do you attribute the rise in wages to the coupon system or to the merits of the services rendered?—Partly to the coupon system—without the coupon system the wages would have remained the same.

916. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Are your principal customers artisans and mechanics?—We deal with a good class of customers. We class our trade as amongst the best trades in boots in the street.

917. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Are your goods men's, women's, or children's?—All sorts.

918. Has the increase in your business come from the better times lately?—I attribute it to the coupons.

919. Can you give us any idea who has lost the business that you have gained?—I could not say. I think apart from the coupons things are improving.

920. The better business has come from the better times?—No, I give the coupons credit for the better part of it.

921. From what source has the increase of business come?—I do not know what the other shops have lost.

922. Somebody else must have lost it?—I do not know about that—if times are better people are able to throw the old boots off a little sooner.

923. Then the increase has come from the better times?—Partly so.

924. Has the increase not come from the better times that every one is experiencing?—I know that when we get hold of customers we pay attention to them and do all we can to bring them back again.

925. Where are you getting the customers from?—The bulk of them are from South Melbourne; we are taking them from the city shops, I think. We are getting the trade which I think we are rightly entitled to; instead of people taking the money away to the big shops in the city, we get it.

John Howie, examined.

926. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business in Collingwood.
927. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Are your operations confined to Collingwood?—No, they extend to Fitzroy and Clifton Hill—I have seven shops altogether.
928. How long have you been in business?—Four years.
929. Is your business a cash or credit one?—Very little credit.
930. Have you been taking coupons for any length of time?—About fifteen months.
931. What have you found the effect of the coupons to be on your business?—A general improvement in trade—there is more cash and better purchasing power.
932. Does it have any effect upon the quality of the goods you are able to supply to your customers?—We can give a better article at a cheaper price.
933. Have you made any difference in the wages of your employés?—I have increased the wages slightly since I took the coupons.
934. It has been suggested that this method of advertising is a monopoly, are you aware that monopolies do exist in your business?—They do, for instance a grocer may have a number of shops and if he wishes to crush a small man he will make it his business to wipe him out, though it may cost him thousands, by cutting his goods down to cost price. Then when he has crushed the small man he can put up the prices as he likes.
935. Does the coupon system enable the smaller man to deal with that evil?—Yes, he can compete better, because he has more cash.
936. Do you know as a fact that grocers in the suburbs have had to combine in order to keep their heads above water against the men with numbers of shops in all the suburbs?—That is quite true, I have done it myself.
937. How has that arisen?—Through competition and extensive underselling on the part of the big men.
938. Have boycotts arisen out of this matter?—Yes, to my certain knowledge, that has been attempted.
939. What is a boycott?—Retail merchants have told manufacturers that if they supplied certain persons with goods they need not come to their places any more.
940. It is against that class of people with large numbers of shops that the coupon system affords the small man protection?—It does.
941. Are you aware that traders, tea merchants, soap manufacturers, and others actually give out what are equivalent to coupons with their goods?—Yes, this is a coupon that a soap manufacturer has instituted so that his goods should not be thrust out of the market—[*producing the same*].
942. Is that system adopted in other trades besides the soap trade?—Yes, Cadbury Brothers do it. This soap was being sold at 3d. below the cost price, but it was not being taken up freely by small people, because there was no profit attached to it, so the manufacturer decided to raise the price by 3d. and give a coupon, and asked the retail merchant to stick to the proper price.
943. Do you know John Connell and Co. Proprietary Limited who sell the Kandy Koola tea?—Yes.
944. They issue gambling tickets?—Yes, I distribute them.
945. That is for drawing in a lottery?—I do not know what the raffle is, I distribute the tickets with goods.
946. Do you approve of that?—No.
947. Do you know that Hawthorn, Rhodes give out coupons in the same fashion?—It is enclosed in the tin. Cadbury Brothers, at the end of each quarter, give a reimbursement of 3d. on each dozen tins of their cocoa, provided the cocoa is sold at the price stipulated in the schedule.
948. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Why do you disapprove of Connell and Co.'s system?—It is a lottery. There are also coupons distributed by Woolcock and Bennett, butchers, given through the cash register, which entitles the purchaser to 6d. in the £1.
949. Where do they get the cash from?—Woolcock and Bennett pay it.
950. *By Mr. Coldham.*—This is the drawing of the last Kandy Koola lottery?—Yes—[*the same was handed in*].
951. Do you know any other people who adopt the system of distributing special advantages to those who purchase from them?—I know several manufacturers are contemplating doing so, because their goods are being put out of the market by over competition.
952. You recognise that all these systems are simply advertisements?—Yes.
953. In your opinion are they all fair devices?—With the one exception I have mentioned, and that is a lottery.
954. Used you to give cash discounts before this system came in?—No, but many grocers give cash discounts for large purchases.
955. Have you been able to form any opinion as to what tax upon your cash takings this delivery of coupons to customers entails?—From 3 per cent. to 3½ per cent.
956. Are you satisfied as a business man that that charge upon your income pays you?—I am.
957. You have no desire to see the system stopped or to give it up?—I have not.
958. Suppose half-a-dozen or a dozen grocers were endeavouring to combine against, say, Moran and Cato, and issued coupons to their customers with that object, would you consider that a reasonable and proper course to pursue?—I should say it would be fighting the enemy in a fair way.
959. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Have you cut down your wages?—No.
960. Were you fined at the Collingwood Police Court for selling under weight?—No. I was fined, but not for giving false weight. A piece of lead had dropped off the scales.
961. The Bench did not accept that interpretation?—That might happen to any man at any time.
962. To whom do you give the coupons?—To those cash customers who ask for them, no matter what they purchase.
963. If they buy sugar are they entitled to coupons?—If they buy tea with it they are; not if they buy sugar alone.

964. If they buy kerosene do they get coupons?—We put up a notice at the back of the shop that we give coupons on such articles when we have bought them at a fair price, so that we can make a fair profit.
965. You yourself determine whether you will give coupons or not?—Yes.
966. You have these coupons at a number of shops?—Yes, at seven.
967. Have you an agreement with the company in regard to preventing other competitors from using these coupons?—Yes.
968. So that if an unfortunate small grocer is struggling against you as a bloated monopolist, with seven shops, he cannot get the coupons?—I am not a bloated monopolist. He can start another coupon company if he likes.
969. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—You say you consider this system of drawing in connexion with the Kandy Koola tea improper?—Yes.
970. Why has it not been stopped?—I do not know whether it is illegal—the Government are the people to take these things up.
971. Could not those who suffer from it take action?—If I knew the people who suffered I would assist in stopping the lottery.
972. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Why have you seven shops?—To enable me to purchase in large quantities so as to be able to sell cheaper. I started with one shop, but I could not make enough to live on, so I had to launch out.
973. A previous witness referred to the fact that men with a large number of shops owing to their better purchasing power were able to snuff out the small men in their neighbourhood?—That is what was attempted in my case, but it has not been successful. I had had experience in one of the larger firms before I started.
974. When you had only one shop you found the monopolists competing unfairly against you?—Yes, and not only that but chasing me round the suburbs.
975. You went in for the other shops in self-defence?—Yes, so as to be able to buy in larger quantities.
976. You are now able to take the position of a monopolist yourself?—I am able to battle against him.
977. What about the small man in your neighbourhood?—I have to live.
978. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Where are your other shops?—In Clifton Hill, North Fitzroy, and Collingwood.
979. Are your customers principally of the artisan or mechanic class?—All classes.
980. You think the system encourages customers to save money?—Yes, it encourages thrift. Customers have come to me and said that they have things in their homes that they would not have had otherwise. They were only getting a few shillings a week and they could not save, but they had got a few nice things for their homes by this system.
981. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Do you recognise that we have better times now than we had a few years ago?—Slightly better.
982. You share in the better times?—Yes.
983. Have you had experience in this business in any other place than here?—Not in the grocery business.
984. Were there any coupons in the other places?—Yes, there are co-operative coupons in Scotland, but they are tin, not paper; for each purchase of 6d., 2s., or 2s. 6d., a token was given to the purchaser, and at the end of the quarter the purchaser was given a percentage. If he was a member he had so much, and if he was only a customer he still had a percentage of the profits.
985. That was the co-operative system—it was not done in the same way as it is done here?—It is a corporation here.
986. Are you a member of the company?—I am not a shareholder—I distribute the coupons.
987. Supposing Parliament abolished the whole thing—what effect would that have upon you?—It would be detrimental to me if the co-operative coupons were abolished, unless we found something that would suit in its place.
988. Suppose the company withdraws its patronage from you, that would be detrimental to you?—Yes, and very detrimental to the working classes.
989. If this company were to withdraw its coupons from you it would affect your business?—Yes.
990. Then the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is really a tax on your business, but a profitable tax?—It is.
991. It arises entirely from your selling trade?—Yes, and purchasing at the cash discount.
992. Do you recognise that you take that trade from somebody else?—I cannot say where the trade comes from. I suppose I must be getting it from some one else.
993. Do you see what the end of it will be if this system goes further?—I think the end will be that the co-operative coupons will exist to a greater extent than they do now, both in manufacturing and retail lines.
994. Do you mean that other companies will form, and the business will spread through the cities and towns of Victoria?—Yes; and if it is safeguarded it will be beneficial.
995. Do you anticipate that it will spread?—I cannot say.
996. If your present company withdrew their coupons, you would be at their mercy?—No.
997. How would you protect yourself?—I would have to try something else.
998. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—How long is your agreement for?—Twelve months.
999. Supposing they withdrew at the end of twelve months, what will be the result?—We will have to put up with it, just as a man meets with difficulties at any time.
1000. Do you feel comfortable in your business now?—I feel more comfortable now than I did sixteen months ago.
1001. Supposing this company was to come to you at the end of twelve months and say—“We require 8 per cent. ;” how would the position stand then?—I do not think there is any danger of that; the company knows its business.
1002. The company is run on business lines for purposes of profit?—Yes.
1003. Is it not likely that they will sell their coupons to the highest buyer at the end of the agreement?—No; I have more faith in the company than that.

1004. Might not the monopolists buy the coupons at a higher rate than you are giving, at the end of your agreement?—I do not think so; the company would not do such a thing as that.

1005. Do you not think, as a good business man, that this company will go for the highest price it can get for its coupons, when your licence has expired?—No, there is a law that applies to business that if you charge too high a price you kill the business—you can only ask a fair profit.

1006. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Suppose there were so many companies in the colony that every trader worked under the coupon system, would it then be an evil or a benefit to the trader?—It would be an evil to those who have the coupons now, but I dare say the community would be benefited by it.

1007. Would the traders be paying the tax without getting any benefit?—Yes, it must be a limited number of members just like any other system of shareholders.

1008. Do you pursue the policy of crushing out the weak trader in your neighbourhood?—No, my opponents do it. If the law provided that one man should only have one shop, I would willingly close the other six to-morrow.

1009. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Is there any particular reason why you do not give cash coupons upon sugar and kerosene?—Yes, kerosene is being retailed at 2s. 9d., while if you bought 2000 cases the market value would be 3s. 1d.

1010. Is it possible to sell kerosene at 2s. 9d. and get back your money?—Not in the present market.

1011. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—May not the kerosene now being sold at 2s. 9d. have been bought a few months ago when the market was lower?—It is possible, but that is not business.

1012. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Could you at any time in the last six months have purchased kerosene so as to be able to retail it at 2s. 9d. and make a profit?—No, I have bought 2000 cases and I paid 2s. 8d. for it.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow, at half-past Three o'clock.

FRIDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present:

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair;

The Hon. J. M. Davies,
The Hon. D. Melville,
The Hon. G. Godfrey,

The Hon. A. O. Sachse,
The Hon. W. Knox.

Richard Prichard, examined.

1013. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A draper, carrying on business in Errol-street, North Melbourne.

1014. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business?—Five years.

1015. Is yours both a credit and a cash business?—It was until the time of our adopting the coupon system, which was about three weeks or a month ago.

1016. Do you decline to give credit now?—No, but our credit trade has been so small that those we gave the privilege to withdrew on their own account, and have taken coupons.

1017. Prior to your taking the coupons, what proportion of your business was cash?—It has always been practically a cash business.

1018. The effect of the coupons would not be appreciable on your business as far as turning it into a cash business is concerned?—No.

1019. You have now your cash business saddled with the payments to the Coupon Company?—Yes.

1020. What effect has the coupon system had upon your business?—It has made a decided improvement.

1021. What is the percentage of increase?—85 per cent. and it is increasing daily.

1022. Then you approve of the coupon system?—Decidedly.

1023. Has it made any difference in carrying on the business in the way of expense?—No.

1024. You have a tax of 5 per cent. upon your turnover?—No, the tax on my business is practically not increased by adopting the coupon system; my previous methods of advertising cost me as much as the coupons cost.

1025. Have you reduced the cost of advertising?—I have reduced on the total, but I am now spending the same amount as I did previously when I was taking 85 per cent. less.

1026. Has the introduction of the coupon system made any difference in the quality of the goods you supply to the public at a certain price?—None whatever.

1027. Has it made any difference in the wages you pay to your employés?—Yes, I have increased the salaries of eleven of my employés out of 50.

1028. You recognise the system is a means of advertising?—I do.

1029. Do you see anything unfair in it?—I do not.

1030. How far from you is the next rival tradesman?—About 20 yards or 50 yards away; there is one right opposite me, and the other is about 50 yards down the street.

1031. They do not issue coupons?—No.

1032. Have you any agreement with the company as to the issue of the coupons?—I have. We have the sole right in Errol-street between Victoria-street and Queensberry-street, a distance of about 500 yards.

1033. Is there anything you know of to prevent the tradesmen in that block issuing their own coupons and redeeming them at their face value, or by orders for goods on other tradesmen?—Nothing that I know of.

1034. Do any of them adopt that system?—Not that I am aware of.

1035. Have you had an opportunity of observing other monopolies under which particular persons are entitled to sell a certain class of goods?—That is general in the trade. Very frequently one line in the trade would be restricted by the warehouses to one particular house.

1036. Is that considered unfair?—I do not consider it unfair.

1037. Do the public seem to appreciate this coupon system?—They do, decidedly.

1038. Do you deliver the coupons to all your customers?—We do. We ask them in the first place if they collect coupons, and if they do we give them to them.

1039. Have you heard any complaints as to the redemption of the coupons—that people do not receive the proper value for them?—No, quite the reverse; they have appeared very pleased with the value they got from the company.

1040. Has this system any advantage when you come to compete with large houses with branches in the various suburbs?—I cannot say.

1041. Prior to the introduction of this system, did you give any discount to the public who paid cash?—I did not.

1042. Then the whole amount you pay for coupons is an additional charge upon your business?—No, it is only equal to what I previously spent in other ways.

1043. But in the first instance it is an additional charge?—Yes.

1044. And notwithstanding that, you are perfectly satisfied with it because of the advantage you obtain?—Yes, I only regret that I did not adopt the system much earlier.

1045. *By Mr. Deakin.*—What were the other methods on which you spent money?—In newspaper advertising and circular advertising.

1046. You have not reduced your advertising?—No. I spend a large amount of money in advertising. I spend the same amount of money as I did previously in advertising, but I have 85 per cent. more business.

1047. You have the extra amount you pay for the coupons added on to the previous amount you paid for advertising?—Yes, but I have changed my method of advertising.

1048. You give the coupons freely?—Yes.

1049. What proportion of your customers do not take the coupons when you offer them?—The cost is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

1050. What proportion of those to whom you offer the coupons say they are not collecting them?—A very small proportion, perhaps two out of ten would refuse.

1051. How many coupons did you purchase from the company?—50,000.

1052. How many have you in hand?—2,000 or 3,000.

1053. What did you pay for them?—The usual rate, 25s. per 1,000, less 4 per cent. discount.

1054. Have you had any other dealings with the company besides that?—No.

1055. Your relation to them has been confined solely to the purchase of 50,000 at 25s. per 1,000, less 4 per cent.?—Less 4 per cent., and also less 6 per cent. on taking 50,000; beyond that I have had no dealings with the company.

1056. In three weeks you have got rid of all those coupons except 2,000 or 3,000, and your customers have expressed satisfaction with the goods they have received from the company?—Yes, very much so.

1057. How many have expressed themselves to that effect?—All to whom I have spoken who have received anything from the company.

1058. How many of your customers have got goods from the company?—I cannot say definitely, but all whom I have spoken to, and I speak to a very large number of people daily; it may be 100 who have received returns from the company for the coupons.

1059. Were they people who had received coupons from you?—They have been people who have collected coupons; they have been at my counter, and in conversation they have said this.

1060. Is that within the last few weeks?—Yes, since we adopted the system.

1061. Were the goods that they obtained from the company about the same value, or did they represent different values?—They represented different values as far as I could judge.

1062. Were those the people who had obtained coupons from you who afterwards expressed satisfaction?—They came to me because I was giving coupons, on account of their having received good value for their coupons previously.

1063. Did they receive the coupons from you for which they got those goods?—Most likely they received them from other people, because I have only lately started giving the coupons.

1064. Was it in consequence of what they said that you adopted the system?—That was one of the reasons. I was most particular in examining the quality of the goods given in exchange for the coupons, before I consented to adopt the system in connexion with our business.

1065. Did you examine them at the show-rooms?—Yes, I went into the show-rooms and examined them there.

1066. Are any of the goods there goods that you sell?—I believe they have some curtains and table covers. I have not seen any goods that we retail, but I have heard so from other people.

1067. The goods they sell are not the goods in which you are accustomed to deal?—No.

1068. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Do you say that 100 persons have expressed their approval of the coupon system to you?—I said I might have spoken to 100 persons; I cannot say definitely, but I have not heard of one who was dissatisfied with the value received.

1069. Are your customers members of the working classes, artisans and mechanics?—We have all classes.

1070. Do you think that giving these coupons encourages saving habits?—I do.

1071. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Do you think that you are justified in raising the wages of your employes in three weeks after the adoption of this system?—I do.

1072. What was the minimum wage and the maximum wage that you paid before you adopted this system?—My apprentices receive 2s. 6d. per week.

1073. How many of them would be at that rate?—Four.

1074. What is the maximum wage?—£4 per week.

1075. How much do the increased wages amount to in the aggregate in your establishment?—About £3 per week.

1076. Your investment in coupons altogether is about £60, and the result has been the addition of £3 per week to your wages?—We have had such a decided improvement in business that I felt justified in raising the wages.

1077. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—You are the only one in that block giving out coupons?—Yes.

1078. And the coupons are restricted to you by agreement?—Yes.

1079. Under those circumstances you approve of the system?—Yes.

1080. What would you say if the conditions were reversed?—I think I would retain my trade.

1081. Then what benefit would the coupons be to your competitors?—That they would be able to tell you better than I could.

1082. You must have taken your increased trade from somewhere?—Yes, but I cannot say where it comes from, the money comes from all directions, it does not come from my neighbours altogether, although they may lose a small percentage.

1083. If the coupons were taken from you and given to your neighbours, would not it affect your trade?—I dare say we would lose our present increase, or a proportion of it.

1084. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Would you lose the whole 85 per cent.?—No, I do not think so.

1085. Do you say the coupons have increased your business to the extent of 85 per cent. in three weeks?—I attribute it to the coupon system and nothing else.

1086. Your business would suffer if the coupons were taken away from you?—On my present return it would.

1087. What would you say if the company took them away from you?—I would have to abide by the trade I did before.

1088. Your business would fall off again?—I do not think so; I have had to deal with so many fresh people that I would undoubtedly keep many customers out of that number.

1089. If your competitor opposite got them would he not have an increase of business?—He might.

1090. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Why do you restrict the coupons to yourself instead of letting your competitors have them?—Because I have decided to totally change the method of advertising my business.

1091. *By Mr. Coldham.*—This petition says—“The Bill contemplates putting a stop to a system which practically amounts to gambling,” is there any element of gambling in it so far as you are aware?—None whatever.

1092. You calculate the cost of the coupons to be 3½ per cent. on the turnover?—It works out at about 3½ per cent.

The witness withdrew.

Harry Wallis, examined.

1093. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A draper and clothier, carrying on business in the Sydney-road, Brunswick.

1094. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business?—Between nine and ten years in Brunswick.

1095. What experience have you had in the drapery trade?—Over fifteen years.

1096. Is your business both a cash and a credit one?—There is a very small percentage of credit business, hardly worth speaking of.

1097. Was it practically a cash business prior to your using the coupons?—Just the same as it is now.

1098. Prior to your taking the coupons, did you give customers discount who paid cash?—No.

1099. When did you first take up the coupon system?—A little over two months ago.

1100. How did you come to take it up; were you black-mailed?—No; a good many of my customers were asking for coupons, and I told them they could not get them. They said they would go where they could get them; so I thought there was something good in the coupons, and I took them.

1101. Have you found that taking coupons has increased your business?—Yes, it has increased it 50 per cent.

1102. Has that caused any deterioration in the quality of the goods you supply to the public?—None whatever.

1103. This petition says—“The Bill contemplates putting a stop to a system which, in our opinion, is most pernicious and injurious in its operation and detrimental to the interests of the public”—can you say where the system is detrimental to the interests of the public, who get discount on the goods they purchase?—I do not see any detriment to the public.

1104. It goes on to say that it “involves collateral and incidental consequences of a very injurious character, affecting traders and the public”—have you observed anything of that nature in the operation of this system?—Nothing at all.

1105. You recognise that the coupon system does not increase the volume of trade, it only attracts trade into different channels?—That is so.

1106. Can you give us any idea what percentage of increase in the cost of carrying on your business has been occasioned by the adoption of this coupon system?—About 3½ per cent.

1107. Do you give coupons to everybody?—To all those who require them; some will not take them.

1108. How do you arrive at 3½ per cent.?—The cost of the coupons is an extra 3½ per cent. on my business.

1109. Do you get a corresponding advantage for that?—I get an increased business, and an increased turnover, and that allows me to buy at a better price than I could otherwise do.

1110. Does it make any difference in the cost of your advertising in other directions?—None at all.

1111. Are you aware that there are restrictions upon special lines in your business—that certain lines are only given to certain people?—I have heard of such things, but I have had no experience of it.

1112. You have nothing to do with John Connell and Company, who are opposed to this system?—I know nothing of them.

1113. Have the public expressed any opinion to you upon the system?—They have expressed the opinion that they are thoroughly satisfied with whatever they have got from the Coupon Company.

1114. Has it been a common occurrence with you to find people expressing that view?—If you get into conversation with them and ask them they will tell you they are satisfied.

1115. Has it any effect upon the business of the suburban shopkeeper as against the large houses in the city?—As far as I can see the coupon system tends to localise trade.

1116. If you take business from somebody else it is taken from the large houses in the city?—That is so.

1117. Do you consider this an unfair method of competition?—No.

1118. Are you aware that houses in the city advertise single articles at wholesale prices?—I am aware they advertise a lot of bogus lines.

1119. Is that statement about selling single articles at wholesale prices true or false?—It depends on what they call wholesale prices; wholesale prices at the beginning and the end of the season are very different.

1120. It is against those people that you can compete now?—Yes.

1121. Have you reduced the quality of your goods in consequence of the introduction of this system?—No.

1122. Have you made any difference in the wages of your employés?—I give them a premium on sales now, and I did not do so before.

1123. Is the amount you actually pay reduced?—I have not reduced the salaries; they are in receipt of more money now than they were previously.

1124. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Is paying them a commission likely to increase their exertions on your behalf?—Yes, to a great extent.

1125. When you say the system localises trade would you expect it to continue to localise trade if those large houses also gave coupons?—It would not localise it altogether, but we get a bigger share of the trade than we did before the introduction of this system.

1126. How many coupons have you purchased from the company?—50,000 at 4 per cent. discount. I purchased one lot of 30,000 and two lots of 10,000 each.

1127. How many have you in hand at present?—About 5,000.

1128. Have the persons who have spoken to you in favour of the goods they obtained from the company been purchasers who have taken coupons from you?—They have got some of my coupons, but they must have got some somewhere else.

1129. Do you know what class of goods they received?—Yes, they showed them to me; they were chiefly electro-plated ware, such as cruets, and I have also seen a set of chinaware.

1130. Do you offer the coupons to everybody, or only give them to those who ask for them?—When we make out the cash slip we ask if the customer would like coupons.

1131. What proportion take coupons?—About 80 per cent.

1132. Have you an agreement as to the area within which you are to be the only draper using coupons?—No, not as to area, but I bind them not to supply certain other tradesmen.

1133. Where is the nearest man to you in your business who uses coupons?—About 250 yards further down the road, and there is another 500 or 600 yards off in another direction.

1134. Have you any agreement as to their supplying no other tradesman?—My agreement debar the company from supplying three others in the same street.

1135. The coupons may be given to any other tradesman but those three?—Yes.

1136. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—In arranging about those three do you consider you are boycotting them?—I prevent them from having the same privilege as I have.

1137. If they should want to get them they cannot get them because you boycott them?—Yes.

1138. Your trade has increased to the extent of 50 per cent.?—Yes.

1139. You do not regard the money you have paid for those coupons as a tax upon your business?—Not at all.

1140. How long does your arrangement with the company last?—Six months.

1141. Supposing at the end of six months the company insisted on being allowed to sell where they liked, what would happen to you?—I would still take the coupons.

1142. Even if the three who are now debarred were allowed to take them?—I would not give up without a struggle; but, at the same time, if every one else in the trade in Brunswick took them I would still take them, because I think it would localise trade.

1143. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Where do the people go now?—To the city and Collingwood.

1144. If those shops in the city and Collingwood gave coupons the people would still go there—they would have no incentive to come to you?—I think giving the coupons would be sufficient to keep their trade.

1145. At present they fancy they get some advantage by going to Collingwood?—They fancy so.

1146. And you retain them by giving coupons?—Yes.

1147. If the Collingwood people also gave coupons, they would go there still?—I would lose a certain amount of trade, but not all of it.

1148. Then is it wise that every one should have these coupons?—I do not think it would pay for every one to have them.

1149. Have you noticed a falling off in the business of other tradesmen in the locality since you issued these coupons?—No, I have got no information on the point.

1150. Has their business increased in the same ratio as yours?—I do not think so; they may be doing their regular trade, but I am doing a trade that has never been done in Brunswick—it has always gone to the city or elsewhere.

1151. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—You think, apart from the coupons, you would be able to retain a part of that trade?—Yes, I think so.

1152. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Your business has been increasing all the time, has it not?—It has been increasing during the last twelve months.

1153. Has not Brunswick rapidly increased in population lately?—It has gone ahead, no doubt.

1154. Are you not getting your share of the natural increase in trade through the increase in population?—Yes, but I would never expect an increase of 50 per cent. through that.

1155. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Would those people who came to you for coupons leave you if you ceased to give coupons?—If the coupon system were knocked on the head altogether, I would retain some of them, because they recognise that we give just as good value as any place in the city.

The witness withdrew.

William Snell, examined.

1156. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A boot dealer and bootmaker, carrying on business in Union-road, Ascot Vale.

1157. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business there?—In Ascot Vale twelve years.

1158. What experience have you had in the boot trade altogether?—About 30 years.

1159. In your present business, prior to the introduction of the coupon system, did you give discount to cash customers?—No.

1160. Prior to the introduction of the coupon system what proportion of your business was cash and what proportion was credit?—I think about half of each.

1161. When did you first take the coupons?—About fourteen months ago.

1162. And you have continued to take them ever since?—Yes.

1163. What number have you had altogether?—I issue about 800 a week.

1164. Do all your cash customers take them?—Not all, perhaps 75 per cent. take them.

1165. Have you found that since you took the coupons there has been any difference in the proportion of cash to credit business?—The credit business is less.

1166. To what extent?—I suppose about 25 per cent. less.

1167. Has the turnover as a whole increased?—Yes.

1168. Are you satisfied to continue the coupon system?—Quite.

1169. Is there any restriction upon the sale of coupons to other people in your vicinity?—Close by there is; the company may not supply certain people within a certain distance of me; the distance is about half-a-mile from me on either side; the railway is the dividing line.

1170. How many boot dealers are there within that radius?—Five.

1171. Supposing the company supplied any of those other people with coupons what would you do?—I should keep on with the coupons.

1172. Do you see anything of the element of gambling in the system, as stated in this petition from the Chamber of Commerce?—No, I do not see anything in the shape of gambling in it.

1173. What class of people avail themselves principally of the system with you?—The working people.

1174. Do they appear to be satisfied with it?—Perfectly.

1175. Have you heard any complaints as to the value of the goods received in exchange for the coupons?—Some are very well satisfied. Of course certain people are never satisfied no matter what they get, but the most of them are satisfied.

The witness withdrew.

Frederick Usher, examined.

1176. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A boot dealer, carrying on business in High-street, St. Kilda.

1177. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you carried on business in St. Kilda?—About fourteen years.

1178. Used you to do both a credit and a cash business?—Yes.

1179. Did you give any cash discounts?—No, not until the coupon system came in.

1180. When did you adopt the coupon system?—About fifteen months ago.

1181. Did you adopt it of your own free will?—I did.

1182. And you have kept to it ever since?—I have.

1183. Since you adopted the coupon business have you found any difference in the turnover?—Yes, it has increased.

1184. Is that increase at the expense of other people in your neighbourhood?—It has localised the trade a good deal; people who used to go down to Prahran now stay in St. Kilda.

1185. In addition to localising the trade, has it converted many of your customers into cash customers?—Yes, in a great many instances.

1186. Has your cash business increased?—It has.

1187. What percentage does this system cost you on your turnover?—I should say from 2½ to 3 per cent.

1188. Do all your customers take the coupons?—No.

1189. Do you offer them to everybody?—Only when they are asked for.

1190. Are you satisfied with the return you get for the 2½ per cent. on the turnover?—Yes; the way the people pay cash where they used to book has more than compensated me for the outlay.

1191. Do the public appear to be satisfied with the system?—Very well satisfied in every case.

1192. Have you any restriction in your agreement with the company as to persons in your trade who may be supplied with coupons?—Yes, the prohibition extends from Alma-road to Carlisle-street; that is, from the top of the hill to the town hall.

1193. Supposing the company were to supply other persons in that street with coupons, would you continue to take them?—Yes; the difference they have made in my cash and credit would quite reconcile me to any outlay.

1194. If your trade remained the same as it is now, you would be perfectly satisfied?—Yes.

1195. Is there any element of gambling in the system?—Not the slightest.

1196. What number of coupons do you use?—I get them every fortnight. I may perhaps get 1,000, or sometimes more, in a fortnight; lately it has been more than 1,000.

1197. Do you consider this competition unfair?—No; it assists me to compete with a man who can spend hundreds of pounds in advertising in the year, which I could not afford to do. I have not the capital.

1198. Does it assist you in any way in your purchasing power?—Yes, instead of having to give a certain number of bills as I used to do, I never have to give one at all; I can go into the market and buy for cash.

1199. When you give bills you are tied to the man to whom you owe money?—To a great extent that is so.

1200. Whereas now you can buy to the best possible advantage?—Yes.

1201. Have you reduced the wages of your employés?—I have none; I do my own work.

1202. Who are the people who deal with you generally?—Generally the middle classes—people in business themselves, and artisans.

The witness withdrew.

William Joseph Peirce, examined.

1203. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—Manager for Mr. Hagan, a boot dealer in the Sydney-road, Brunswick.

1204. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you occupied that position?—Three years. I have been in the boot business about twenty years.

1205. Is Mr. Hagan's business a large one?—It is the largest business in Brunswick.

1206. About how many employés are there?—Four in the shop all the week, and seven on Saturday.

1207. How long has the coupon system been introduced in your business?—Thirteen months.

1208. Were you the person who arranged for its introduction?—I was.

1209. How did you come to adopt the system?—The canvasser from the Coupon Company called on me, and I recommended it to Mr. Hagan. He was a little while before he took it, but he consented after a time.

1210. Before you introduced the coupon system, what was the proportion of your cash business to your credit business?—About 50 per cent. was cash.

1211. Have you found the coupon system has increased the cash business?—Yes.

1212. To what extent?—Fifty per cent. on the whole takings.

1213. Out of £100 that you take now, what proportion would be cash?—Seventy-five per cent., and it has increased the business as a whole 50 per cent.

1214. Are you able to form any opinion as to what sources your increase of business has been derived from; has it been at the expense of local tradesmen, or of the large houses in town?—The increase has arisen both from the coupons and from the increase in the population; it is not altogether from the coupons.

1215. Certain individuals do business with you now who did not do business with you before. Where did they trade before?—I think the majority of them traded in other suburbs.

1216. In addition to that there has been an increase in the population of Brunswick?—Yes.

1217. Do you see any element of gambling in this system?—None whatever.

1218. What restriction is there upon the sale of coupons by the company to other people in the same business as yourself?—Out of about ten shops two are restricted, one on each side of me; there are six shops within 50 yards of me, and two of them are restricted.

1219. Do any of the other shops use the coupons?—Four other boot shops in Brunswick, but none within 50 yards of me.

1220. Supposing the shop next door to you were given coupons by the company, would you then give up taking the coupons?—No, I should still keep them on.

1221. Do you think that irrespective of the increase in trade you get advantages which justify you in buying these coupons?—Yes.

1222. If the coupons were delivered next door to you, you might not hold the whole of your increase in trade?—No.

1223. Notwithstanding that, you would still keep them on?—I would.

1224. Has any reduction been made in the wages of your employés?—No, the wages have been increased to everybody, myself included.

1225. Is the quality of the goods the same?—Just the same.

1226. What class of people take advantage of this coupon system?—The poorer classes; people who buy expensive goods do not ask for them.

1227. What percentage do you reckon the coupons would come to on your turnover?—About $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

1228. And notwithstanding that $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. you are perfectly satisfied?—Yes, perfectly.

1229. Is the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon the total turnover, both cash and credit?—Yes, a lot of people do not ask for them.

1230. If you sell £100 worth of goods you receive £75 in cash, and £25 you book; you do not give coupons on the £25?—No.

1231. The most that you can give is 5 per cent. on the £75; that is only $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on the whole £100?—That is what I made it, and I have just got the year worked out. Of course I pay so much towards them myself; I pay half on all over a certain amount per week, but I get the benefit of it.

1232. Have the public expressed satisfaction with the system?—Perfect satisfaction with everything they have got.

1233. Did you give discounts for cash formerly?—No.

1234. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Are you clear that the business was formerly 50 per cent. cash, and 50 per cent. credit?—That was roughly speaking, as far as I could judge.

1235. And that your gross takings, both cash and credit, amounted to 50 per cent. more after you took the coupons than they were before?—Just on 50 per cent.—the takings are almost double—it is about 75 per cent. increase.

1236. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—All the businesses in Brunswick are increasing, are they not, whether they take coupons or not?—I do not know much about other businesses.

1237. What were the Hoffman's Brick Company doing fifteen months ago?—They were doing pretty well.

1238. What are they doing now?—I cannot say.

1239. Is not all the business round you increasing?—Yes.

1240. Are not rents going up?—Yes.

1241. Houses are being built all round you?—Yes.

1242. If there were no coupons would you not still expect an increase?—I would expect an increase, but not so much as I have had.

1243. Have not some of those round you doubled their business without taking the coupons?—I am not aware of it.

1244. There is great prosperity in the district?—Yes.

1245. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Do you think the coupon system encourages a cash trade?—Yes; we do less booking.

1246. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Did you make many bad debts when you were booking?—Yes.

1247. What percentage of bad debts did you make?—I cannot say at all.

The witness withdrew.

Robert Davison, examined.

1248. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business in Sydney-road, Brunswick.

1249. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business?—I have been in the same place for about 30 years.

1250. How many shops have you got?—Only one.

1251. How many employés have you?—One employé and my son.

1252. Prior to your taking coupons, was your business both a credit and a cash one?—Mostly credit. I carry on a family business principally.

1253. What percentage of your business was credit before you took the coupons?—I could not say—it was mostly all credit.

1254. When did you first take the coupons?—A few months ago—perhaps two months ago.

1255. Have you found that the adoption of the system has made any difference in your business?—Yes; it has brought more cash to the place.

1256. Has it increased your total turnover?—It has increased the cash trade—men who have been dealing with me have started to pay cash instead of running long accounts—those who have been in the habit of having goods entered are now paying cash.

1257. Does the system appear to give satisfaction to your customers?—Yes, they like it.

1258. What do you think of it yourself?—I am very pleased with it.

1259. Are you satisfied that some of the money should go to the company?—Yes, because I have not so much money on the books.

1260. Would you be satisfied even if it did not increase your total turnover if it made an increase in the amount of cash you got monthly instead of booking?—People get careless when things are entered, and are not so smart in paying—I am quite satisfied to pay the money to the Coupon Company.

1261. Is there any restriction in your agreement as to the persons to whom the coupons should be supplied?—Yes, no one else on the Sydney-road, Brunswick, from the Sarah Sands to Moreland has the right to have the coupons, except those who have them now.

1262. Have you made any alteration in the quality of goods you supply to customers?—No.

1263. Have you made any alteration in the wages of your employé?—No.

1264. Did you give any cash discounts before this coupon system came in?—Never.

1265. Do you give coupons to all your cash customers?—Yes.

1266. It has increased your business?—The cash business.

1267. Has it increased your business as a whole?—Yes, a good deal of fresh trade has come.

1268. Is that attributable to the improvement in local conditions, or to the coupon system?—To the coupon system.

1269. Where do you derive that business from?—From the surrounding districts, from Coburg down.

1270. With what class do you deal?—As a rule with the working class.

1271. People who purchase small quantities?—Yes, 10s., 15s., or £1 worth at a time.

1272. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—Two months is not very long to effect any important change in your business?—No.

1273. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Are there not about 25 grocers' shops between those two points you mention?—Yes, but at present only four have got the coupons on the Sydney-road.

1274. Within what distance have you the monopoly of the coupon system?—From my place down to Barkly-street; there is a shop near there that has them.

1275. Going northward, can any one get them?—Not further up the road, not between that and Moreland.

1276. Only one man can get them?—There are four who have got them.

1277. Where are the others?—One at the corner of Moreland-road, another this side of the Old Court House hotel, then there is myself, and one at the Sarah Sands.

1278. You four control the place?—Yes.

1279. None of the larger grocers have them?—No.

1280. What number do you get through in a week?—1,000.

The witness withdrew.

Edward Thompson, examined.

1281. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A draper, a member of the firm of Thompson and Thomas, carrying on business at Footscray.
1282. *By Mr. Coltham.*—How long have you been in business?—About eight years.
1283. Is yours both a cash and a credit business?—Yes.
1284. Prior to issuing the coupons, what proportion of your business was credit?—From 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. The rest was cash.
1285. Did you give cash discounts to your customers before you got the coupons?—None whatever.
1286. When did you first take the coupons?—About fifteen months ago.
1287. Were any threats held out to you?—Decidedly not, we took them of our own free will.
1288. What agreement did you have as to other persons in the same trade?—We were advised that no one in the same street would get them.
1289. How long is the street?—About 200 yards on each side of us.
1290. Has no one else in your business in that street got them?—No, only one in another street.
1291. What effect has the coupon system had upon your business?—It has materially increased it.
1292. Has it increased the turnover?—Yes, and it has reduced the credit account. We have eliminated several credit accounts altogether, persons who have been in the habit of taking credit are now paying cash.
1293. What percentage does this system cost you upon the turnover?—It costs us from 3 per cent. to 3½ per cent., some people do not take them, but the system has now got so well known to the public that they almost invariably take them, and we get very few refusals.
1294. Do you know anything to prevent any one else giving coupons to any one he pleases, on any goods he pleases?—No, decidedly not.
1295. Suppose any one in the same street were to start giving out coupons, would you abandon the system?—Decidedly not, we are satisfied to take our risks with our neighbours.
1296. Irrespective of the increase in business the thing is good in itself?—Yes, the principle is good, it prevents a good deal of hardship to the tradesman and is an advantage to the customer. They can just as well pay cash for their goods as have them entered.
1297. How does it improve the position of the tradesman?—He has an advantage in buying—he has ready money, and can meet his obligations better. Our customers are perfectly satisfied with the system, and are rather afraid of the coupons being injured in any way.
1298. It has been said that this is a monopoly; do you know that monopolies are quite common in your business?—I know of such cases—not in my own case; but I know instances where people in a larger way have been able to command a certain amount of cash capital, and have been able to obtain greater advantages than we have been able to obtain; but this system gives us the opportunity of competing on the same footing, because we have the cash to make use of.
1299. Have you made any change in the quality of your goods?—None whatever.
1300. Have you reduced your employés' wages?—No, we have rather increased them.
1301. Where does the increased business come from?—We got that trade from local sources, and also neighbouring districts, Williamstown, Spottiswoode, Yarraville, Kensington, and Newmarket.
1302. Do you know whether the drapers in those places have got the coupons?—There are none in Williamstown, there is one in Yarraville.
1303. Notwithstanding that the company are only restricted to a small area round you, they have not issued them in those outlying districts?—We do not interfere with them at all.
1304. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—This is a tax of 3½ per cent., what does that come out of?—Out of our general cash takings.
1305. What pays the 3½ per cent.?—The profits of the increased business.
1306. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Are your customers principally working people?—We find that the generality of people take the coupons now; the better class people who pay cash for their goods take advantage of the coupons just the same as the working classes.
1307. Have you a large number of railway people as customers?—Yes.
1308. Does this system encourage them to pay their tradesmen?—Yes, the chances are that if the system is continued it will prevent a great many insolvencies.

The witness withdrew.

Mortimer Griffiths, examined.

1309. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A boot dealer, carrying on business in Errol-street, North Melbourne.
1310. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business there?—About eighteen years, in the shop I am in at present.
1311. Was your business formerly both a cash and a credit one?—Yes.
1312. Were you in the habit of giving discount to those who bought for cash?—None whatever.
1313. When did you first become acquainted with the coupon business?—About fifteen months ago.
1314. Did you undertake to take the coupons?—Yes.
1315. Of your own free will?—Yes.
1316. Did you examine into the system before you took it up?—Yes, I gave it good consideration.
1317. Were you forced into it in any way?—No.
1318. What effect has it had on your business?—It has increased it considerably—it has increased the turnover.
1319. Has it made any difference in the credit business?—It has reduced the credit business considerably and increased the cash business.
1320. Persons among your customers whom you were willing to give credit to before, now prefer to pay cash?—Yes; their names have been struck off the books and they have become cash customers.

1321. Is that a desirable thing?—Decidedly.
1322. What advantage do you attach to that?—I have been 33 years in business in Victoria, about 25 years in North Melbourne, and I think that when a man does a credit business, no matter how safe he thinks it is, 5 per cent. will not clear his losses in bad debts. Then there is the extra expense in keeping books, the time consumed in which often encroaches on the Sunday morning, and all that to a great extent has been done away with.
1323. Does the cash system give you any advantage in buying?—It puts me in a considerably better position in buying.
1324. It enables you to get better value for your money?—Yes, I can buy better and sell better.
1325. And the customers reap the benefit of your improved facilities for buying?—In my opinion they do. I am not restricted in my choice.
1326. Have the public expressed any opinion upon the system?—They are very much pleased with the system, and also with the doing away with credit and getting a discount.
1327. What restrictions are there upon the sale of coupons to other people in the same trade in your neighbourhood?—The restriction is limited to a very small district—I should think about 50 yards on one side of me and about 150 yards on the other.
1328. How many competitors does that include?—Five.
1329. Suppose those men were supplied with coupons, would that alter your opinion sufficiently to induce you to give up the system?—I do not think I should give up the system, but I would consider that when the event took place.
1330. If some other coupon company were to start distributing coupons in your neighbourhood would you then give up your contract with the company?—I would not.
1331. It has been suggested that this is a monopoly—what have you to say to that?—I do not see any monopoly in the system. There are many other monopolies, such as one person owning 40 or 50 shops, and monopolizing all districts. If Parliament is going to interfere at all, that is a matter it might interfere with. I can mention in other trades, as well as my own, cases where, when a new article comes out, the shopkeeper who has that article in the first place takes it on the condition that he has the entire sale of it for his own district—that is quite common.
1332. Can you say what the percentage of cost is upon your total cash sales through adopting this system?—We bring it out at about 3 per cent.
1333. Have you had an opportunity of learning the feeling of other trades as well as your own in regard to the system?—I have heard it spoken very well of in general.

The witness withdrew.

Reuben Auty, examined.

1334. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A boot dealer, carrying on business at 384 Smith-street, Collingwood.
1335. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business?—Fourteen years.
1336. During that time has your business been a cash business or a credit one?—Both.
1337. Did you formerly give discount for cash payments?—No.
1338. When did you first become acquainted with the coupon system?—About fourteen months ago. I did not adopt it at once when the canvasser called upon me, but the following week I sent word to him to come in, and I decided on having them. I am well satisfied with the system myself.
1339. About what number of coupons do you issue?—I have issued about 70,000 since I have had them.
1340. Have you found any difference in your business during that time?—It has about doubled.
1341. Has it made any difference in the proportion of cash sales to credit sales?—I have no credit sales at all now, it is all cash; I might get three credit sales in a month now, not more.
1342. What proportion of your business was cash before you started taking the coupons?—It was about half and half.
1343. Have the people who used to deal with you as credit customers been converted into cash customers?—They have.
1344. Have you lost any of your credit customers?—No; they have not left me, but they are cash customers now.
1345. That is a distinct advantage to you?—Yes, I should be very sorry to see the coupons put down—they have saved me a lot of trouble in making out bills, and I get a better name for my goods than I did before; bad debts will give you a bad name.
1346. In addition to the benefits you derive have your customers expressed any opinion about the system?—They seem to be perfectly satisfied.
1347. What restriction have you in your contract with the company?—I have no agreement at all.
1348. They can sell their coupons to the next door man if they choose?—Yes.
1349. What would you do if they did?—I would have to fight against them; one man in the street has had them and has given them up, but another man, as well as myself, has got them now.
1350. From what source do the extra customers come?—Local trade, and a good deal is country trade.
1351. How is the country trade attracted by the coupons?—They do not come in on purpose to my shop, but when they are in from the country they call upon me.
1352. How many boot dealers are there in that street?—About eight, I think.
1353. Do you supply the same quality of goods that you did formerly?—Yes.
1354. Do you make any difference in the wages of your employés?—I only employ my daughter, her wages are increased.
1355. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Do you know why the other bootmaker gave up taking the coupons?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Edward Lee, examined.

1356. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A boot dealer, carrying on business at 245 Bay-street, Port Melbourne.

1357. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business?—About eighteen years.

1358. Was your business both cash and credit?—Yes.

1359. What number of employés have you?—None; I manage my own business.

1360. Have you adopted the coupon system?—Yes, for fifteen months.

1361. How has it answered?—Very well.

1362. What proportion of your business was cash before you took up the system?—The credit business would be about 75 per cent. of the whole.

1363. Has any alteration been made in that percentage since you adopted the coupon system?—Yes; the credit business has been reduced. It is pretty well all gone now.

1364. Have people who were formerly credit customers changed themselves into cash customers of their own free will?—Yes.

1365. That puts you in a better financial position?—Far better.

1366. Can you suggest any other reason but the adoption of the coupon system why those people should have changed willingly from credit customers to cash?—No.

1367. Are the people with whom you have come in contact satisfied with the coupon system as far as you are concerned?—Very well satisfied.

1368. Are there any restrictions as to the persons to whom this coupon system may be extended in your neighbourhood?—Yes, the restriction extends to 200 or 300 yards from me.

1369. How many does that restriction prevent from getting those coupons?—About two in my line of business. One man has got two shops, and he gives the coupons in one shop; but he is restricted from using them in the other by my agreement with the company.

1370. If those two men were given the right to use the coupons within that radius what steps would you take. Would you continue taking them?—I would, for the sake of the cash trade.

1371. That is sufficient to make up for the expense of buying the coupons?—Yes.

1372. You are quite satisfied with the system yourself?—Yes, quite.

1373. Have you been able to form any impression as to where the increase in your trade came from?—It is local.

1374. How many coupons do you issue?—About 2,000 or 3,000 per month.

The witness withdrew.

Samuel G. Gaylard, examined.

1375. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A draper; a member of the firm of Dimelow and Gaylard, Swan-street, Richmond.

1376. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Is yours a cash business as well as a credit business?—It is a cash business only, and it has only been a cash business.

1377. Before you took up the coupons, did you give discount on cash payments?—No.

1378. When did you first take up the coupon system?—In September of last year.

1379. Did you do it freely in the first instance?—The firm that were there before I came had them, and we took them on with the business.

1380. How long have you given the coupons?—We gave them up for a few months, but we give them now.

1381. How long did you continue them after you went there?—About four or five months, I think.

1382. You would not give them up at all if you were satisfied with them?—It was not altogether that, but we thought we could get on as well without them.

1383. Did you find it made any alteration in the business when you gave up the coupons?—There might have been a trifle—nothing to speak of.

1384. After that you decided to take them again?—Yes, about two months ago.

1385. Was that of your own free will?—Yes.

1386. When you gave them up, did any other drapers adopt the system?—Not in our own street.

1387. What was the result when you took up the system again?—It improved our business; it increased the total turnover.

1388. Has that increase continued?—Yes.

1389. Do you attribute that increase to the coupon system?—Yes, I think so.

1390. Are you likely to give them up again?—I think not so long as the trade is fairly payable.

1391. Immediately you find it is not paying you, you will give up the system?—I think so.

1392. Have you kept up the quality of the goods you supply to your customers?—Yes.

1393. Have you made any difference in the wages of your employés?—None at all.

1394. How do the customers like the system?—They seem to like it.

1395. What percentage do you reckon the issue of these coupons comes to upon your turnover?—I think it comes to about 3 or 3½ per cent.

1396. Do you give them to everybody?—To everybody who asks for them.

1397. Does it appear to be an unfair method of advertising?—No.

1398. Do you regard it as anything more than a way of advertising and keeping the cash business together?—No.

1399. Has it made any difference in the way you purchase goods?—No, we always purchased for cash.

1400. Are you aware of other monopolies that exist in the drapery trade in the shape of special concessions or special lines?—I do not remember any at present.

1401. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Do you give coupons on all your lines of business?—Yes.

1402. Do you do men's business?—Yes.

1403. Do they, as a rule, ask for coupons or take them?—Yes, as a rule, they do.

1404. In the same proportion as women?—We do not get as many men as women.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to Wednesday next, at half-past Three o'clock.

TUESDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present:

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair;

The Hon. J. M. Davies,
The Hon. T. Comrie,
The Hon. G. Godfrey,

The Hon. W. Knox;
The Hon. D. Melville,
The Hon. A. O. Sachse.

David McGrath, examined.

1405. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A general storekeeper, carrying on business at Allendale, Creswick, and Kingston.

1406. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business?—Twenty years.

1407. How long is it since you adopted the coupon system in your business?—Twelve months.

1408. Prior to the adoption of that system, was your business a cash or credit one?—Largely credit.

1409. Could you give the Committee any idea of the percentage of cash to credit?—About 80 per cent. credit and 20 per cent. cash.

1410. And since the introduction of the coupon system, have you found any difference in the proportion of cash to credit business?—As far as I can judge, I should imagine it makes a difference of 10 per cent. more cash.

1411. Then your business is now 70 per cent. credit and 30 per cent. cash?—Yes.

1412. Your increase in your cash turnover is not very large?—No.

1413. Is the increase in the cash business caused by new customers, or by turning the old credit customers into cash ones?—A number of my cash customers preferred taking the coupons to taking the discount for cash at the end of the month. I should imagine about 5 per cent. take the discount, and the others take the coupons in preference to discount.

1414. Do you give coupons to credit customers?—No.

1415. Do you give them to those who pay cash?—I give coupons to those who prefer to take the discount in that form, and I give cash discounts at the end of the month to those who prefer to take cash in preference to the coupons.

1416. Have you found anything in the system inequitable or unjust?—No, I found it to be fair and just, and it gave me an opportunity of giving to my small cash customers a discount for direct cash that I hardly could have otherwise given. I could give a small discount to those who paid at the end of the month, but I had no method of giving a discount to the small cash purchasers, those who paid me direct cash and with whom I ran no risk. I had their money immediately, and I thought they ought to have some advantage over those who were compelling me to keep books.

1417. It was necessarily the wealthier class of customer to whom you gave the cash discounts, but you had no means of giving the small buyers the benefit?—No, not until I adopted the coupon system.

1418. As far as your relationship with your rival traders is concerned, have you observed anything inequitable, to your mind—anything that renders this illegitimate trading?—No; I found most of my rivals adopted other systems—some the cash system, and others adopted a system by which goods, in the shape of discount, were purchased from themselves.

1419. Have you sweated your employés in order to pay this sum to the Coupon Company?—I consider I earn the sum that I pay from the additional money that I receive in the more direct method. I can claim my own discount, as it gives me an opportunity of paying cash and claiming my discounts from the merchants from whom I purchase.

1420. Do you charge the same prices for your goods as hitherto, and supply the same quality?—I charge the same prices and supply the same quality of goods, taking the ordinary variations of the market.

1421. You have not a grocer's licence?—No.

1422. With regard to those who have a licence, how does this system affect them?—This system affects our district very seriously, and I could thoroughly understand a Bill being introduced with a view to an alteration of the law in that direction. In the whole shire of Creswick there is not a single grocer's licence, and in the two neighbouring boroughs there are a considerable number of grocers with licences, and those who have them have a considerable monopoly over the others whom they are competing against, owing to the fact that they can supply commodities that we are debarred from supplying.

1423. They have a Government monopoly?—Yes.

1424. And that seriously interferes with you as a private trader?—Very seriously indeed, besides, I think, interfering with the general community as a whole.

1425. Have you had any opportunity of judging as to the class of goods supplied by this company?—I first heard the statement made by various persons that this Coupon Company would not give value for the coupons, and I adopted the rule of requiring the whole of my customers to bring their articles to me so that I might use my judgment upon their value—I was determined that my customers should get fair value. I viewed the articles, and, as far as my judgment goes, they have been to the full satisfaction of my customers during the last twelve months.

1426. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Being a grocer, are you in a position to judge?—I am in the drapery line and fancy goods as well, and keeping an all-round general store I have a fair knowledge of the value of general commodities.

1427. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Were you bullied into taking up this system?—I saw the system advertised, and I had long been thinking of some method of giving my customers who paid direct cash an advantage over those who insisted on booking. I thought this a good idea, and I sent my son to Melbourne to interview the manager of this company, and he was informed that until they opened a branch in Ballarat they were not prepared to give me the coupons.

1428. Supposing the coupons were stopped, what effect would it have upon you?—I should think it would injure my business to a certain extent. I consider I am at liberty to conduct my business in what way I think fit, and if the coupon system were abolished I should consider my liberty had been very largely interfered with by the Legislature of this colony.

1429. Where do your customers redeem their coupons?—In Ballarat.

1430. *By Mr. Deakin.*—How far is Allendale from Ballarat?—Sixteen miles by rail.

1431. Is there any agreement between you and the Coupon Company as to the issue of coupons to any other traders in the places in which you carry on business?—Yes, the understanding I made was that, as I was a draper and also a grocer, I claimed the right in the particular towns in which I carried on as a grocer only to issue the company's coupons. I claimed no right against their issuing coupons to shoemakers and others carrying on business in the same places—no right against any other person.

1432. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—I understood you to say you claimed the right to issue those coupons wherever you carried on business as a grocer. What discount did you give before you adopted the coupon system?— $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on all goods. I do not include flour, sugar, tobacco, and patent medicines, as I consider the profits on those will not permit me to give the discount the Coupon Company's tickets demand. I do not give coupons on those articles, but I do on kerosene.

1433. Do you issue the coupons without the customer asking for them?—Always. Although it is a regulation not to give them, I look upon it that a cash customer is entitled to the coupons to the amount of his purchases.

1434. When you had the cash discount you gave it to them as a matter of business?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Adam Ramage, examined.

1435. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business at Ballarat.

1436. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You are a member of the firm of Harber and Ramage?—Yes.

1437. You carry on business at Bridge-street, Skipton-street, Lydiard-street, and Creswick-road?—Yes.

1438. Is your business partly cash and partly credit?—No, always cash.

1439. Did your firm, prior to coming into contact with the Coupon Company, give cash discounts, and if so, what?—No, I did not give any cash discounts.

1440. Do you now give coupons?—We do.

1441. By way of cash discounts?—Yes, to all our customers, whether they need them or not.

1442. How long have you been doing that?—About six months.

1443. What has been the result, as far as you have been able to observe?—The result has been an expansion of business.

1444. You are paying 5 per cent. of your turnover now which you were not paying before the coupon system was adopted?—It would run out to about 4 per cent.

1445. How do you reduce it from 5 to 4 per cent.?—Say a person buys an article at 10d. you would give him only one coupon, or perhaps he spends 2s. 11d., in that case he would get only five coupons, instead of six.

1446. Then by that means you gain in the long run; it makes no difference in the cost of advertising?—None whatever.

1447. So that you are enabled to compete on a 4 per cent. basis?—Yes; we get the cash and we are enabled to buy at more than a 5 per cent. profit.

1448. You have always taken cash?—No, my partner and I both had businesses, and we closed up two of our businesses to start on this cash principle—we found the coupon system was an aid to cash business.

1449. Then I understand that prior to introducing the coupon system you had both a cash and credit business?—Yes; there were two distinct businesses in different streets.

1450. Then you ran the two businesses apart from one another?—Yes; we worked up this business so as to give up the credit business—my partner got out of his and I got out of mine.

1451. During the whole of your cash career you have adopted the coupon system?—Yes, we have.

1452. Did you take up the coupon system for the purpose of your cash business, or was it the coupons that showed you the way?—The coupons induced us to try it on account of getting the cash.

1453. Have you found that this system of discounts has been well received by the public?—Yes, exceptionally so.

1454. Does it appear to be more satisfactory than the system of giving a discount in the shape of a current coin of the realm?—They only want the green coupon, and no other—we have offered them both, but they will have the green coupon.

1455. Do you mean they would not take cash discounts if 2s. 6d. or 5s. were coming to them?—We find they prefer the coupons.

1456. Have you a grocer's licence?—None whatever.

1457. Plenty of people round you have them?—Yes, undoubtedly they have.

1458. Does the Government licence tell against you?—Yes, it improves the business of those who have a licence.

1459. Does it reduce yours?—Undoubtedly it does.

1460. In what way?—They can cut things at an exceptionally low figure on account of making it up on the wines and spirits; they make that their lever, their sole aim is to sell wines and spirits, and they cut the groceries at a low price.

1461. They would give them away practically with a bottle of wine?—Practically.

1462. Are you aware of this opposition in Ballarat to the coupon system?—Yes, I am.

1463. How does that come about?—Certain individuals connected with the trade had the coupons offered to them, and they refused to take them, and when a success was made of them they brought all the opposition they could.

1464. Some had refused to take them?—They had the opportunity, but they would not touch them, nearly all had the opportunity.
1465. Can you give the names of those who have had them offered to them?—Yes.
1466. Has this system resulted in your reducing the wages of your employés, or compelled you to keep inferior goods?—We pay top wages, and keep the best articles; no rubbish whatever.
1467. You are satisfied to pay this 4 per cent?—Certainly.
1468. *By Mr. Deakin.*—What is your area of limitation?—North, south, east, and west.
1469. I mean, within what area are you the sole issuer of the coupons; have you not an understanding with the company issuing coupons?—Only so far as Lydiard-street is concerned. I might explain that we understood that, as far as Lydiard-street was concerned, nobody was to have them, and I have found that others have them in one or two streets who were supposed not to.
1470. Do you mean to say the agreement was broken with you?—I suppose to that extent it was; we do not want a monopoly.
1471. Did you have an understanding as to each shop?—Only as to Lydiard-street alone; not as regards the others at all.
1472. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—In reference to the licensing, you have a great grievance because it is such a huge monopoly—you would like the Act altered?—Yes, undoubtedly.
1473. You think those who have grocers' licences have an advantage over you?—Undoubtedly they have; that is the experience of the trade—anybody who has been in it knows that.
1474. Did you ever try to establish a discount business for cash?—Yes, in a tea business I was connected with for eighteen months, and I found it a moral impossibility—you could not give them the cash.
1475. How much did you offer them?—About 5 or 6 per cent. in the shape of a rebate—we offered them a pound of 1s. 6d. tea at 1s. 4d., but it would not take on at all.
1476. You find they prefer the coupons in preference to hard money?—Yes, that is my experience.
1477. You say you have tried this cash discount business, but it would not take on at all?—They will not be bothered.
1478. But they like the coupons?—That is it.
1479. *By the Hon. T. Conrle.*—Instead of reducing the price of the tea from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 4d., if you had offered your customers a discount of 2d. in cash, would they not have taken it?—The business was so limited.
1480. You know it is very hard to tell the value of tea by simply looking at it?—My experience is the public are very keen nowadays.
1481. Supposing they had said to you they would take that tea if you gave them a real cash discount?—We offered it that way as well, but it did not seem to take on.
1482. If there is such a fascination about the green coupons they must be of more value than 12s. 6d. in actual silver?—I find it is almost on a par with bank notes; they can fill up a book so much more quickly that it seems to concentrate their efforts in doing so.
1483. Would you give a cash discount to a person who bought 10s. or 5s. worth of goods?—Yes, we would give them the actual cash if they would take it, but they prefer the green coupon.
1484. But before you adopted the coupon system?—It did not take on at all—it was not worth bothering with.
1485. I suppose you take cash in the shape of discount from your merchants?—Undoubtedly we do.
1486. You yourself would not prefer to get coupons?—As long as it was the face value I would take them, I mean the same value as you would pay the company for them.
1487. I am asking you would you take coupons from your merchants?—As long as I could exchange them for the equivalent in cash I would.
1488. Would you be willing to take them from your merchants?—That is rather a vague question; it may or may not suit me. If I could melt them down into money at their face value I would.
1489. Do your customers not want to melt them into money?—No, they are satisfied.
1490. I want to know whether you yourself would be satisfied to take those coupons for your discount instead of cash?—If it was the real face value.
1491. But taking things as they are?—I do not really see the force of the question. I take cash discounts, but if the merchant gave me co-operative coupons, and it was the rule to give them for cash, I would take them.
1492. I want to know whether you would take them as discount for your own use, the same as your customers do?—If it was the real value I would take them, certainly.
1493. But taking things as they really are?—If I were dealing with a merchant, and I spent £100, and my discount was 5 per cent., I would take it in coupons.
1494. You would take £2 10s. worth of coupons in place of £2 10s. in sovereigns?—Yes.
1495. Even though you had to use those coupons in purchasing articles?—Yes; I would take them that way; they would suit me just as well as discount.
1496. Would the Co-operative Coupon Company give you a discount for cash?—It would be very slight.

The witness withdrew.

Hugh Lonie, examined.

1497. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, at Ballarat.
1498. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Where do you carry on business?—In Skipton-street and Eureka-street.
1499. How long have you been carrying on business?—About twelve years.
1500. Are you a member of the Grocers' Association?—Yes.
1501. For how long have you been a member of that body?—Since it was formed; I am an original member.
1502. Is your business a cash and credit one?—Yes; always has been.
1503. You have adopted the coupon system?—Yes, since it first came to Ballarat.
1504. How long is that?—About twelve months; I am not sure of that.

1505. Have you found any advance has been made in your business by means of that coupon system?—I find we take more cash in place of credit.

1506. Does it increase your general turnover?—Yes.

1507. Could you give me any percentage, approximately?—I think it must be about 15 per cent.

1508. What is the increase in the proportion of cash to credit?—I think it is pretty well half now.

1509. What was it previously?—It was formerly 25 per cent. cash and 75 per cent. credit.

1510. It is hardly necessary to ask you if that suits you?—It suits me very well.

1511. I presume you consider the system desirable?—I do.

1512. On what grounds do you find it an advantage?—I get more money to work on.

1513. It increases your purchasing power and enables you to buy to greater advantage?—It does.

1514. Do you give coupons to credit customers?—I do not. I do to the cash customers, if they ask for them, and I find they generally ask.

1515. Have you got a grocer's licence?—No, I wish I had.

1516. Supposing on the one hand you had the option of a grocer's licence, and on the other, the coupon system, which would you choose?—I would take the grocer's licence undoubtedly.

1517. You think it would be better for your business than the coupon system?—I think it is the greatest monopoly in the country.

1518. Do you supply inferior goods in consequence of the introduction of the coupon system?—We always keep the best goods, and always have done so, and we charge a fair price.

1519. Do you cut down your employés' wages?—No.

1520. How did you come to adopt the coupon system?—My object in taking up the coupon system—in the first instance I was rather against it, but other people came into the district—my opposite neighbour, a new man, was selling at a price I could not buy goods for, and I took up the coupons as a protection against this sort of thing.

1521. You found it protected you against undercutting?—Yes.

1522. Do you see anything illegitimate in using these coupons for preventing that undercutting?—I think the poor people who spend, say, 5s. have some right to a return for the money, because if I pay £100 for goods I get $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount for cash, and the customers who book with me sometimes go two or three months without paying, and sometimes I do not get the money at all.

1523. We understood that there was a strong feeling against this coupon system at Ballarat; the Grocers' Association was against it?—Yes, the Grocers' Association was against it, but I am not.

1524. What do you mean by saying the association are against it?—The majority are.

1525. The association is not much divided?—Not much; they are pretty unanimous.

1526. Have any of those who form the majority adopted the coupon system?—Yes; some of those are opposed to the coupon system, and yet they keep coupons.

1527. You have two sets of men, the men who will not take them and the men who cannot get them?—Yes.

1528. How is it that Ballarat has taken such a pronounced stand in connexion with this matter, and sent in this petition. Mr. McGregor comes down with a huge petition, which is before the Committee?—My own private opinion is that an organized effort has been made to work up a feeling against the system. I know that the majority of the grocers are of my own idea. There is in Ballarat what we call the "cut-throat" element, and it is those people who have got up this agitation. I will say there are some respectable grocers in Ballarat who do not adopt the coupon system, but my impression is that it is those people who are trying to undersell their neighbours who are making the greatest objection to the system; that is my impression, from an intimate knowledge of the whole affair.

1529. Was there an attempt made in Ballarat to get a petition signed?—I believe so; it was brought round to my shop, but I did not sign it, and I have signed none.

1530. Who got up that petition; it seems to have disappeared?—I do not know anything about the petition. I could not really tell you.

1531. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Do you consider this coupon system encourages thrift in Ballarat?—I do.

1532. You think the people who get those coupons might otherwise spend what they represent at the wine and spirit store or public-house?—Yes, they get an encouragement to pay their money down and save up those coupons with the idea of getting something for Christmas or something of that sort—it encourages a lot of people to save. The question has not been asked me with regard to the value of those goods which they get. It has been stated that they do not get a fair value, but I can honestly say that the people who have got coupons from my shop have been more than satisfied with the goods from the company.

1533. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—You are a member of the Grocers' Association?—Yes.

1534. That association, as a whole, is opposed to these coupons?—Yes.

1535. The bulk of the members were opposed to this system; were they the men who wanted to do the underselling?—Those who got up this opposition.

1536. There are some respectable grocers in Ballarat, though, opposed to the system?—Yes.

1537. Would you be sorry yourself if the coupon system were abolished?—I would not break my heart, but if no one could get them the "cut-throat" man would come in.

1538. That man cannot go on long; he cuts his throat eventually?—But he cuts mine in the meantime.

1539. He can do that now?—He cannot—the people come to me and they pay a fair price because they get the coupons; lots of them come for that reason.

1540. Some of those cut-throat people could get coupons?—They could not afford to get them.

1541. You say you would not break your heart if the whole thing were abolished?—No, I would try and live I suppose; I think the system is fair and equitable, as far as I can see.

1542. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—The reason the system suits you is that you can get better prices for your goods?—Yes, I consider fair prices.

1543. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Some of those cut-throat people have also the coupons?—They do not live in my district.

1544. Can you absolutely exclude them from getting the coupons?—I cannot exclude them.

1545. Surely if they are sharp enough to “cut” they are able to get hold of the coupons?—Yes, they may.

1546. Does not that arm them still further—you do not mean to tell the Committee the men you brand as “cut-throat” cannot get the coupons?—There are certain people who cannot get them.

1547. That is not what I asked—do you mean to say those men who are in active competition with you, whom you call “cut-throats,” cannot get those coupons?—No, they cannot—the people I refer to cannot—I do not refer to the Grocers’ Association, but to the district I am in.

1548. Are they barred from getting them—have you made it a part of your agreement that they shall be barred?—It is only an understood agreement.

1549. You have boycotted them?—No, they boycott me—they sell at a lesser price than I can buy at.

The witness withdrew.

William Henry Potter, examined.

1550. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, in Moorabool-street, Geelong.

1551. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business as a grocer?—Thirty-five years, seventeen of which I have been in business for myself.

1552. During the time you have been in business on your own account have you carried on both a cash and a credit business?—I have.

1553. Have you adopted the coupon system?—I have.

1554. Might I ask you, prior to the adoption of the coupon system, about what percentage of your business was cash and what credit?—About 75 per cent. was booking and 25 cash.

1555. Did you adopt the coupon system of your own free will, or under compulsion?—I adopted it of my own free will.

1556. After inquiry as to the benefits or otherwise of the system?—I made full inquiries at first, and fully satisfied myself that it was a legitimate means of increasing my business. I agreed on taking the coupons on trial to continue for six months, and at the end of that time I was to give them up if it was not satisfactory.

1557. Has the six months expired?—Yes.

1558. And you have kept on?—Yes, I have—I am fully satisfied that the system is a just one.

1559. Has its introduction into your business made any difference in your total turnover?—Very slight. I do not know that I have an increase of customers, but a number of my old customers who were in the habit of paying monthly or quarterly, and leaving balances, have paid up, and adopted the cash system.

1560. What percentage of your customers are now cash as compared with credit?—One half.

1561. Is that a desirable state of things to yourself?—Yes, very.

1562. In what way?—That I have the cash at my disposal, whereas formerly it was on my books.

1563. Have you made any difference in the quality of the goods supplied, or in the wages paid to your employés?—I have made no difference in the quality of the goods, and I have raised the wages of my men.

1564. To what do you attribute that?—I attribute it to the coupon system, having more cash at my disposal.

1565. Do you see anything unjust or inequitable in the adoption of this system?—I can see nothing. Formerly I held a wine and spirit licence, but now I have none—I gave it up on principle. If there was anything wrong in this system I am prepared to say I shall have nothing more to do with it, but so far I fail to see there is anything wrong whatever, and I may say that my customers, without a single exception, are satisfied with it—they have expressed themselves as being fully satisfied.

1566. Mr. Harwood has asked a previous witness whether the customers would be contented to take their cash discounts in lieu of coupons?—I scarcely think that is a pertinent question.

1567. Might I ask what it would mean if you took 2½ per cent. discount in butter dishes, trays, and such articles on the whole of your turnover out of a shop like the Co-operative Coupon Company’s; would it not mean you would have to set up a shop of your own to sell such things?—I would be quite willing to take it in goods I was dispensing to my customers.

1568. You do not deal in butter dishes and things of that sort?—No.

1569. Five pounds would enable a customer to get some useful article for the house?—Yes.

1570. But I suppose a 3d. or 6d. in discount would not be very easy to find at the end of the month, when you wanted to buy anything with your saved discount?—No, it would not.

1571. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Do you mean you would be prepared to take those coupons in lieu of discount, provided your merchant would take them from you, as if they were sovereigns?—Yes, if he would give me goods to their value.

1572. *By Mr. Coldham.*—If you could go to your Co-operative Company and get the goods you required at the same price as from other people, you would go without hesitation?—Yes, as long as I got what I wanted.

1573. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—Is it your experience that your customers prefer coupons to cash?—I have never tried that alternative.

1574. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—Would you be satisfied to take tea or sugar, or any other commodity, at the retail value; you say you could not do with those teapots and plates?—Certainly not.

1575. You would expect your wholesale merchant to give you saleable goods for those coupons?—Yes.

1576. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Are your immediate neighbours debarred from getting the coupons?—Not that I am aware of. I am not given to understand that.

1577. You have not entered into an agreement that no other grocer shall have coupons?—I made no such agreement.

1578. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—You would not ask for it?—I would object.

1579. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—You think the coupon system is a good one?—I have no doubt of it. I am perfectly satisfied it is a legitimate business.

1580. Could not you yourself issue coupons of your own?—Possibly I could, but I have never thought of such a thing.

1581. Then your customers with those coupons would buy goods from you?—They do not always want groceries; the coupons enable them to get other things besides groceries.

1582. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—Supposing you issued coupons yourself and redeemed them in cash, how would that work?—I do not think it would take so well. I have not considered that.

1583. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—Your customers would never object to take goods in every-day use as compared with those flimsy articles?—Probably not. I could not say from experience.

1584. It would be a more useful thing to get goods in every-day use?—Perhaps so.

The witness withdrew.

William Henry Blezard, examined.

1585. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—You are a butcher carrying on business, in what street?—Victoria-street, Mair-street, and Main-road, Ballarat.

1586. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been carrying on business in Ballarat?—Six years.

1587. Prior to your taking up the co-operative coupons, was yours a cash and credit business both?—It has been a cash business all through.

1588. Before you took up this co-operative coupon system you had a system that you introduced yourself?—Yes.

1589. What was the nature of that system?—I have one of my coupons that will explain it better than I can—I mean in less words—[*producing the same*]. If a customer comes in and spends 3d. we mark it on the face of the coupon—that shows the extent of the purchases.

1590. Did they redeem this at your own shop?—Yes.

1591. To redeem those it would be necessary for you to purchase the goods from the wholesale houses, and then you retail to them at retail prices?—No, I retail them at wholesale prices. I give them the benefit.

1592. It says here “2s. 6d. worth of these coupons will give you one glass.” What does that mean?—Whatever is marked on the coupon represents the money they have spent. If they spend 1s. we would mark it like that—[*showing*]. They would have to spend 30s., and the coupon would be marked 30s.

1593. What is the rate of discount allowed on these coupons of your own?—We allow a discount of 1d. in each shilling.

1594. That would be about 8 per cent.?—1s. 8d. in the pound.

1595. Why was it you gave this up?—I have not given it up; I have the two running together.

1596. Why did you take up the new system when you had this old system working satisfactorily?—Some of my customers wanted to come under the new system. Under the Co-operative Company's system they get only 5 per cent., but they wanted them. I was giving them 8 per cent. I found on the small things my system was better; they could exchange them oftener. If they spent 4s. it meant a dinner-plate, and it was in use immediately.

1597. They had not to wait for the 12s. 6d. worth of coupons?—No.

1598. How long have you been using the Co-operative Company's coupons?—About twelve months. Under that system they receive about 5 per cent., so I am saving 3 per cent. on the transaction.

1599. How was it you came to adopt the coupon system?—I worked the matter out, and I found it was much better for me to give the customers who paid me cash over the counter and carried their goods away a discount of 1s. 8d. in the £1 than it did to give them credit, and cart the goods out. I save 2d. in the shilling after giving them the discount.

1600. Then the tax of 5 per cent., to induce the cash business does not hurt the butchering trade?—No.

1601. I suppose your coupons were issued by yourself, with the view to attract custom?—Yes, naturally. I did not ask questions as to where the business came from.

1602. Have you ever read this Bill to prevent the use of trading stamps coupons?—I have seen it.

1603. It says that no person shall give any coupon entitling the purchaser to demand any property other than that actually sold or exchanged, and that no person other than the person selling or disposing of property shall deliver any goods upon presentation of such coupon; do you see any advantage to be gained in one system as compared with another at the expense of those who do not adopt the coupon system?—I do not see any difference.

1604. You have to run your business against men who “cut” in the butchering trade?—We “cut” ourselves; we are going by the name of “cutting” butchers.

1605. You manage to give your customers a cash discount of 1s. 8d. in the £1, and you could afford to give them twice as much?—Yes; of course, it depends on the bulk of the business.

1606. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Do you consider the co-operative system encourages greater thrift than yours?—No, I do not think so. In proportion, we do not give as many co-operative coupons as we do our own.

1607. You think both systems encourage thrift?—Yes, just the same.

1608. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—You are a butcher only?—Yes; we have no other business. We give these goods away, but we have to purchase them.

The witness withdrew.

John Hamilton, examined.

1609. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—Grocer, of Drummond-street, Ballarat.

1610. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been carrying on business?—Twelve years.

1611. Prior to the introduction of the coupon system, was it a cash business that you were carrying on?—Cash and credit combined.
1612. What percentage cash, and what credit?—About 75 per cent. credit, and 25 per cent. cash.
1613. Are you a member of the Grocers' Association in Ballarat?—I am not now, I was up till August of this present year.
1614. How many grocers are there altogether on the register of the association for the Ballarat district?—About 64 or 70.
1615. Have you adopted the coupon system?—Yes.
1616. Since you have adopted it, have you found any alteration in your business?—We have; it has resulted in an increased cash trade.
1617. Was there any appreciable increase of the general turnover?—Slightly.
1618. What difference has it made in the percentage of cash takings compared with credit bookings?—Just about half—it is about 50 per cent. cash now—it has doubled.
1619. So you consider the coupon system desirable from your point of view?—Yes, I do.
1620. Are you one of those gentlemen spoken of as "cutting" grocers?—No, I am not.
1621. Do you find this system is a good one, and one that is favorably received by the public?—It is favorably received by those who deal with us.
1622. Were you in the habit of giving cash discounts to your cash customers before this system was introduced?—No.
1623. Then this means an extra tax on your cash takings?—Yes.
1624. What is the benefit you obtain from the system?—We get more ready money, instead of having the money on our books waiting for months.
1625. And I suppose it reduces the amount of bad debts?—Yes.
1626. Are the public satisfied with the goods they get in exchange for their coupons?—I can hardly say; we have not adopted the system for such a great while; it is only three months ago that we started it.
1627. How long is it since that Grocers' Association was formed?—About twelve months.
1628. About the same time as the Co-operative Company was introduced?—Yes.
1629. Was there any connexion between the two things?—There was; one was brought about by the other.
1630. Which was the first?—The coupon system.
1631. This association was formed to work against those who adopted the coupon system?—It was formed in order to combine against the coupons, so that members would not take advantage of the coupon system.
1632. You belonged to it in the first instance as a vice-president?—Yes, I did.
1633. You were opposed to the coupons at that time?—Yes.
1634. When did you proselytize yourself to the coupons—why were you influenced?—Because there were others who took up the coupons, and a great portion of our customers were running after them, and, in order to keep up our business, we took up the coupons.
1635. There were other people actively fighting you in the same street, and they did not prevent your getting the coupons?—Not actually in the same street.
1636. But near enough to influence your business?—Yes.
1637. Have you found this has been a satisfactory remedy?—Yes, it has enabled us to retain customers, and to regain some who had gone.
1638. Are those who have remained in the association hostile to the coupon system, or do they take advantage of it?—There were a few of the association who still remained. When I decided to take up the coupon system I decided to resign as a member of the association.
1639. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—You took those coupons in self-defence?—Yes.
1640. To get back your customers who had gone away to others?—Yes.
1641. Had you any idea of getting other people's customers?—No, I did not want anybody else's customers. I merely wanted to protect ourselves.
1642. You consider you have done that?—We have, and we have a few other customers. We do not object to their coming to us.
1643. That is satisfactory to you?—Yes.
1644. But will it be satisfactory to those who have lost them?—They can do as we have done.
1645. Would it be a serious thing if the coupons were abolished and no one had them?—No; it would place us all on the same footing as we were before.
1646. Did you give no discount at all to the 25 per cent. of your cash customers?—No.
1647. Then there was no advantage to them in paying cash; they might as well have had credit?—Just as well.
1648. It is usual to give a discount to encourage cash payments?—Not in our business.
1649. You never give any discount at all to the 25 per cent. of your turnover?—No.
1650. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—As so many customers now pay cash who formerly had credit how do they manage to get the cash?—Instead of letting an account go for a fortnight they pay as they go.
1651. Where do they get the cash from?—Just the same, I suppose, as they used to find the money to pay the bills.
1652. Does that mean they get credit from other people to a greater extent than they did before in order to pay cash to get those coupons?—In some instances it may be so.
1653. To that extent it would be a burden to others giving credit?—Yes.
1654. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Do you think, taking the aggregate of the various businesses, that the credit has decreased, or that the other shops have increased their credit business, and you have increased your cash?—Yes; in some cases they might come to us with their ready money, and book at other places.
1655. So the aggregate booking would be the same—it would not be decreased?—We had the same thing to contend against in our business before we took the coupon system up.

Robert Williams, examined.

1656. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A butcher, carrying on business in Moorabool-street, Geelong.
1657. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business in Geelong?—Six years.
1658. Was your business a cash business and a credit business before you took up the coupon system?—Yes.
1659. What percentage was cash, and what percentage credit?—Twenty-five per cent. cash, and, I should think, fully 75 per cent. credit.
1660. How long is it since you took up this business of distributing coupons?—Twelve months.
1661. What result have you found it has upon your business?—I have found the cash trade has increased greatly, I should say by about 25 per cent.
1662. So that now it would be 50 per cent. cash and 50 per cent. credit?—Yes.
1663. It has been suggested that, in order to pay you cash, some of your customers obtain credit elsewhere, is that so; or is the increase in your business due to many of your customers becoming cash customers who were formerly credit?—It is due to both causes.
1664. At any rate, so far as some of the increase is concerned, you have cash customers now who were credit customers before?—Exactly.
1665. Have you increased your general turnover?—Yes.
1666. Could you tell me, approximately, about what percentage of your old credit customers have become cash?—I do not think I am exaggerating in saying 7½ per cent.
1667. To what extent has your business increased as a whole?—About 25 per cent.
1668. Did you give cash discounts to any of your customers before the introduction of this coupon system?—No.
1669. Not even to those who bought largely and paid cash?—No.
1670. This 5 per cent. is a tax upon your cash business?—Yes.
1671. Are you satisfied to pay it?—Yes, perfectly.
1672. You consider you get value for your money?—I do.
1673. Do any of the Geelong butchers give discounts?—Not to my knowledge.
1674. So that none of the public got any benefit before this coupon system was introduced?—No, not in the butchering trade.
1675. In the butchering trade I suppose there is a great advantage in a cash business because in the ordinary way of business you have to deliver twice daily?—Once daily—you have to deliver daily, and you have to call on all your customers whether they require meat or not—you have to call to-day and get the order for to-morrow.
1676. I want to know whether it is an advantage to you for people to pay cash at the door for goods ordered at the door?—It is, because I have not to deliver the goods—it is only the spot cash in the shop that the coupon system is limited to.
1677. Your idea is to get people to come to your shop so as to do away with the cost of calling at their houses and delivering the goods?—Yes.
1678. And you find the result has been satisfactory from that point of view?—Yes, I do.
1679. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—The advantage you principally get is that your customers come and get their goods and save you the expense of taking them out?—Yes, and paying spot cash.
1680. *By Mr. Coldham.*—When a customer comes to you and buys goods and pays cash you give him a coupon?—Yes.
1681. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—Supposing you send the goods to the house and they are paid for on delivery, do you give any coupon?—They must pay at the shop.
1682. It saves you time and cost of delivery of the goods?—Yes.
1683. But it takes up the customers' time in coming to the shop and taking the goods?—Yes.
1684. What you save they lose?—That is it.
1685. You do not deliver goods on which you give a coupon?—Certainly I do, if a man comes to my shop and asks for a roast of beef and pays for it, I send it.
1686. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Supposing your driver comes round to my house and I order a roast of beef and you deliver it next day to me and the price is 10s., and I pay you the 10s. there and then, do you give me a coupon for that?—Yes.
1687. You do not save the cost of the orders and delivering in such a case as that?—No, the only thing is we get the spot cash.
1688. But you want people to come to the shop, if possible, and thus encourage the cash trade?—Spot cash means cash on delivery; I am satisfied to pay on that.
1689. Do you give the coupons whether they ask for them or not?—If they do not ask I do not give them.
1690. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—How do you make up this 5 per cent.?—Instead of having the amount of money on my books that I had twelve months ago I have a little more than half.
1691. You consider that is worth the 5 per cent. that you allow?—Yes; and no small amounts being left unpaid—persons coming to the shop and getting goods, it is put down and perhaps we never get it.

The witness withdrew.

George Halliday Smith, examined.

1692. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business in Ballarat.
1693. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business in Ballarat?—Forty-three years; I am speaking for my father.
1694. Was your father's business both cash and credit?—Yes.
1695. Can you tell me approximately what was the proportion of cash to credit?—Nearly all cash; 90 per cent. cash and 10 per cent. monthly accounts.
1696. Used you to give discount for cash?—We tried it now and again, but it did not work satisfactorily.

1697. Why not?—We could not get good enough profits; there was too much cutting. We suffered very much from the cutting element.

1698. You mean to say that you were selling your goods at so little above cost that you could not afford to give discounts—is that it?—Partly so; it is an intricate question to work out; it did not work uniformly. We tried it, but it fell through; it worked awkwardly with monthly customers, and it was unworkable with small accounts and especially with small purchases.

1699. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—It created dissatisfaction amongst your customers?—Not so much that as awkwardness in working it out in the business, but we gave discount for spot cash.

1700. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You have adopted the coupon system?—Yes.

1701. How long is it since you did that?—About twelve months.

1702. Can you tell the Committee what your reasons were?—In the first place, to encourage cash payments; secondly, as a weapon against cutting, and as a good advertising medium also, and generally as an experiment.

1703. You adopted it in order to increase your cash trade and to increase your trade as a whole, because practically your business was a cash business?—Yes.

1704. And you thought this system would necessarily make your shop more attractive to the public?—Yes, exactly.

1705. Have you found that has been the result of it?—Yes.

1706. If you had not been able to do that, but it had come about that your business remained stationary, would you have been able to carry out that system at all?—I hardly understand the question.

1707. Supposing there had been no increase through your giving bonuses, would the advantages as an advertisement have been sufficient to justify it?—It would have had a good educative influence.

1708. Will you explain how it is a weapon against cutting?—Because you cannot cut and give coupons—it makes a better uniformity of prices.

1709. How does the fact of your getting hold of the coupons prevent a man who is already cutting continuing to do so?—Many articles are cut and sold at a price which would not pay expenses, but it does not follow that a house that does that is cutting every article.

1710. It is merely a means of advertising by a firm that could afford to do it?—Yes.

1711. Supposing kerosene was sold at cost price, 8½d. a gallon, simply as an advertising medium by those who could afford it—that would be cutting?—Yes, it is sometimes done, and sometimes by those who cannot afford it.

1712. In addition to increasing your business as a whole, has the system made any difference in the percentage of cash business, the 90 per cent.?—Yes, two or three per cent. more cash.

1713. Have you made any difference in the quality of the goods that you supply in consequence of the adoption of this system?—None whatever.

1714. Have you increased the working hours of your employés or reduced their wages?—No.

1715. Have you heard expressions of opinion from members of the public who deal with you as to their belief in the system or otherwise?—They are well satisfied with it, and in many cases they would still continue paying cash, even if the coupons were abolished.

1716. In Ballarat, in the vicinity of where you carried on your business, was it the custom among any of the grocers to give cash discounts?—That I could not tell you, but I do not think it is a uniform practice.

1717. It is said these coupons are a monopoly; have you a grocer's licence as well?—No.

1718. Does that militate against you in competing against those who have?—Yes, the wine and spirit licence does.

1719. In what way?—In many cases they sacrifice the groceries and make it up in the sale of liquors.

1720. They cut groceries as a whole, and trust to the liquors to bring people to buy their groceries?—Many of them frankly admit they do not make a living on the groceries.

1721. Do you see anything of the gambling element in the coupon system?—It is fair legitimate discount.

1722. In your opinion, would it be possible to give cash discounts upon small purchases, say 6d., 9d., and 1s., except under this coupon system?—This is the nearest approach to that for that reason, and it is well worth a trial to encourage cash transactions and also to encourage thrift.

1723. You say the result of the coupon system is to give a better uniformity of prices?—Those goods that were cut formerly are now gradually being increased in price since the coupon system.

1724. And how do you obtain more uniformity of prices?—It is a common practice to single out articles and cut them, but we are saved a good deal from that now, because people do not haggle so much since they get the coupons.

1725. And they pay a little more for the goods?—Undoubtedly, but only on cut lines, but there is less haggling.

1726. You get better prices on the cut lines now?—Yes.

1727. You get 3d. a tin more for your kerosene than the other man, because you give the coupons?—That may be an instance.

1728. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Do you give coupons in connexion with all classes of articles?—Yes.

1729. I think you said if the coupon system were abolished a proportion of the cash customers might be still continued—what inducement would they have?—They see the advantages of paying cash.

1730. What advantage would there be if they got no discount?—Generally they would be better served.

1731. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Are those coupons restricted to your street?—In our block. When they were offered to us we were told that certain grocers within a certain distance would be debarred from taking them up.

1732. Would that be an advantage to you?—It is a small factor.

1733. If those certificates were obtainable by your next door competitors, they would not be the same advantage to you as they are now?—They would be an advantage, but perhaps not quite to the same extent.

1734. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Do you think this coupon system encourages the poorer classes (the wish to save this trifle) in the way of thrift?—Yes, it does.

1735. You think it would have the effect of making them save?—I am sure of it.

1736. You think that an advantage to that class of people then?—Yes.

1737. And having started on the cash principle they would go on and would still pay cash?—Yes, a large percentage of them would.

1738. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—I do not understand why you think this coupon system prevents this undercutting—is there no other way of preventing it?—I do not know of any other way.

1739. What is to prevent a coupon man undercutting, can he not do it even with the coupons?—He could, but it would be at his own expense, and he could not make a living.

1740. In what way do the coupons interfere?—It is the desire of the people to obtain them and get the discount.

1741. Surely the public would rush to him and get the coupons also?—He would not last.

1742. You would depend upon his coming to grief?—So he would.

1743. Did you ever try offering them cash?—No, we have never tried that. I think myself there is a peculiar fascination in their getting coupons and getting articles for their houses.

1744. *By Mr. Coldham.*—A man who has a grocer's licence has too much of an advantage over a general trader?—Yes, he makes the liquors pay for the groceries.

1745. He necessarily has a monopoly?—It is a pure monopoly; there is a limited number of them.

1746. Every one who has a licence agrees to charge a certain price for the liquors?—I think they have an association of their own and work it among themselves.

The witness withdrew.

John F. Moore, examined.

1747. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A butcher, in Aberdeen-street, Geelong.

1748. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business?—About fourteen years.

1749. Is your business a cash and credit one?—Yes.

1750. And has always been so?—Yes.

1751. Before the coupon system was introduced, did you give any discounts to customers?—Only to one, and he demanded it; I had to give it to him.

1752. What was about the proportion of cash to credit prior to the introduction of the system?—I did about 25 per cent. cash and about 75 per cent. credit.

1753. Did you take up the coupon system?—Yes.

1754. When?—About twelve months ago.

1755. How did you come to do that?—The agent was round and induced me to take it up. I thought it would be a very good thing, and it turned out it was.

1756. What has been the result of your business—has the gross turnover increased appreciably?—Yes, about 25 per cent.

1757. With reference to the proportion of cash to credit, has it altered that?—Yes.

1758. To what extent?—About 50 per cent. cash and 50 per cent. credit.

1759. Do you give your coupons to all those who pay cash on delivery, at your shop?—Yes, as long as they pay cash on delivery.

1760. Have the public appeared to be satisfied with the system, as far as you have come into contact with them?—Yes, they all seem quite satisfied—they would not like to see it abolished.

1761. As far as you yourself are concerned, would you like to see it abolished?—No, I would not—I am very well satisfied with it.

1762. You are satisfied with the increase of 25 per cent. upon your gross turnover; you do not suppose the coupon system increases the consumption of meat?—No.

1763. Therefore you take somebody else's business to that extent?—Yes, probably so.

1764. With regard to the difference of cash to credit, how does that affect you in your business?—I have not so much booking. I get the cash and have not so many bad debts, and I have the cash to work on; I can pay cash for my goods and get the discount.

1765. Do you do your own slaughtering, or purchase from the wholesale butcher?—I do my own slaughtering.

1766. The coupon system has made very little difference in your advantages as a buyer?—I buy the same sort of meat. I pay cash every week and get a discount of 2d. in the pound.

1767. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—You get a discount of 2d. in the pound?—Yes, I get that for weekly payment. If I paid by the month I would not get anything.

1768. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You are satisfied with the advantages you obtain from the system, outside the increase in your total turnover?—Yes, I am perfectly satisfied.

1769. Have you had an opportunity of finding out whether your customers are satisfied with the articles they get from the company in return for the coupons?—I made it my business to see a lot of the articles, and found you could not get them any cheaper anywhere else—dinner sets, tea sets, and everything used in the ordinary household.

1770. Do you see anything unfair in this system of advertising and attracting business in comparison with other systems?—Nothing whatever.

1771. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—You do not know how the butchers who do not go in for the coupons like the system?—No.

1772. Has your near neighbour complained that he has not the coupons?—He has a cutting business.

1773. Has his business increased; where has your 25 per cent. increase come from?—Very probably from the others.

1774. So that your increase of business might be at the expense of somebody else?—It might be.

1775. I understood you to say that you get a discount of 2d. in the pound on your weekly payments?—Yes.

1776. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You are not what is termed a "cutting" butcher?—No.

1777. Your business was 25 per cent. cash before you introduced the coupons, and now it is 50 per cent. ; is that caused by your credit customers becoming cash customers?—Probably some of them who used to book now pay cash.

1778. As a matter of fact, are all your new customers cash customers?—Not all of them. I have some new credit customers. I do not refuse to give them credit.

1779. Then all your new customers have not come to you on account of the coupon system?—No.

1780. Your neighbour is a cutting butcher?—Yes.

1781. That means he charges less than you do?—Yes.

1782. And also that he does not give coupons?—He does not give coupons, and he sells an inferior class of meat.

1783. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Are your customers principally what I might term the artisans and working people?—Yes, principally.

1784. Do you think this small advantage encourages amongst them the desire to be thrifty?—Yes, there is no doubt it causes thrift; they strain every nerve to pay cash.

1785. You think that by this thrift they are enabled to secure certain articles that they would not otherwise possess in their household—that is your opinion?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

William McNamara, examined.

1786. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, Bridge-street, Ballarat East.

1787. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business?—About fifteen months.

1788. How long have you been working under the coupon system?—Twelve months.

1789. Was your business a cash business prior to your adoption of the coupon system; did you sell solely for cash?—Principally.

1790. During the time you have adopted this system have you had considerable experience with the coupons?—Yes.

1791. How many coupons have you dealt with?—I cannot tell you the number exactly, but I think I have used as many as most of them—somewhere about 3,000 a week.

1792. What effect have you found this system has had upon your business, as far as your own judgment goes?—A very good effect as far as the cash is concerned.

1793. You went into this business with the object of getting the cash?—Yes, that was my object.

1794. Have the public appeared to be satisfied with the system as far as you are aware?—Very pleased.

1795. Have you heard any complaints as to the goods they receive in exchange for the coupons?—None whatever; every one is satisfied.

1796. Can you suggest any system whereby discounts should be given on small cash purchases, somewhat similar to this system?—I do not know of any.

1797. Have you made any difference in the quality of the goods you supply in consequence of your taking up this system?—None whatever.

1798. Have you cut down the wages of your employés at all?—No.

1799. Do you see an advantage in this system to the individual over any other system?—Yes, to the purchasers as well as myself.

1800. In getting the benefit of the cash discounts which they otherwise would not get?—Yes.

1801. Is there any other?—There is another advantage—it enables them to lay out their money in a better manner, to finance better.

1802. You mean that with cash they can go to any shop they please, instead of the one where they are running an account?—Yes; they can buy to the best advantage.

1803. Is that the case with you; when you come into the wholesale market have you not a similar advantage?—Yes; you get your discounts for cash.

1804. Which you otherwise would not get?—Certainly.

1805. And that enables you to supply the public with a good article at a reduced price?—Yes.

1806. *By Mr. Deakin.*—They can only purchase from the cheapest, providing the cheapest is the coupon system, if they are to get the advantage?—They can purchase anywhere if they have the money.

1807. They do not get the advantage unless the person who sells the cheapest happens to have coupons?—My experience is this, that the coupon seller is as cheap, if not cheaper, than the others.

1808. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Do you say you get through 3,000 a week?—Yes.

1809. Has your business increased?—It has been increasing ever since I started.

1810. £3 15s. a week would amount to over £150 a year to you?—Well?

1811. Are you able to stand an increased rent of £150 a year?—I do not.

1812. If you are spending £3 15s. a week in discounts it is equivalent to more than £150 a year, is your business able to stand that?—My business stands it; if it did not I could not carry on.

1813. How much has your business increased in your cash takings?—About three times as much.

1814. Where has it come from?—The whole district.

1815. Has it come from the businesses of the other grocers of Ballarat?—It must have done. Of course, it is a matter of indifference to me where it comes from.

1816. Do you tell the Committee you have appropriated your neighbours' business by this coupon business?—Yes, but that is not my consideration whatever.

1817. That is the fact?—All business people are aiming for the same object.

1818. You have absolutely by your coupons got this new business?—I have increased my business.

1819. Did you bar your neighbours?—I did not bar anybody.

1820. When you made your arrangements with the company, did you understand you were to have an area to work on?—I did, partly—there was no written agreement.

1821. There was "an" agreement?—Yes.

1822. Then you boycotted those people within a certain area, and they could not have those coupons?—I do not know whether boycott is a fair term.

1823. Suppose you use your own word?—I tell you the people in the neighbourhood would not take advantage of the system, and I did—they had the opportunity, and did not avail themselves of it and I did, and my business has increased.

1824. Did you bar your neighbours by your agreement?—Not all of them.

1825. But you barred some of them?—Yes.

1826. And you have got their business?—Yes—I could not say from what neighbourhood it comes.

1827. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Are your customers principally labourers and artisans—the working classes?—All classes, both labouring and upper classes.

1828. I do not suppose the upper classes touch the coupon system much?—Yes, they do, certainly.

1829. Would not the majority be what we call the working classes?—Exactly.

1830. Do you consider that by this coupon system they are encouraged into the habits of thrift?—Yes, certainly.

1831. Can you illustrate it?—For instance, a customer is dealing at a booking shop; that customer has to pay for the privilege of having his or her stuff booked, and if they come to my shop or any other that has the coupons, they buy cheaper, and they get their discount in the shape of coupons. Not only that, they lay their money out better; for instance, if they are booking, they perhaps buy things they do not actually want, but if they have to pay cash, and there is one thing they cannot pay for this week, they will leave it till the next, and so on, and they keep out of debt in that manner.

1832. You consider your customers benefit by the system?—Yes.

1833. Do you mean the credit customers are charged a higher price?—Yes.

1834. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—You charge more for booking than you do for cash?—Yes.

1835. You gave no discount for cash before you introduced the coupons?—No, it is not the rule with grocers.

1836. It is with some traders, even with flour?—It is not in Ballarat; I do not know what the rule is elsewhere.

1837. It is in most places, in order to encourage cash trade?—I do not know where it is. The only system of discount I know is the coupon system.

1838. In a number of places in the colony they have no coupons and they give a discount; how do they manage?—I do not know of any town in the colony; of course there may be.

1839. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Before you took up this coupon business your trade was chiefly cash?—Yes.

1840. If it was chiefly cash before, then how did you get a benefit by introducing this coupon business?—New customers have come to me through the coupons.

1841. You started only fifteen months ago, and you started the coupon system twelve months ago; of course you started without any customers, I suppose they had to come to you; your business grew from nothing up to something?—That is right.

1842. Was your business gradually increasing during the first three months before you got the coupons?—Yes.

1843. Why do you attribute the increase after you started the coupon system to that system, seeing that you started from nothing and worked up a business without that system?—Well, it was principally that; that was what I attributed it to.

1844. Had you not worked up from nothing to something during the first three months?—Yes, but there was a marked jump as soon as I took up the coupons. I took them when they were introduced in the first place. It took the people some time to get into the swing of the coupon business, but as soon as they did, I found my business gradually increased.

1845. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Did you trace that solely to the coupons?—Of course there was a certain percentage outside the coupons.

1846. How many coupons do you get through in a week or a month?—3,000 a week.

1847. That is over £150 a year; they are 25s. a 1,000?—Less the discount.

1848. That runs into some money?—Yes, certainly.

1849. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—Has the number increased, or did you commence with that number?—They have increased, of course.

The witness withdrew.

Henry W. Nash, examined.

1850. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business in Mercer-street, Geelong.

1851. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been carrying on business in Geelong?—About ten years.

1852. You understand something about the custom of the trade in Geelong with regard to discounts; are cash discounts given in Geelong in the trade outside the coupons?—Not in the retail trade.

1853. Mr. Comrie knows a number of places in which it is done; Geelong, as far as you know, has not given them?—Not as far as I know.

1854. There is nothing to prevent people giving them to the extent of 5 per cent. if they like?—Not at all.

1855. If the public got so much greater benefits from the cash discounts it would be taken in preference to the coupons?—I have never had any chance to try it; in that case I should think they would take the cash discounts.

1856. You have never thought fit to give the public the benefit of the cash discounts?—I never thought to try it.

1857. How long have you been taking the coupons?—About eight months. Prior to that my business was both cash and credit.

1858. In what proportion, about?—Seventy-five per cent. credit and 25 per cent. cash.

1859. Since you have used the coupon system, has your turnover, as a whole, increased?—Yes.

1860. To what extent?—About 50 per cent.

1861. With regard to the customers that you had before, cash and credit, has a difference been made in the way in which they deal with you now?—Yes.

1862. In what way?—It has benefited both them and myself; but I had a lot of credit customers on my books who were dilatory in paying—they could have paid if they had strained their nerves to do so. They do not pay their old accounts, but stopped booking and paid cash and got coupons, they let their old accounts stand, and whenever they ran short of cash they booked, which I was foolish enough to allow them to do in the first instance, and their accounts increased, consequently I got more money on the books and less cash came in. I stopped that and adopted another plan. I gave those who had money standing on the books no coupons for their cash till their accounts were cleared up; some were not able to clear them up at the time, and I made private arrangements with several of them to make monthly payments off their accounts, and to allow them coupons on their cash payments, and by that I am gradually getting the book debts wiped out—the deadheads.

1863. Supposing two persons are selling side by side, one for cash and the other for credit, which one would sell the cheaper?—I should think the one who sells for cash.

1864. So that cash trading is an advantage to the customer, leaving out the question of the cash discount altogether?—Yes.

1865. In addition to that, the retailer is in a better position when he comes to deal with the middleman—the man between the manufacturer and the retailer?—Yes.

1866. In what way?—Because I can pay cash. I have more ready money and can pay up more promptly and get my discount regularly—it gives me a better purchasing power.

1867. When you are on the books of any wholesale firm you are practically bound to buy the articles you require at their place?—Certainly.

1868. Whereas you can buy anywhere for cash at the lowest figure?—Yes.

1869. And your customers get the benefit of that?—Part of the benefit.

1870. You are satisfied with the result of the coupon system as far as you are concerned?—Very well, and I should be sorry to see it abolished.

1871. Are you a licensed grocer?—No. I cannot compete with a licensed grocer, because I have not a licence to sell spirits and groceries as well. The licensed grocers have a chance to make their profits out of wines and spirits.

1872. And cut the groceries?—They cut them that low that they cannot afford to give coupons—they sell them under cost price.

1873. They make up their profits by overcharging on the other lines because they have a monopoly in the wine and spirit business?—Yes, over the wine and spirit trade.

1874. It is suggested that those who give coupons on cash sales sweat their employés, have you found that so?—I have had no occasion to do it.

1875. Have you reduced your employés' wages?—No, nor supplied inferior goods.

1876. The public, as far as you are able to judge, are perfectly satisfied with the coupon system?—Yes, they would all be sorry if they had to do away with them.

1877. About how many of the public do you deal with in the course of a week?—I could not say. I cannot tell at all.

1878. Do you supply inferior goods to the public in consequence of this system?—No.

1879. Do the public appear to be satisfied with the goods they receive from the Co-operative Coupon Company?—I have never heard anything against them. I have always heard they were very well satisfied with the presents and goods; in fact, it was through some redeeming their presents and showing them that induced the others to go in for them.

1880. It is the public who have been spreading the desire for the system, as far as you can see?—Yes.

1881. *By Mr. Stewart.*—Do you say, as a fact within your own knowledge, that wine and spirit merchants, who also sell groceries, cut the groceries and increase the price of the wines?—It is only an inference.

1882. You cannot say there is any one who sells groceries at a less price than you can buy for cash?—I should say so. It is a mere assumption when I say they sell groceries under cost price.

1883. Do you know they undersell the groceries?—I know they sell for less than I can buy for cash.

1884. Will you put the names down on paper of those that you know sell groceries at less than the cost price?—I do not wish to be drawn into anything of that sort.

1885. You are making a statement intended to influence the Committee, will you put down on paper the names of those who you know cut and undersell the groceries and make the profit out of the wine?—I only infer it.

1886. Then you do not know that it is a fact?—No, I do not know it as a fact.

1887. Under your agreement with the Coupon Company no person can compete within a certain area?—It is a very small area—less than a quarter of a mile.

1888. You make up your increase in trade by drawing from the other people within that area; is not that so—at the expense of your neighbours?—I could not say where it comes from; they come to me with the cash, and it increases my business.

1889. And the inference is they are going past somebody else's door?—If they come to me they must do that.

1890. Is that good for the community as a whole?—It is good for me.

1891. But not for the other man?—No, I do not know that it is.

1892. It means that the other man will go to the wall and that you will succeed?—I could not say.

1893. What do you think; you can put two and two together?—I suppose they have a chance.

1894. If they fail does it not mean that it is good for you at the expense of your neighbours?—

Yes.

1895. Is that good for the community as a whole?—The discount is good for the community.

1896. It shuts up the other men?—It is likely to ruin the credit business and, therefore, they will get larger profits.

1897. You know that certain firms in your neighbourhood were selling goods under what you were buying them at?—I find that they were selling at less than wholesale cost price.

1898. That is, they were selling at a less price than you could buy at?—That is so.

1899. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—I understand your business has increased 50 per cent. since the introduction of the coupon system by you?—Yes.

1900. Do you attribute the whole of that increase to the introduction of the coupon system?—Yes, I suppose it would be.

1901. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Are all those new customers cash customers?—Yes, the whole of them.

1902. Then I understood you to say that there are certain competitors of yours selling goods at a lower price than you can buy at?—Yes.

1903. Do you know that as a fact?—Yes; kerosene, for instance, they are selling for less than I can buy it.

1904. Can you furnish the Committee with the names of the people who are selling goods at a lower price than you can buy those goods at?—I would not like to draw myself into hot water with the other grocers; I would not like to give the names.

1905. As a fact, do they sell them at a less price than you can buy them at?—I would not like to get myself into trouble.

1906. Do you usually buy for cash?—No; on monthly credit.

1907. Cash merchants in my trade, where you pay in seven days, give a special discount?—They never offer that.

1908. Are you a large buyer. A great deal depends on the quantity you buy?—Certainly. I am quite aware of that. I am a medium purchaser. I always take the 30 days.

1909. Do you ever sell any particular article at cost price to draw custom?—No.

1910. You never have done so?—No.

1911. At a shade above cost, so that there is really no profit?—There is always a small margin.

1912. Will that margin pay the expenses of the business?—Not if the goods were all on the same line.

1913. The same result might happen to you. It might be said that you were selling goods at such a price that the net result, after you had deducted business expenses, was an actual loss?—If they were all sold at that rate of profit. In our business we must make leading lines.

1914. How many coupons do you get through in a week or a month?—I never take any account.

1915. You have some rough idea?—No.

1916. Do you get through 1,000 a week?—No.

1917. Do you get through 500?—No, somewhere about 200 I should think, not more, I have never taken an account of the number.

1918. *By Mr. Coldham.*—It has been suggested that there is a difference between cash at seven days and at 30 days, what is the difference between them?—They never make it a condition with us; you have to pay the same at seven days as at 30.

1919. I am reading from Moran and Cato's printed list, it says here—"Best white 1A sugar, per lb. 2½d.," can you buy it at that price?—I cannot.

1920. What does it cost you?—It costs me £22 per ton in Geelong, that is a fraction over 2½d.

1921. That is allowing nothing whatever for your own labour, interest on capital, and so on?—No.

1922. What discount would a man get if he paid for the sugar in seven days?—2½ per cent.

1923. Not 4 per cent.?—They have never offered us any concession.

1924. The difference between 4 per cent. and 2½ per cent. would not bring the cost down to 2½d.?—No.

1925. So supposing you got the full benefit of the discount you could not sell it at that?—Not to sell at a profit.

1926. Then kerosene, 2s. 9d. a tin?—It costs us 3s. 2d. in Geelong.

1927. What in Melbourne?—I do not know, I have never bought it in Melbourne.

1928. You do not know the freight?—No.

1929. That will be 5d. a tin to land in Geelong?—Just so.

1930. What is oatmeal quoted at there?—11lbs. for 1s.

1931. How much is it in Geelong?—The wholesale price is £16 a ton, 16s. a cwt. I do not know the Melbourne prices.

1932-3. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—All your interest in those coupons amounts to only 5s. a week; you say you use only 200 a week?—It is about that. I have taken no account of it; it may be more or less.

1934. Then what you have stated is a mere bagatelle—that is only 5s. a week?—It is not less than 200.

1935. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—You mention your customers are well satisfied with the presents?—We call them presents.

1936. It would appear from that that the Coupon Company was making them a present?—That is the usual term we use.

The witness withdrew.

Thomas Crawford, examined.

1937. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A draper in Clarendon-street, South Melbourne.

1938. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business?—Twenty-three years.

1939. And how long during that time have you been in business on your own account?—All the time.

1940. Has your business always been both cash and credit?—Yes, very small credit indeed.

1941. The bulk has been cash?—Yes.

1942. Used you to give cash discount before the introduction of this coupon system?—Yes, I introduced a system about fourteen years ago by which I gave 2½ per cent. on accounts paid within a month.

1943. You did not issue coupons ; did you give any discounts at all to small cash purchasers at the counter ?—No.

1944. The only benefit then was to those well enough off to be on your books ?—Yes, over £3 ; smaller purchasers got no discount at all.

1945. Did you give up that system eventually ?—I still carry it on. If a person pays me an account he gets the discount ; that is, if it is paid within a reasonable time.

1946. When did you adopt the coupon system ?—I adopted the coupon system about fourteen months ago of my own free will ; I made investigation before I took it up.

1947. Will you tell the Committee what the result has been of the introduction of the coupon system in your business in the last twelve months ?—The business has increased to something like 40 per cent.

1948. You cannot attribute that altogether to the coupon system ?—Perhaps not, but I reckon the coupon system has increased my business, but it is impossible to separate one from the other ; undoubtedly the general purchasing power of the community has increased as well.

1949. I suppose your object in introducing your own system of cash discount within a month was also to attract business and cash ?—To increase the turnover so as to make it worth while.

1950. Do you see anything illegitimate in the fashion you follow now or in the discounts ?—I do not ; I cannot see it at all.

1951. Is there anything at all that you know of to prevent any man giving discounts in coupons or otherwise to customers ?—Certainly not.

1952. Has the introduction of the coupon system made any difference in the proportion of cash takings to bookings ?—I have never gone into that matter very closely ; my booking accounts have never been very large ; they remain just about the same.

1953. This system means a tax upon your cash takings which you did not in fact pay before ?—Yes.

1954. Are you satisfied with it ?—Yes.

1955. And desire to continue it ?—Yes.

1956. Has it made any difference in your accounts for advertising, hand-bills, and so on ?—I have dropped all advertising.

1957. You think the company in carrying out its agreement with you advertises you sufficiently ?—Yes.

1958. Do the members of the public appear to be satisfied with the system ?—Perfectly.

1959. How many coupons, roughly, have you dealt with weekly, about ?—I give from 10,000 to 14,000 a week.

1960. I presume that brings you and the system in contact with a very large number of the public ?—It does.

1961. Could you give an idea of how many ?—Some thousands in the course of a week.

1962. Have the whole of those members of the public appeared to be satisfied with the system ?—Yes, I do not hear a single complaint.

1963. Do the bulk of them obtain coupons ?—Yes, they have to ask for them, and nine-tenths of them do ask for them, even more than that. I can hardly find an instance of any one that does not ask, and they are all perfectly satisfied.

1964. With regard to the goods the public obtain from the Coupon Company, have you ever heard any expressions of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with regard to the articles received ?—I have heard great satisfaction expressed.

1965. In dealing with the public, do you give them as good an article for their money as formerly ?—Yes, even better.

1966. How has that come about ?—I buy better. I have altered my system of conducting my business.

1967. In what way ?—In the way of conducting the business, I allow the managers of the departments to buy, and I think that answers better ; it gives them more time than I have.

1968. You buy better and cheaper ?—Yes.

1969. And you are able to give the public better value for their money ?—Yes.

1970. Have you reduced the wages of your employés or lengthened their hours ?—As business has increased wages have increased.

1971. Do you know that the large wholesale houses give a monopoly to people in the drapery trade ?—I never heard of such a thing.

1972. You do not know of any preference being given ?—I never heard of such a thing.

1973. Supposing the coupon system were stopped by legislation, would you approve of it ?—I am not at all particular ; I am perfectly satisfied to go on or stop.

1974. You have no prejudices ?—I am perfectly satisfied to give the coupons or put the profits into another channel.

1975. If the coupon system were put down the public would lose the benefit they are now getting ?—My business might fall off.

1976. I presume that would only be because you did not hold out the same inducement to the public ?—Yes.

1977. As long as you hold out the same inducement you expect your business to continue ?—If it did not I would have to adopt some other means.

1978. If this system were taken away you would necessarily have to adopt some other means ?—Quite so.

1979. *By Mr. Stewart.*—Out of what are you repaid for the 5 per cent. you pay to the company ?—Out of the increase in the returns.

1980. Is that increase obtained at the expense of your competitors ?—Probably the new business is.

1981. Then it is depriving other people ; your business has swollen, and out of the swelling of your takings you are able to pay 5 per cent. to this company ?—It is impossible to say that.

1982. Did you have an agreement with the company whereby no person is entitled to have coupons within a certain area ?—There may be a small area.

1983. Is there an implied contract or understanding between you and the company that the company will not give coupons to the other drapers in your vicinity?—They will not supply certain drapers.

1984. And those men are your competitors?—Yes.

1985. It is from that source that you derive your benefit?—It may be or may not be.

1986. It puts money in your pocket at the expense of your competitors?—That is a question I am not prepared to answer.

1987. Is not that the natural result of that system?—I do not know what other people may be doing.

1988. You know this coupon system is limited to you within a certain area, and you get all the trade that would otherwise be distributed between those other people?—I do not know that any one can say it benefits me.

1989. Then from what other source can you suggest the increase in your business comes?—It may be extra trade; people may say to themselves—"I will spend £2 for the sake of getting coupons."

1990. Out of what fund do you expect to repay your 5 per cent.?—From the public.

1991. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Have you any objection to name those whom your contract bars?—Yes, I have a decided objection.

1992. As to this boycott, would you not think it was a disadvantage if you were one of those who could not get the coupons?—No doubt it would be, and I would have to resort to some other means.

1993. You would feel it would be a disadvantage to you if you were one of the barred business people?—Yes.

1994. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Are your customers principally those who are called the artisans and the mechanics?—Yes, and the middle classes.

1995. The middle classes take these coupons besides the artisans?—Yes, all classes.

1996. You have stated the benefits you derive through the cash payments—what do you consider the benefits that the purchasers have under it?—They get coupons which enable them to get a present, that is the only benefit.

1997. Do you consider that encourages among the operatives and working classes habits of thrift?—I think so.

1998. Would not you think that would be a greater element in the matter than getting an article?—Probably it would.

1999. Do you mean to convey to the Committee that it encourages thrift among the less wealthy classes?—Yes. I think that is one of the views the Committee might take up in connexion with this matter—as to families, and more especially the young.

2000. *By Mr. Coldham.*—I see you are not the only draper in Clarendon-street who has those coupons?—No.

2001. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Suppose there were a number of coupon companies, and business were pushed to such an extent that every trade issued coupons, and the coupons were of equal value, would the system then be a benefit to the trade?—I do not see that it would.

2002. Then the only advantage is to those traders who have the coupons, to the exclusion of other traders who have not?—It certainly is an encouragement to the public to go to those shops.

2003. If every trade issued coupons, and they were of equal value, what would be the benefit of the coupons?—It would mean a loss of 5 per cent. without any advantage. I cannot see any other result.

2004. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—Would it not encourage thrift if the purchasers got cash from those stores instead of discount?—That would have the same effect, but they would not bother about it so much.

2005. As a matter of thrift, would it not be better to get half-a-crown and put it in the Savings Bank than to get those articles?—My opinion is if a person is advertising he is giving 5 per cent. discount it would not draw so well as if he were giving those coupons.

2006. The coupons are more attractive?—Yes.

2007. Is there anything in the nature of thrift in a person buying some article that probably he does not want?—I think they can get anything they want.

2008. Would it not be more thrifty to put half-a-crown into the Savings Bank?—I think it would. This is a novelty that has come before the public, and has taken on as a novelty.

2009. It is not so much the cause of thrift as the novelty?—I believe it has that effect too.

2010. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You have increased the wages of your employés?—I have.

2011. Will you tell the Committee to what extent?—I do not say they have been increased all round. Those who I thought deserved an increase got it, and if trade had not increased they would not have.

2012. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—You did this out of the extra business you have done through those coupons?—Yes.

2013. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Has not the draper opposite you, Mr. Powne, in Clarendon-street, got them?—Mr. Powne has got them.

2014. Mrs. Fisher has them?—Yes; Mrs. Fisher is in the next block.

2015. Does not Mr. Harcourt, another draper, actually give out coupons of his own?—He did so before I did.

2016. Mr. Harwood suggested putting the half-crown discount in the Savings Bank, but half-a-crown would be the discount on a £5 purchase, not upon a 6d. or a 1s. purchase?—Just so.

The witness withdrew.

Harry Dolly, examined.

2017. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A butcher, Packington-street, Geelong.

2018. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business?—With my brother, and myself about three years.

2019. What class of people do you serve principally?—The middle classes.

2020. Is your business both a cash and a booking business?—Yes.

2021. Before the introduction of the coupon system, did you give discounts upon cash?—None whatever.
2022. When did you take up the coupon system?—About twelve months ago.
2023. Have you found the results to be satisfactory?—Yes.
2024. What difference has it made in your business—has it increased your turnover?—Yes.
2025. To what extent?—I suppose about 15 or 20 per cent.
2026. Has it increased the proportion of cash takings to the bookings?—Yes.
2027. To what extent?—I suppose about 20 per cent.
2028. Before you took up the coupon system, what proportion was cash and what credit?—About 80 per cent. credit and 20 per cent. cash.
2029. And at the end of twelve months under the coupon system how much is cash and how much credit?—About half of each—about equal.
2030. Do you find that a desirable thing in your business?—It brings more cash, and less in the bookings.
2031. As far as the public are concerned, do they appear to be pleased with the system?—They seem to be.
2032. Have you heard any complaints as to the system?—No.
2033. Do you give coupons to all your cash purchasers?—Only to those who ask for them.
2034. Are you content to continue the system?—Yes.
2035. Do other tradespeople in the vicinity give coupons?—Yes, there is one about 300 yards distant from me.
2036. Have you reduced the wages of your employés, or supplied inferior meat, in consequence of having adopted this system?—No, they are just the same.
2037. How do the wages of your employés stand?—They are just the same as they always were.
2038. *By Mr. Stewart.*—How many coupons a week do you issue?—Between 500 and 1,000, the number varies.

The witness withdrew.

Thomas Freeman, examined.

2039. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A butcher, carrying on business in Ballarat.
2040. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been carrying on business?—About six years.
2041. Is your business cash or credit?—It was mostly all credit up till twelve or thirteen months ago.
2042. And then I believe you took up the coupon system?—Yes.
2043. What result has that had upon your business?—It reduced the credit, and gave me more cash.
2044. Has it increased your business to any appreciable extent?—Yes.
2045. To what extent?—Where I was taking from £18 to £20 I am now taking from £35 to £40. It is an increase of 100 per cent.
2046. What proportion of the whole of your takings is cash?—About three parts.
2047. That is 75 per cent.?—Yes.
2048. Do the public appear to be satisfied with the system?—Yes, all thoroughly satisfied.
2049. It is hardly necessary to ask you whether you are?—I am.
2050. How many coupons do you issue in the course of a week?—Between 1,000 and 1,300; very seldom less than 1,000.
2051. You did not give cash discounts before this coupon system was introduced?—None at all.
2052. How is it you make up for the 5 per cent. you pay to the company?—Our business varies a lot. Sometimes we can buy stuff cheaper than at others. Perhaps one season is a good one and another not so good. The last twelve months has been good.
2053. You do not attribute the whole of the increase to the coupons?—A certain amount.
2054. Before you adopted the coupon system, who were your rivals in trade; were they small men?—No; large.
2055. Were they guilty of underselling or undercutting?—Nothing unusual.
2056. Do you find you are able to hold your own now by this system?—Yes.
2057. What class of people do you usually deal with?—The majority are the working classes.
2058. Have you heard any complaints from any of your customers as to the articles they receive from the company?—No objections; they have bought the articles, and seem thoroughly satisfied.
2059. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—You like the cash system?—Yes, 19s. cash is better than £1 booked.
2060. Would you like a system introduced abolishing credit altogether?—Yes, I would.
2061. You think it would be a beneficial thing if credit were done away with altogether?—Yes, I think it would be.
2062. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Do I understand your principal customers are from among the working classes?—Yes.
2063. Do you think the coupon system encourages habits of thrift among that particular class?—Yes, I think so.
2064. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—If you gave the actual cash discount instead of the coupons, how would that be?—I did have a cash scheme of my own, but they would not have it.
2065. Then you spell "Coupon Company" as "prosperity," is that it?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Henry Pring Mudie, examined.

2066. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, Bridge-street, Ballarat.
2067. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business?—Twenty-five years as a master grocer in Ballarat.

2068. Are you a member of the Grocers' Association in Ballarat?—No, and never was.
2069. Before the introduction of this coupon system, was your business both cash and credit?—
Yes.
2070. Did you give any discounts for cash?—None whatever.
2071. Do you know whether it is the custom in the trade in Ballarat to give cash discounts?—No.
2072. Have you had experience in other towns besides Ballarat?—No.
2073. What proportion of your business was cash, and what credit, before you took on the coupons?
—Cash, 80 per cent., and credit, 20 per cent.
2074. When did you take up the coupon system?—About three months back.
2075. Have you found it make any alteration in your business?—Yes.
2076. In what way?—Forty per cent. increase in three months in the total turnover.
2077. That is, where your turnover was £100 previously, it is £140 now?—Yes.
2078. What proportion is cash, and what credit?—It is all strictly cash, there is no booking at all.
2079. Used you to deliver goods at the houses of your customers?—Yes.
2080. And you still deliver them?—Yes.
2081. You book orders now?—No.
2082. Used you to?—No.
2083. Have you made any difference in the quality of the article you supply?—I have slightly increased the quality.
2084. How do you manage to do that?—Because I can buy better.
2085. Are you conversant with the Melbourne prices of articles in your line of business?—Yes, pretty well.
2086. Do you know what you could buy best white 1A sugar in Melbourne at, wholesale?—£22 a ton.
2087. 150 test kerosene per tin?—I do not as a rule buy it per tin; it is about 9½d. per gallon.
2088. How many gallons in the tin?—Four; that would be 38d. per tin.
2089. You could not afford to sell it at a profit at 2s. 9d. per tin?—No.
2090. Has there been any material alteration in the market price of kerosene per case during the last six months?—I think so.
2091. How much?—About 7½ per cent. less.
2092. So that if you bought six months ahead, that would enable you to sell at that when you add on the cost of storage and interest?—No.
2093. Best oatmeal, what is the cost of that in Melbourne, wholesale?—At present it is about £15 a ton.
2094. Could you sell it at 11lbs. for 1s.?—No.
2095. Quaker oats per packet?—They cost nearly 10d. in Ballarat. I do not buy them from Melbourne.
2096. Tapioca, pearl or flake, 7lbs. for 1s., could you buy for that in Melbourne?—I think so.
2097. Could you afford to sell it at that at anything like a profit?—No.
2098. Pearl barley, 10lbs. for 1s.; do you know anything about that?—I could not sell it at that. I think I could buy it at that.
2099. You could not make any profit out of it. Haricot beans per lb., 1½d.?—I cannot buy them at that price.
2100. With regard to the effect of the coupon system on your employés, have you reduced their wages?—I have increased their wages, but not their hours. I have also had to employ extra hands on a Saturday.
2101. With regard to the public, do they appear to be satisfied with the system?—More than satisfied.
2102. What number of coupons do you get through?—About 1,100 per week.
2103. Has the introduction of the coupon system reduced your expenses in any way?—Not at all.
2104. You give a better article, and the system has not reduced your expenses; you are content to go on with the system?—Yes.
2105. Do you supply all your cash customers with coupons, whether they ask for them or not?—
Yes.
2106. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—I understand you had a certain proportion of credit custom before you introduced this coupon system, and now you are doing a cash business only?—Yes.
2107. What became of those credit customers?—I have lost a portion of them altogether. They still owe me money, but they will not come to the shop because I compelled them to pay cash. I have lost their trade, and do not want it back.

The witness withdrew.

Maurice Blayney, examined.

2108. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A butcher, Ballarat East.
2109. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long have you been in business?—Six years.
2110. In what streets do you carry on your business?—Grant-street and Barkly-street.
2111. Is your business both cash and credit?—Yes, and always has been so.
2112. Did you give any discounts to members of the public purchasing for cash before you took up the coupon system?—No.
2113. When did you take up the coupon system?—Twelve months ago.
2114. Have you found it have any effect on your business?—Yes; it has increased the cash sales and increased the turnover 25 or 30 per cent.
2115. What was your percentage of cash and credit before you took the coupons?—Seventy-five per cent. credit, and 25 per cent. cash.
2116. What is the percentage now of credit to cash?—It is 50 per cent. cash and 50 per cent. credit.

2117. Have you found that some of your old customers who dealt with you on credit now deal on cash?—They pay cash to get the coupons.

2118. Out of every 50 who used to be on the books, how many have taken up the cash system?—There are about 8 per cent.

2119. Do the members of the public with whom you come in contact feel satisfied with the system?—Yes, they all seem well satisfied.

2120. Does the system make any difference in the expense of running your business?—No, there is no expense attached to it.

2121. You pay something out to the public that you did not before; how do you make that up?—I have more cash in hand, and can buy better.

2122. Does it make any difference in the proportion of the goods that is taken away by the purchasers from your shop—do you sell more actually over the counter, which is now taken away at the time, than you did before?—Yes; in that way it is a saving in cartage and calling for orders.

2123. Have you made any difference in your advertising at all?—No, I never advertised before—I consider the coupons are a form of advertisement.

2124. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Are your customers principally the working classes?—Yes; they take the coupons.

2125. Do you consider it encourages thrift among that class?—Yes.

2126. They benefit by it?—Yes.

2127. You benefit by it as a man of business, and you think your customers benefit in the way of thrift?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

David Davis, examined.

2128. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A butcher, in Ballarat.

2129. *By Mr. Coldham.*—For how many years?—Twenty-four years as a master butcher.

2130. Your business was both cash and credit?—Up to a certain time.

2131. What proportion was cash and what credit?—Seventy-five per cent. credit and 25 per cent. cash.

2132. When did you take up the coupons?—I may explain I took up the tradesmen's cash coupons.

2133. What were they?—They were given so much in the pound. A man on Ballarat ran one. I started with it and ran it for about six months, but I found it did not take on. I found my trade was going from me, so I adopted the co-operative coupon system, and I found that acted better than the cash system.

2134. Since you have taken up the co-operative coupon has any change taken place in your total turnover?—Yes, in one way; I do not say my trade has increased very much.

2135. Has the proportion of cash to credit increased?—Yes.

2136. What is now the proportion?—My cash is 25 per cent. more.

2137. Taking £100 turnover, how much would be cash and how much credit?—It is now about half and half.

2138. Have you reduced the quality of the stuff you supply to the public or decreased the wages of your employés?—No.

2139. Do the public appear satisfied?—Very much so.

2140. Do you know of any other but the coupon system whereby cash discount can be given upon small purchases?—No.

The witness withdrew.

James Herschell, examined.

2141. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business in South Melbourne and Port Melbourne.

2142. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How many shops have you?—Nine altogether.

2143. How long have you been occupied in the business?—Thirty years.

2144. Is your business cash?—It has always been both cash and credit.

2145. Up to the time you took the coupons what proportion was cash and what credit?—There was a great deal more credit before than since we took the coupons up.

2146. What are the figures?—I cannot exactly say what was the proportion. There has been an increase in the proportion of cash to credit since I took up the system.

2147. Do you see anything unfair in this system of giving coupons for cash?—No.

2148. Is there anything to prevent your rivals giving coupons, if they like, belonging to themselves or other institutions?—Nothing at all.

2149. Have you ever tried any other system but this of giving discount?—No.

2150. Are you conversant with the means of advertising resorted to by certain firms in selling certain lines of goods below cost in order to attract trade?—Yes.

2151. Do you do it yourself?—Very seldom.

2152. You regard that underselling as a means of attracting custom to the shop?—Yes.

2153. It is a system which cuts very hard against the little man, as compared with the bigger men?—Yes; we feel it very much.

2154. Do you know the prices of the leading lines in Melbourne?—Yes.

2155. What can best white A1 sugar be bought at this month?—£22, less 4 per cent.

2156. 150-flash kerosene?—I can only speak from the market report—for the last twelve months I have been buying to arrive.

2157. Could you have sold 150-flash kerosene at 2s. 9d. a tin retail within the last six months?—Yes, but there would be a very small profit; perhaps 2½ per cent. on the cost.

2158. That is when you have imported yourself?—Not always; I have bought better to arrive this season than I have done before.

2159. Taking best oatmeal, 11lbs. at 1s., could you sell it at that?—The present price is 13s. 6d. per cwt.
2160. Quaker oats, 9d. per packet?—They cost 9½d., as far as I know, taking a quantity.
2161. Is that leaving out cost of capital and retailing?—Yes.
2162. Tapioca, 7 lbs. for 1s.?—It costs 15s. 6d. a cwt. now; it has gone up a little lately; I could have bought it some time ago for about 11s. 6d. a cwt.
2163. What are haricot beans a lb.?—I think about 2d. a lb.
2164. You could not afford to retail them at 1½d.?—No.
2165. Do you know that other means of advertising besides coupons are adopted by different people?—Yes.
2166. Do you consider the Kandy-Koola system any better than this system?—I should think they were much about the same.
2167. Do you know that Hawthorn, Rhodes, and Company gives coupons with their tea?—Yes.
2168. And Cadbury gives coupons?—They give rebates—there is no practical difference.
2169. John Connell and Co.'s system is a gambling system?—Yes.
2170. There is none of that element in this system?—No.
2171. Do you know that certain traders limit the number of persons to whom they supply various lines of goods?—It is done; monopolies are granted in various lines.
2172. In the grocery line?—Yes.
2173. Can you give the class of goods in which that is done?—Tea, for instance. If you give an order to a certain house they will guarantee that they will not supply anybody else in the town with the same brand.
2174. Any other lines?—I cannot think of any other at present, but the thing is done every day.
2175. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Have you any understanding with the Coupon Company as to the issue of their coupons to your competitors?—When I took the coupons up they guaranteed that certain people should not have them.
2176. If those people had the coupons would they be of any value to you?—They would not be of so much value.
2177. If everybody had them they would be less value still?—They would be of no use at all then.
2178. The value of the coupon is that you can offer something that your neighbour cannot?—Yes.
2179. How long have you been using those coupons?—About twelve months.
2180. Did you take them as a measure of self-protection or a new means of profit?—I took them because there were other houses that were selling under cost and underselling.
2181. They might take them too?—They could not get them now—they were rushing for them then.
2182. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Do you issue coupons at all your shops?—I do now.
2183. Where are your shops?—I have one in Sale; the others are in South Melbourne and Port Melbourne.
2184. Have you an arrangement at each shop that controls the area in which those coupons may be distributed?—The Coupon Company stated to me that I should have the sole business in their coupons in certain districts.
2185. Do you control an area round each shop?—Yes.
2186. How many do you distribute altogether?—50,000 a month is about our average.
2187. You pay the company more than £50 a month?—Yes.
2188. Are you making money out of the system as a whole?—Yes, I am very well satisfied; I am doing very well.
2189. Suppose the coupons were abolished, what would you say—will not paying the company £50 be a bad thing for you?—I think it would not be a very good thing for me; I should lose a good deal of trade.
2190. You maintain your trade mainly by the coupons?—Yes, it is of great assistance to us.
2191. Do you clearly recognise that you are taking extra business?—Yes.
2192. Have you specified the names of the people that are barred by the company?—The company put down certain names on a former agreement, but that agreement has expired and I have no agreement with the company now except a verbal one.
2193. But certain men are barred having those coupons while you have them?—Certain shops.
2194. They are specified in your contract?—Yes, the names were down.
2195. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Are your customers principally the working classes?—The great majority are.
2196. What do you think is the particular benefit to them beyond getting the coupons?—When they get a book full they get an article of very fair value.
2197. Do you think they are encouraged in the habit of thrift?—I think so.
2198. If you paid them in cash the discount you give them in coupons, would they save up and purchase an article?—I do not think so; they think what they get from the company is a gift; they would not save up the cash.
2199. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Have you the coupon system in your Sale shop?—Yes. We have only lately started in Sale, only about two months ago.
2200. How do the people who get coupons get their goods for the coupons?—The agent up there has got samples of the goods.
2201. Has he a shop with samples?—I believe so, I have not been up there lately, but I am informed so.
2202. You have an increase in your business from adopting the coupons?—Yes.
2203. When did you notice that increase?—Almost immediately after we took them on.
2204. Has the increase gone on?—Yes, steadily increasing, the people are perfectly satisfied.
2205. Did you notice where the increase of customers came from?—No, not particularly, they come from greater distances, they come from South Yarra to our places.
2206. You think the coupons bring them to you?—I do not know, other people round South Yarra have coupons.

2207. Why do they come to you?—I suppose they think they get good value for their money.

2208. They do not come for the coupons?—Yes, they come principally on account of the coupons.

2209. Why do they come from South Yarra if the people there have coupons?—I could not say that.

2210. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—If you can buy tapioca at 11s. a cwt., do you consider it cutting prices to sell it at 7lbs. for 1s.?—Not exactly, it would not be a very good profit, I meant to say 7lbs. for 1s., the 15s. 6d. a cwt. would be nonsense. I believe it has been sold at 7lbs. or even 8lbs. for 1s.

2211. *By Mr. Coldham.*—When a new customer comes to you, do you ask him why he has come there, and try to find out why he has come?—No.

2212. Do you ask where he has dealt before?—No, certainly not.

2213. Supposing you pay £50 a month to the company and consider you get good value for it, do you know any reason why Parliament should prevent your doing it?—I would not venture an opinion on the point.

2214. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—How do you know they come from South Yarra?—The people have come there, and the men in the shop have said—“Those people are coming for the coupons.”

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow, at half-past Two o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present:

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair;

The Hon. T. Comrie,

The Hon. T. C. Harwood,

The Hon. W. Knox,

The Hon. J. M. Davies,

The Hon. D. Melville,

The Hon. G. Godfrey,

The Hon. A. O. Sachse.

John H. Seidel, examined.

2215. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business in Brunswick-street, Fitzroy.

2216. *By Mr. Deakin.*—You are president of the Grocers' Association?—I am.

2217. Holding that office, I presume you are in communication with a great number of members of the trade?—Yes.

2218. And you are acquainted with their views?—Yes.

2219. What is your own experience?—I have been in business for nineteen years.

2220. Are you acquainted with the petition that was presented from the grocers of Melbourne and suburbs in support of the Bill to the Legislative Council?—Yes.

2221. Does that petition express the main objections you have to the Bill?—Yes.

2222. Have you gone through the signatures to that petition?—Yes.

2223. Do you know the bulk of them?—Yes.

2224. Do those signatures include a number of those who buy and give coupons?—Yes; 212.

2225. Those people have signed a petition in favour of the Bill?—Yes.

2226. In your opinion, does that petition express the opinion of the great body of metropolitan grocers?—It does.

2227. Coming to your own knowledge of the system which is pursued by this Coupon Company, when did you first become acquainted with it?—About twelve months ago; representatives called upon me, and asked me whether I would adopt the system. I did not understand it, and they explained it to me, telling me it would increase my business, and increase my cash takings, and also if I agreed to take coupons no other grocer in Brunswick-street, from my place of business down to Johnston-street, which is about 800 yards, would have the coupons.

2228. Did they point out the reverse of the medal—that is, the disadvantages you would suffer from if you did not adopt the system?—They said if I did not take the coupons, others would take them, and I said I would consider the matter.

2229. Did they say what would be the consequences if others took them and you did not?—They said if others took them I would not be able to get them.

2230. Anything else?—I do not think so.

2231. Did they say it would affect your trade?—They might have said so, but I cannot remember now.

2232. You did think it over?—Yes; they called on me several times. I told them I had considered the matter, and it appeared to me a very unfair way of doing business, and I could not entertain it for one moment. I said I thought that the way they put it to me, to gain extra trade at the expense of my neighbour, was not a legitimate way of doing business, and I would have nothing to do with it. They called on me three or four times after that, but I would have nothing to do with the system.

2233. Did some of your neighbours take a different view?—Yes, one man about 200 yards from me took them on.

2234. Did any other grocer in your neighbourhood take them on?—Not at that time; but since then one man about 100 yards from me has taken them.

2235. Does the fact of his giving coupons affect your business?—It does, it draws off a certain number of my customers—I have seen them come out of other shops where they give coupons.

2236. What were your other reasons for declining to take the coupons?—I thought it was a pernicious system, and detrimental to the interests of any shopkeeper. I contend, speaking from a grocer's point of view, that no grocer, owing to the small profits which exist at present, can afford to give 5 per cent. of his gross takings to the public or to the Coupon Company.

2237. Can he afford 4 per cent. ?—No.

2238. Can he afford 3 per cent. ?—No.

2239. The grocers' trade is cut so fine that, even for the advantage which appears to have accrued to your neighbours through taking away some of your customers, they could not afford to pay 3 per cent. or 4 per cent. ?—No ; not if they wished to deal honestly with their customers—at least, I could not afford to do it, and do the same business now that I have been doing in the past.

2240. You mean the same extent of business ?—I mean the same quality of goods, and the same prices, and to treat my customers honestly and fairly without giving them short weight or short count.

2241. Is it your opinion that, so far as the grocers' business is concerned, any one who takes up the coupon system will require to recoup himself in some way or other for the amount he pays for the coupons, at the expense of his customers ?—There is no doubt about that.

2242. How do you work that out ?—I contend that the grocers' gross profits at the present time, taking the average, are $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—the expenses would amount to from 8 per cent. to 9 per cent. I reckon that the difference between my gross profits and my net profits is $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

2243. Supposing that by the use of the coupons your trade was increased in volume by 25 per cent. or 50 per cent. on your cash business, would not that enable you to pay the cost of the coupons without resorting to any other devices ?—No, the more you increase your trade the greater become your expenses. If a man takes £100 a week, and he increases his trade by 30 per cent., that makes his takings £130, and he makes $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. profit, which means £3 15s. on the £30—he actually receives £3 15s. on account of increased trade, but he has to pay the coupon tax on £130, which at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., is £4 11s.—taking £3 15s. from £4 11s. leaves that man at a loss of 16s. a week without making any allowance for the extra labour he would require to take this £30 a week, and if he increases his trade by 50 per cent. his expenses are proportionately larger.

2244. Do you say that all holders of existing grocers' businesses who take these coupons have to reckon not only the cost of the coupons on the new business, but on whatever proportion of their old business becomes a coupon business ?—Certainly, you cannot get away from that.

2245. You have heard the evidence that has been given here ?—Yes, nearly all of it.

2246. Have you any comment to make on that evidence ?—All I can say is that those grocers, who gave evidence here and said that it had increased their business very much, hardly knew what they were talking about ; it may have increased their business, but they forget it has also increased their expenditure—they make no allowance for that. They may take £30 or £40 more per week, but they forget they have to pay a certain sum for those coupons. One witness stated yesterday that he took 50,000 coupons per month, which means that he has to pay about £50 per month to the company—he does not calculate that the profit on the extra business does not cover that expense.

2247. Then, in your opinion, the evidence that has been given as to the advantages of the coupons requires to be discounted—there are some effects that have not been taken into account ?—Yes.

2248. To what do you attribute the approval of those traders ?—They are boycotting their neighbours, and in consequence of that boycott they are getting extra trade.

2249. But you say that extra trade will not pay them ?—No, it will not.

2250. How long will it take them to find that out ?—I suppose they will find out when they take stock and make out a balance-sheet ; some do not do that, but those who do it will find it out.

2251. In your opinion, this approbation of the system is likely to be short-lived, even on the part of those who have recommended it ?—Yes.

2252. You are looking ahead ?—Yes.

2253. Do you regard this coupon system as likely to permanently transform the credit business into a cash business ?—No, I do not think so.

2254. What useful part does the Coupon Company seem to you to play as between the trader and the public ?—I do not think they play any useful part at all, except to themselves.

2255. Do they not induce people to pay cash who otherwise would not do so ?—I do not think the system will have that effect for one moment.

2256. People require to pay cash to get the coupons ?—Yes, but there is always a certain number of people who pay cash with or without coupons, and there is always a certain number of people who want credit. I contend that the weekly customer is more beneficial than the cash customer, because I get the whole of his trade. He may give me an order on the Saturday, and get a few goods on the Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, as the case may be, and he may pass other shops because he has an account with me ; whereas, if he got coupons and paid cash he could go to any shop he liked, and I might only get a part of his trade. The same thing applies to every grocer.

2257. So that the cash trade is not all gain to the person who gets it ?—Not at all.

2258. But it is a gain to get more cash and give less credit ?—I contend that if a grocer gets his accounts paid monthly that is all the cash he requires. He himself gets monthly credit, and he does not save anything by paying sooner, he may save a half per cent. if he pays cash. If he pays at one month he gets $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and if he pays within three days he gets 3 per cent., that is all the difference it makes.

2259. Will the existence of the coupon system increase the amount of cash available to buyers generally ?—I do not think so.

2260. Will it simply divert a larger portion of that cash to the coupon shops than would be otherwise likely to find its way there ?—No doubt.

2261. If the coupon shops get an extra amount of cash some other shops must receive less than they did before ?—No doubt of it.

2262. It does not increase the total of cash paid by the purchasers, but it has a tendency to divert the cash to the particular shops that give coupons ?—Yes.

2263. Does the Coupon Company produce anything in the way of increased value in any direction, is it not a new person intervening between the buyer and the seller ?—Yes, no doubt they are middlemen.

2264. What is a middleman ?—A man who comes between the buyer and the seller without adding any value at all to the article.

2265. You spoke of the value of this system to those who have coupons, arising from what you call the boycott ?—Yes.

2266. Supposing this coupon system is allowed to remain, what in your opinion will be the result of its operation?—In my opinion, if this coupon system is allowed to remain, in the very near future there will be other coupon companies starting, and in a very short time we will have a universal system, that is, every shop will have coupons, then those who now gain an advantage through the increase in their trade will be on the same footing as others, and have no advantage at all. The only difference will be that every shopkeeper will have a dormant partner in his business. He will be obliged to keep the coupons to protect himself and he will have a dormant partner to whom he must pay a certain proportion of his earnings every week.

2267. The outcome of the system will be the universal use of coupons which will impose a liability on every trader, without conferring any benefit whatever upon him?—Yes.

2268. The benefit at present lies in the fact of some traders possessing them while others do not?—Yes.

2269. And when that passes away the burden will remain without any advantage whatever?—Yes. I have had people come to me for a bottle of spirits, and say—"I would like to get groceries from you, but you do not give coupons; if you gave coupons I would deal with you."

2270. Does the existence of the coupon create any fund out of which the trader can pay the cost of the coupons without getting it in some way from his customers?—Only by charging them the extra price; there is no other way of doing it.

2271. Supposing the system became universal, and every trader had to pay 3 per cent., 4 per cent., or 5 per cent., as the case may be, is there any source from which he can obtain that percentage except his customers?—If the system became universal the prices would have to be universally raised, or some equivalent mode of meeting the expense devised.

2272. So that the customer who appears to gain an advantage from the coupons would be paying extra for the advantage which he appears to gain?—Yes.

2273. Therefore, there would be no gain to the customer?—None whatever.

2274. And no gain to the trader?—No.

2275. But a considerable gain to the Coupon Company?—Yes.

2276. Pending the universality of the system, those who give coupons have a certain advantage over those who do not, in the eyes of the purchaser?—Yes.

2277. He supposes that the value he receives is obtained in some way without his paying for it?—Yes.

2278. It is admitted by most of the witnesses that the gain acquired by those who give coupons is at the expense of their neighbours who do not give coupons?—Yes.

2279. And while this is the only Coupon Company, those neighbours cannot obtain coupons?—No.

2280. You have heard many witnesses say that the customers are satisfied as a rule?—I have heard people say they are not satisfied. One man told me he was very much dissatisfied with what he got—he got a cruet-stand for half a book; he had the article valued, and the retail value placed on it was 8s. He also had an umbrella, which I have in my possession now—[*producing the same*]—which he got for half a book. I got the umbrella valued at two different places, one a retail draper's, and the other an umbrella maker's, and at both places they valued it at 10s.

2281. Did the tradesmen know where the umbrella came from?—No, I took it into them and asked them what the retail price of the umbrella would be; I did not tell them it came from the Coupon Company, I simply asked them what they valued it at, and they said 10s.

2282. Have you anything else to add?—No.

2283. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Are you both a cash and a credit grocer?—I am.

2284. And have always pursued that system?—Yes.

2285. Assuming you could keep your customers, do you consider it any advantage to get your goods paid for in cash rather than upon the credit system?—I consider if I got my accounts paid weekly or monthly it is quite as good to me as if I got paid on delivery.

2286. Assuming that you keep your customers, would you prefer them all to pay cash, or would you be content to take them all on credit?—I would be content to take them on credit.

2287. Do you not recognise the possibility of bad debts?—There is a liability to that, but I guard against it.

2288. That is a possibility you have to guard against if you allow your customers to book?—To a certain extent.

2289. That is a disadvantage to the credit system as compared with the cash system?—Not always.

2290. Then bad debts are not a disadvantage?—Yes, they are.

2291. To incur bad debts is a disadvantage?—I am not speaking of bad debts.

2292. You recognise that bad debts will be made in a credit business, and that is one disadvantage to the credit system?—Yes.

2293. That is a disadvantage from which the cash system does not suffer?—No.

2294. So that there is a disadvantage attached to the credit system from which the cash system does not suffer?—Yes.

2295. Notwithstanding that disadvantage you think the credit system is just as good as the cash system?—I have made very few bad debts lately.

2296. I am speaking of the ordinary business in the suburbs where you deal with people of all classes; you recognise the fact that, no matter how small your losses may be through bad debts, they are losses?—Yes.

2297. And you have got to make up for those losses in some fashion in order to average your profits at the same rate at which the cash dealer would average them?—Yes.

2298. How do you achieve that desirable result—is it by charging those people, who do pay, an added amount for their goods?—No.

2299. Or by supplying them with a slightly inferior article?—No.

2300. Or by sweating your employés?—No.

2301. How do you do it?—I have hardly any bad debts.

2302. But, taking a system that involves the making of bad debts, how is a trader who makes bad debts going to make up for the losses he suffers through those bad debts?—I do not know.

2303. If you found you were making a larger proportion of bad debts than you do now, is there no means you can suggest to yourself of making up for those losses?—The only means would be to guard against making bad debts.

2304. Do you know any other means of guarding against bad debts except doing away with the credit system?—No.

2305. Do you recognise the fact that the cash system is the better system?—It is a good system, of course.

2306. You are acquainted with that petition?—Yes.

2307. When did your acquaintance with it commence?—When it was first resolved that the petition should be circulated amongst the shopkeepers of the metropolitan district.

2308. Was that a resolution of the body to which you belong, the Grocers' Association?—Yes.

2309. A meeting of the Grocers' Association was held, at which it was resolved that this petition should be drawn up and circulated?—Yes.

2310. Did that body fix the terms of that petition?—Yes.

2311. You did not attempt to give the Legislative Council much information as to the system in this petition?—Yes, we give them the headings of the petition.

2312. You felt that it was desirable to give the House the reasons which your association could advance against the continuation of the coupon system?—Yes.

2313. Was this action of the Grocers' Association initiated by the association itself, or was it brought about by communications from persons outside the association?—It emanated in the first instance from the Ballarat Association.

2314. When was it that you decided to start this petition?—I cannot remember.

2315. Was it after the second reading of the Bill in the Legislative Council?—I believe it was.

2316. How did your association come to initiate the petition; were you communicated with by people outside who suggested you should get up the petition?—No.

2317. You are absolutely certain of that?—Yes.

2318. No members of wholesale houses communicated with the Grocers' Association?—Yes.

2319. Who?—I decline to answer.

2320. Is this action of the Grocers' Association a genuine thing or was it got up at the instigation of persons who are not members of the association at all—you say it was after communications from people outside—I ask who were those people?—I decline to answer.

2321. Was it after communication with representatives of wholesale places in Melbourne?—Yes.

2322. Are you your own importer?—No.

2323. You buy from certain wholesale houses in Melbourne?—Yes.

2324. You pay if possible upon the shortest possible terms so as to get the advantage of discount?—Yes.

2325. Assuming that you wanted goods on terms you would get them on bills?—Yes.

2326. What bills do people who are not able to pay cash purchase on?—I have no experience of bills at all, but they give one month, or two months, or three months, as the case may be.

2327. What would be the interest on a three months' bill?—There would be no interest at all, they would merely lose their discount.

2328. Do you mean to say that a man can purchase on the same terms, whether he purchases on a one month, two months', or three months' bill?—Yes, but he would not get his $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount.

2329. You purchase at a fixed price, and you get varying discounts, according to the length of credit you take?—You get $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount for a month, and if you pay within three days you get 3 per cent.

2330. You say this petition contains the signatures of people who are opposed to the system, yet take the coupons?—Yes.

2331. Did you take this petition round yourself?—No.

2332. You know nothing of the representations that were made to the people who signed the petition to induce them to sign?—No, except that every one who took that petition round is prepared to make a statutory declaration that those signatures were properly obtained.

2333. That is, that they are genuine signatures?—Yes, but they are also prepared to swear that the signatures were properly obtained.

2334. When did you ask them?—After the petition was signed.

2335. What did you ask them?—I said—"I may require a statutory declaration with regard to these signatures, will you be prepared to do that?" and they said "Yes." Then when they have come to me, I have put the same question—"Are you prepared now to make a declaration before a Justice of the Peace that these signatures were obtained by you in a proper manner?" and they said "Yes."

2336. Who were these gentlemen?—Various people—Mr. Slocum, of 29 Greeves-street, Fitzroy, and Mr. Cooper, of Northcote.

2337. Did you employ those gentlemen?—Yes. Then there is Mr. Longbottom, of North Fitzroy—I cannot give the street.

2338. How did you come to employ him?—He called upon me. I told a person of my acquaintance that if he knew anyone who wanted to do something he could send him on to me, and he sent Mr. Longbottom on.

2339. What did you pay these men?—7s. 6d. a day.

2340. How long were they at the job?—About a week.

2341. You did not pay by the number of signatures?—No.

2342. Have you seen personally any of those 212 traders who have taken the coupons but are opposed to the system?—I could not say unless I could see the names.

2343. Did you sign the petition?—I did.

2344. Am I to understand that those 212 people are opposed to the system as it already exists, or that they do not care whether it is abolished or not?—They are opposed to the system of giving coupons—they are simply keeping them as a matter of self-protection, but they desire to see the system

abolished, and that is why they signed the petition. I am told by these men that a number of others would have signed the petition, who are now keeping coupons, but they were afraid that if they did sign, and the Bill did not pass, they might afterwards be deprived of the coupons.

2345. Supposing we could give the names of about 2,000 persons who use the system and say they are perfectly satisfied with it, that would be scarcely consistent with your view of the matter?—No.

2346. You object to the coupon system?—I do.

2347. You object to the system because it entails cash discounts which the trade will not bear?—Yes, that is one objection.

2348. What disadvantage to the shopkeeper is entailed by the coupon system other than giving 5 per cent. on his cash turnover?—There is one very great disadvantage, and that is the handing out of these coupons, especially on a Saturday, when the shop may be full, and shopkeepers are busy, and there is extra labour, confusion, and annoyance caused.

2349. Is there any other reason?—Another thing is, that the retail grocer cannot afford to give this 5 per cent.

2350. That obtains equally whether the discount is given in cash or coupons?—That is the great objection.

2351. It applies equally whether the tradesman gives the discount in cash or paper?—Yes.

2352. I suppose the extra labour in getting the change in current coin of the realm to make up the cash discount would be almost the same as the labour involved in handing out the slips of paper?—Yes.

2353. So the cash discount and the coupon system are equally pernicious to the retailer?—Yes.

2354. Am I to understand that you say or believe that the large number of people who have given evidence and who say that it is beneficial to their business, and the much larger number who are willing to give similar evidence, do not really understand their business?—Yes.

2355. Do you regard yourself as the salt of the earth, and think that wisdom will die with you—we have a man who has nine shops, and another who has six shops, and they say that they are perfectly satisfied with them—do you say that, when they state that they do not know their own business?—I think they are mistaken in fact.

2356. Is it upon your belief in the existence of that mistake in fact that you base your opinion?—Yes.

2357. If you should have made a mistake yourself, and they could afford to do it, your objection from the retailers' point of view would be gone?—They cannot afford to do it. I am not wrong in saying I cannot afford to give the coupons.

2358. Do you base your statement—that those people who came and gave evidence that it pays them are mistaken—upon your own prices and your own experience?—Yes.

2359. You say you have had no experience yourself whatever of the coupon system—have you ever given cash discounts?—Very little.

2360. What cash discounts do you give?—In a few cases I give $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount.

2361. Do you consider that a fair thing to do?—I do.

2362. Supposing the man next door could afford to give 5 per cent. discount, would you consider it a fair thing for him to do?—Yes.

2363. If he could give that 5 per cent. on his cash business in the form of coupons there would be no objection to it?—Yes; the coupon is a very different thing to the cash discount.

2364. The objections to the coupon system are two—one that a man undertakes to pay what he cannot afford to pay, the other the extra labour entailed by the system—are not those two objections equally objections to the cash system. Supposing a man set up next door to you and sold for £95 what you could not sell for less than £100, would that be unfair?—He could do what he liked.

2365. What is the difference between selling the goods for £95 and selling them for £100 and giving £5 back?—He could do that if he liked.

2366. Suppose the man next door sold the goods for £100 and gave the man 5 per cent. for cash—would you consider that unfair?—He could do as he liked.

2367. But would you consider it fair?—Possibly not.

2368. You would consider it unfair if he undersold you?—Yes.

2369. If you put up your goods to £110 and he only put up his to £105 you would still consider it unfair, because he was underselling you?—Yes.

2370. Where would the public come in?—They would get the benefit of it I suppose.

2371. You had impressions before you decided not to take up the system which caused you not to take it up?—Yes.

2372. What were the reasons which made you consider it unfair?—I did not consider the system was fair; it was a monopoly in giving it to one and not to another. I have been always able to do my business by fair and legitimate means, and I have no desire to resort to any other means—that was one reason; the other reason was that I could not afford to pay the tax for the coupons.

2373. You would not have done it whether you could have afforded it or not?—No.

2374. You considered it unfair as creating a monopoly?—Yes.

2375. Supposing the man next door took up the coupon system, was there anything to prevent your giving 5 per cent. discount if you could have afforded it?—No.

2376. So if the man next door, irrespective of the coupons, had dropped his prices 5 per cent., you could have done the same thing, and competed with him on equal terms?—Yes.

2377. At the worst, this system cannot mean anything more than a drop of 5 per cent. in prices to the consumer?—Yes.

2378. You refused upon the ground that you could not afford to make that drop in your prices?—Yes.

2379. You recognise that there is no monopoly; if one man gives a discount, you can give it in a similar form or in some other form?—Yes.

2380. But you cannot afford to do it in the way you are conducting your business?—No.

2381. You endeavour to attract business to your place?—Yes.

2382. Do you advertise?—No, I hardly ever advertise; sometimes I advertise on a programme or something like that, but that is about all.

2383. You advertise in your shop windows?—Yes.
2384. Is that with the object of attracting custom to yourself?—Yes.
2385. You do not expect to create custom by that means, but to attract people who get their groceries from somewhere else?—Yes.
2386. You do not consider it unfair to try and attract custom to yourself by advertising?—No.
2387. The reason you gave 2½ per cent. discount was with a similar object?—Yes, when people demanded it.
2388. Did people say—“If you do not give 2½ per cent. discount, I will go elsewhere, where I can get it”?—Yes, I never give discount unless I am particularly desired.
2389. When you do give it it is with the purpose of attracting custom or keeping it?—Yes.
2390. Would you know the people who called on you in respect to this system?—No.
2391. Certain men took on these coupons in your street—was Mr. Muir one of them?—Yes.
2392. How long is it since he took them on?—A few months ago.
2393. Had your business fallen off before that?—Slightly; it has been falling off for the last three or four months.
2394. How far is Mr. Muir from you?—About 100 yards.
2395. Are there any other grocers between you and him?—He is on the other side of the street; there is one other grocer between us, Mr. Adamson.
2396. How long is it since Mr. Costello took them up?—I think it was some little time after they approached me in the matter.
2397. How far is he from you?—200 or 300 yards.
2398. How many grocers are there between you?—Mr. Muir and Mr. Moore.
2399. You are aware that large houses such as Foy and Gibson deal in groceries?—Yes.
2400. And you are aware that customers come from all the suburbs on account of their prices?—Yes.
2401. They give no discount?—I do not know.
2402. It has been said that in consequence of the introduction of this system people have given up travelling away from their own suburb, and have commenced dealing there with people who give the coupons?—I do not know as to that.
2403. Is not that a feasible thing?—I could not say.
2404. When you speak of the profits that you make, I suppose 12½ per cent. is the result of the addition of a number of varying profits?—Yes.
2405. Some lines you sell at no profit at all?—I do not sell any article without a profit.
2406. Is there no article which would not pay a profit, if it was the only article that you sold?—Yes.
2407. What do you sell kerosene at?—3s. 3d. per tin.
2408. Is that 150-flash test?—Yes.
2409. Do you make a fair profit out of that?—Yes.
2410. Could you afford to sell it at 2s. 9d.?—Not if I bought it now, but if I had bought it six months ago I could sell it at 2s. 8d.
2411. You would have to pay out of that penny the six months' interest on the money, and the rent?—In addition to the 2s. 8d. you would have the price of the empty case—that is where grocers make a profit out of kerosene; it would be about 5d. a case.
2412. Have you a grocer's licence?—I have.
2413. Kerosene is not a thing that you would try to make a living out of?—No; I do not push kerosene at all.
2414. You sell it at a certain price—the profit upon that line is comparatively small, and in other cases the profit is large, and you average them?—Yes.
2415. Do you keep leading lines that you sell at a lower price than kerosene?—I have no leading lines.
2416. People do do such things for the purpose of getting customers into their shops?—Yes.
2417. You not only say that those people who say that this is a profitable system to them, cannot make it profitable, but you say they cannot deal honestly with their customers—do you really mean that?—Some of those who have got the coupons have told me that they made their customers pay for the coupons.
2418. Many witnesses before this Committee say they make this system profitable—do you say that they deal dishonestly with their customers?—No; I would not like to say that, but I know cases where it has been mentioned to me that they do deal dishonestly with their customers.
2419. Supposing men come here and say on their oath that not only do they supply the same quality of goods for the same money, but they are able to supply a better quality, you do not believe them?—No.
2420. When they say they have been able to increase the wages of their employés, you do not believe them?—It all depends upon what wages they were paying before.
2421. Do you say they are not telling the truth?—I am not prepared to contradict them.
2422. When you say that you have lost business do you mean that you have lost both cash and credit business?—No; I have not lost—no credit business—I have lost cash business.
2423. You were selling for cash, and your cash customers have gone, as you believe, to the places where they can get a discount upon their cash purchases, and that is what you object to?—Yes.
2424. I suppose an undercutting grocer would have just the same effect on your cash business?—I do not think so; my prices are about equal to others.
2425. Suppose a man with a big capital comes alongside of you and cuts the prices, he might be able to ruin you if you were a small man?—He would not make any difference to me.
2426. But there are plenty of small men in the business who are not strong enough to fight?—Yes.
2427. They would necessarily be knocked out by undercutting, and the big man would then be able to raise his prices against the public?—Yes.
2428. Is that a desirable thing?—No.

2429. You say that people that take coupons do not get any benefit out of the system, because, even supposing that they got a rise of 30 per cent. in their business, they would still be 16s. worse off in every £100, and yet you say the benefit to the people who take the coupons lies in some taking coupons and others not; what is the benefit when they lose even with an increase of business?—I do not mean any benefit; I mean the extra trade.

2430. Then nobody gets any benefit at all from this system—everybody loses by it except the company?—Yes.

2431. If a retailer buys for cash he can buy on better terms than the retailer who buys on credit?—It all depends on what credit you mean.

2432. The man who has his cash in his pocket and wants to buy a certain line can go anywhere he pleases, while the man who is tied has to go to the house to which he is tied, and pay their prices?—He will get a slight concession.

2433. It is a slight advantage?—Slight, not very much.

2434. The turning a credit into a cash business would help him in that direction?—Yes.

2435. You say an increased business means an increased number of employés?—Yes.

2436. How many employés have you?—Four besides myself.

2437. Could you do a 20 per cent. increase on your trade without increasing the number of your employés?—No.

2438. What increase of business would necessitate an increase in your employés?—20 per cent. increase would necessitate another employé.

2439. You keep them with their noses pretty well to the grindstone?—Yes; they have to work.

2440. You say the Coupon Company is the middleman between the retailer and the public—how do you make that out?—Any trader giving the coupons has to pay the Coupon Company a certain sum of money for the coupons. In giving a direct discount from the vendor to the purchaser, the dealing is between the two, but in the other case you have to purchase the coupons from the company, you then give them to the customer, and the customer has to get them redeemed by the company.

2441. If you advertise in the *Age* somebody comes in between you and your customer?—No.

2442. The object of the coupon system is to attract custom to your house?—Yes.

2443. The object in advertising in the paper is to attract custom?—Yes.

2444. What is the difference between the two systems?—In the one case you advertise your business in a paper which everybody sees; in the other case you simply pay the Coupon Company for the coupons to give to your customers.

2445. Why do the people come to the coupon shops, as you say they do, unless there is something in the nature of an advertisement in the system?—They may advertise among those who collect coupons, but not among the general public.

2446. People do not collect coupons until they come to the shop. How is it people come to the shop who have not previously come there, unless this coupon business is a method of advertisement?—I do not know.

2447. You think that this coupon system will be found out in a very short time, and will die a natural death when people find out by taking stock that they are not making a profit out of them?—I do not say that.

2448. Do you imagine that when people find out (as they will according to you) that it is a loss to them, they will continue the system?—They will have to continue them as a matter of self-protection.

2449. According to you it makes them worse off than they were before; how is that a method of self-protection?—If they gave them up someone else would take them on.

2450. The next person who takes them on also makes a loss, while the man who gives them up is in a better position?—Yes.

2451. The man who takes them up is in a worse position, and so it goes on until every one finds them out, and the system dies?—I do not think so.

2452. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Under the credit system there is a certain percentage of bad debts?—Yes.

2453. In your evidence in chief you gave us certain advantages of the credit system, inasmuch as it tends to bring you a man's whole trade?—Yes.

2454. Does not the one balance the other?—It will more than balance it in my case.

2455. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—By giving credit you say you get the whole custom of a particular person—does that benefit traders generally?—I think so.

2456. Is the volume of trade increased?—It is so far as that particular customer is concerned.

2457. By your getting his custom you prevent somebody else from getting a portion of it?—Yes; and another grocer may have the same benefit from another customer giving him the whole of his custom.

2458. In that case you would lose?—Yes.

2459. Do you know whether those persons who give coupons charge the same price for their goods whether they sell for cash or credit?—I could not tell you.

2460. You do not give discounts for cash?—In a few cases I give discounts on monthly accounts; but I suppose there would not be more than half-a-dozen cases.

2461. Is there much difference between giving 2½ per cent. for monthly accounts and giving coupons for cash. It has been given in evidence that giving coupons costs 3½ per cent. on the whole of the cash takings?—I could not afford to give 2½ per cent. on all my business.

2462. Then you practically make a loss when you give this discount?—There is a certain loss of profit there.

2463. When you give credit, what is about the cost per cent. for bookkeeping, collecting debts, and interest on the money during the time the accounts are owing?—I cannot say—I have not gone into that. There is a certain amount of expense, but not a great deal.

2464. You have a grocer's licence—have you heard that that is looked upon as a monopoly by some witnesses?—I have heard it said.

2465. Are not other people who have not got a grocer's licence handicapped as against you?—I do not think so. It is an expensive licence. It costs the grocer a large sum of money.

2466. Can you afford to sell your goods for less than grocers can who have not got a licence?—I do not think so. I do not do it.

2467. Do you know the prices charged by grocers who give coupons?—Yes.
2468. Are they as a rule higher than the prices you charge?—In some cases they might be higher, and in some cases they might be lower—the average is about the same.
2469. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—You prefer a weekly account to cash across the counter—do you give any discount upon weekly accounts?—No.
2470. It must entail more labour?—Not much; I do a good family trade.
2471. Why do you give discount to a few of your customers, who pay monthly, and not to all?—I do not desire to give it at all if I can help it—I do not recognise it as a rule. It is only when I am particularly desired to do so.
2472. The people you do business with as a buyer do not ask you whether you desire discount, they take it off?—Yes; that is the recognised custom.
2473. What percentage would cover your loss on book debts?—Lately I have been very successful; I can hardly say from memory now, but it is a very small percentage. I do not think it would amount to 1 per cent. for last year.
2474. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—In your opinion, if this coupon system is continued, other companies will soon start?—Yes.
2475. And the system would become universal?—Yes.
2476. And when it became universal people would find out the falsity of it?—Yes.
2477. Then there will not be much harm if it goes on a little longer?—The sooner it is stopped the better. I do not say that if other companies start it will abolish the system; it will be established, and every trader will have to give coupons as a matter of self-protection, with this difference, that there is in his business a sleeping partner to whom he has to pay a certain amount of his profits per week, and the prices will have to be altered in accordance with that condition.
2478. Then the customers would soon find that out and would see the falsity of the whole system?—Yes; but it would take some time.
2479. You rather prefer credit to cash accounts?—I think weekly accounts are good and monthly accounts are desirable.
2480. Do you find that people who keep weekly accounts are inclined to give more liberal orders?—No, but you get the whole of their trade instead of a part of it.
2481. If they paid cash they might get a few things from you and other things from elsewhere?—Yes, they might deal with you regularly, but, on the other hand, it might not be convenient to do so if they are not near. I have a number of customers who give me a good order every week, but they telephone for things all through the week, which they would not do if they had not a weekly account, and every week they come and pay me.
2482. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—It was stated here as one of the difficulties of doing a cash trade that they could not give a discount out of small cash purchases, is there any objection to your giving a cash customer who made a small purchase a memorandum to the effect that he had purchased so many goods, and, when he had purchased a pound's worth of goods, he should be entitled to get a discount?—So far as I am personally concerned I could not afford that expenditure, the profits that I make would not permit me to do so unless I raised my prices.
2483. You say that you do sometimes give discount for cash?—Only in about half-a-dozen cases when the people desire it.
2484. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—You give a discount when you cannot get out of it?—Yes.
2485. Have you reckoned what your bad debts come to taking one year with another?—For the past year I think it would be about 1 per cent.
2486. You do not reckon the cost of collecting the accounts?—No.
2487. Speaking roundly, do you think that the cost of the coupons would be more or less than the bad debts, and the cost of collection?—The coupons would certainly be more.
2488. What percentage do you estimate the coupons to be?—If I gave coupons on everything I should say it would be 5 per cent.
2489. What is paid for them?—It means 5 per cent.; there is a discount, but I do not know what it is.
2490. Are you of opinion that the system increases business generally?—I do not think so; it takes business from one trader and gives it to another.
2491. If it does not increase business why should you object to the system?—Because it takes trade away from me, and gives it to those who give the coupons.
2492. It must increase the business of those who have them?—No doubt. I have numbers of cases where people tell me they would deal with me only I do not give coupons.
2493. Do we understand that your profits are so slender that there is not sufficient margin to permit of your giving 5 per cent. discount?—That is so.
2494. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Do you say that a grocer's licence is not in the nature of a monopoly?—It is a monopoly in a certain sense, because only a certain number of licences are issued.
2495. Are not the profits on wines and spirits, and similar articles sold under the licence, a great deal larger than the profits on the ordinary groceries?—The average is not much more. In some cases the profits are large, but on others they are very small.
2496. Could you do more than half as much business if you had not a wine and spirit licence?—I do not think it would make very much difference; you could extend your business in other ways without a licence.
2497. You do not attach much value to the licence?—Yes, I do.
2498. What is the price of a grocer's licence?—£35 per annum.
2499. If you were selling out what would the grocer's licence be saleable at?—They vary very much according to the district they are in.
2500. They are worth a large sum are they not?—From £100 to £200.

Samuel Epstein, examined.

2501. *By Mr. Deakin.*—You are a grocer carrying on business in High-street, Armadale?—Yes.

2502. How many years' experience have you had?—Nine years, in that locality.

2503. You are acquainted with the coupon system?—Yes.

2504. What class of business is yours?—Credit and cash both; mainly credit.

2505. Have you ever had these coupons from the company?—No, I was called on several times by a representative of the company. The first time he called I thought it was simply an advertisement matter, and I gave my consent, but when I came down to the place they explained to me that the coupons would cost me 2s. 6d. per 100, so I said I would consider the matter. No sooner was I there than I saw they had my name advertised in the books, though I had paid no money, nor had I taken the coupons.

2506. You were obliged to them for the advertisement?—I did not want their advertisement, because the people came to me for the coupons.

2507. Why did you not adopt the coupons?—I reckoned that the money I would have to pay away was an expense of 5 per cent. on the money taken. If my takings were £50 per week, and I increased my business by £10 or £15 per week, I would be giving coupons on the whole lot, so it would be a loss to me, and I did not take the system on.

2508. Have you lost in consequence of not taking the coupons?—I have lost a great deal—one lady said to me, when she was paying me—"I want coupons, and if you cannot give them I cannot deal with you." I said—"If they do give you coupons it is a very slight gain, I am told they do not give you coupons on flour and sugar." She said—"That is nonsense, I will take coupons on everything I can get—you will either have to lose me or give me coupons." She was a big customer, so I had to go to a grocer and buy coupons. I had to pay 15d. for the coupons, and when I reckoned up the expense it left me 9d. out. Through not having that system I have lost a great deal of custom. It is not only what the system will cost for cash customers, but it will come to this, that everybody who considers himself a good customer, though he pays weekly or monthly, will reckon he is entitled to coupons, and you will have to give coupons on credit accounts.

2509. Do you think the system encourages thrift?—Not at all.

2510. Why not?—That lady who is mad on coupons does not know what they are—I can prove that half the coupons go to the children's stamp albums.

2511. What do you reckon the cost of the coupon to be?—It is actually three times the amount of benefit you would get—if your business increased by £20 you would have to pay up to £60.

2512. It has been stated that the cost is about 5 per cent.?—I suppose that is the average.

2513. Can your business afford to pay 5 per cent.?—No, not taking it all round after paying expenses.

2514. You cannot carry on your business and pay 5 per cent.?—I could not; some other means would have to be adopted—a grocer would either have to give false weight or inferior quality, or make up in some other way.

2515. We are told the coupons are only given for the complete 6d. and that for 2s. 11d. people only get five coupons?—Yes; but the people are getting so mad on coupons that they actually will give another 1d. to get another coupon. One lady bought some goods to the amount of 11d.; she demanded two coupons; the grocer said—"I cannot give you two." "Oh, well," she said, "here is a penny, give me two coupons."

2516. Did she get some extra goods for the penny?—No; she gave the penny to get another coupon. As a rule the tradesmen ask them to take something extra to get a coupon.

2517. Does any experience of yours with the coupon dealers lead you to suppose that they cannot afford to give coupons?—There is a man not far from me who failed not long ago. He has started again, and he is giving coupons, and I am sure he cannot afford to do it.

2518. Have you heard the evidence that has been given here?—No.

2519. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Do you consider that the giving of cash discounts is undesirable?—It would be a very great thing to the community, but in a different form to the coupon system; if a man finds it pays him to give 5 per cent. discount, well and good, but to have a tax put upon him and make him do it is a different thing.

2520. Your idea of a cash discount system is that it should be left to the generosity of each individual grocer?—It should be abolished. If a man wants to give discount, if he does such a business with such a profit that his twelve months' trade has brought him in more than he expected to receive, and he says—"Next month I will give all my customers 5 per cent.," let him do so; he is not compelled to do it, but by the coupon system I am compelled to do so.

2521. You think the giving of discount should be left to the will of the grocer?—If he likes to do so.

2522. If he likes to give cash discounts let him do so?—If a man wants to give discount we cannot interfere with him; I think the coupons are doing an injury to the just trader.

2523. You have not had any experience yourself of the system?—Yes, I have.

2524. Did you ever give coupons?—I did.

2525. Did you buy any from the company?—No, I would not encourage them, I had to go and buy from a fool who had them.

The witness withdrew.

Alexander Cattach, examined.

2526. *By Mr. Deakin.*—What are you?—A butcher, in Victoria-avenue, Albert Park.

2527. How long have you been in business?—A little over 40 years.

2528. Have you ever taken coupons from the company?—No.

2529. Have you had any experience of the coupon system in your neighbourhood?—Yes.

2530. You know that it is claimed that the coupon system conduces to the encouragement of cash business instead of credit; what have you to say to that?—A neighbour of mine has got them, and it has taken away nearly half of my business. I applied to the Coupon Company to get them, and I could not

do so because I was too near to the next man. It takes the trade away from one man and gives it to another, and you cannot get the same benefit yourself. I have applied for them six or seven times.

2531. Did you desire to obtain the coupons because it would be a benefit to you?—It would keep my customers together; the most of my customers went away to get the coupons, so I had to get them, and I went and bought them from those who would sell them. The company would not give them to me.

2532. Do you think that if your neighbours had not had the coupons it would have been an advantage to you to get them?—Certainly, if they had not got them.

2533. You would have got some of their business?—Yes; my principal opponent was only three or four weeks in business when he got them.

2534. His business was a new one?—No, it was established before, but he had just come into it.

2535. Have you considered that if you had the coupons it would mean a cost of from 3 per cent. to 5 per cent.?—Yes; but it would give a man a fairer chance of business.

2536. Would it be any benefit if all the tradesmen had them?—I do not see that it would. The benefit of the present system is in giving one man the business and taking it away from the others.

2537. If all the tradesmen had the coupons would it be any advantage?—I could not say.

2538. If you gave coupons you would have to be paid for them in some way?—Yes.

2539. Could your business afford that extra 3 per cent., or 5 per cent., without any return?—No.

2540. The customers will have to pay for it in some way?—Yes.

2541. If a customer does get value for the coupons, even then he is only getting value for the money he has paid?—Yes.

2542. Have you heard the evidence given here?—No.

2543. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You say you have been unable to obtain these coupons from the company?—Yes; I called on them several times.

2544. When you were offered them you refused to take them?—No, never.

2545. Were you not one of the first people in South Melbourne to whom they were offered?—They were never offered to me.

2546. Have you adopted the system in any form?—Yes; I have bought them from people who would sell them to me.

2547. What do you pay for them?—Two shillings or 1s. 9d. per 100.

2548. Was your business able to stand that extra strain?—I had to do it, or I would have had no business at all.

2549. Have you in consequence of this system supplied an inferior article to the public?—No.

2550. You supply the same article at the same price?—Yes.

2551. In addition to adopting this coupon system to the extent you have, have you adopted any other system in the way of giving discounts?—Yes; previously, when I could not get this company's coupons, I took them from another company that started.

2552. Was that the Australian Coupon Company?—Yes.

2553. Was that before or after this Co-operative Company came into existence?—After; I had applied to them several times previous to that.

2554. When did you take these coupons from the other company?—I cannot give the date.

2555. What do their coupons cost?—About 2s. a 100.

2556. You had to pay less for their coupons than for the coupons of this company?—Yes.

2557. Had you to pay the same price for the coupons of this company as the company charged, when you obtained them from other people?—Sometimes.

2558. And your business was able to stand it?—It had to, or I would have had no business at all.

2559. You do not sell meat at a loss?—I would not like to do so.

2560. Is yours a cash and credit business both?—Yes.

2561. Which is the more profitable business?—They are about the same if you do not give credit to bad customers; sometimes you give credit to customers who do not pay very well.

2562. What disadvantages are attached to the credit system?—We do not make much difference.

2563. What extra charges are attached to the credit system—you have to pay for collecting, distributing the meat, bookkeeping, and bad debts?—Yes.

2564. Those are all items which obtain in the credit system which do not obtain in the cash system?—Yes; but you do not require to give much credit—the less credit you give the better.

2565. You recognise the fact that cash trading is the best system of trading; you would sooner do the whole of your business in cash?—Yes, certainly.

2566. What is the percentage profit of your business on the turnover?—About 12½ per cent.

2567. Supposing your business was solely cash, what would be the percentage of cost upon the turnover?—About the same.

2568. The cost of distributing, collecting bad debts, interest on money, and bookkeeping would not make any difference at all, in your opinion, in the percentage cost of the turnover?—In the place where I am there is not sufficient business as a cash business to do without the outside business.

2569. You could not get together a big enough cash business to make it pay under any circumstances?—No.

2570. If somebody else can do it they can do better than you can?—I do not know any one who does it.

2571. If they could do it they would be better business men?—No doubt.

2572. Could you afford to give cash discounts at all in the business you are carrying on at South Melbourne?—The profits in the butchering business are so small that you can hardly give any discount—it is cut down to such an extent that you cannot afford a discount.

2573. It does not matter what system is adopted, you could not afford to pay a discount?—The coupon business is a most iniquitous business, inasmuch as the man next door to you gets a better chance of business than you do, because you are not allowed to have the coupons. If every man were allowed to have the coupons all would have a fair chance; but the coupon business is given to one man only, not to all, and that takes away the next man's business. Another objection is that the company sends round ladies with the books asking people to deal with the Coupon Company, and those books contain the names of the tradesmen who take coupons, and that takes away a man's business in an unfair way.

2574. In the business you are carrying on, and with the profits you are making, you could not afford to give cash discounts whether in the form of money or coupons?—We have to cut the prices so fine to fight against this Coupon Company that we are not able to do it; customers will go away unless you offer them a price lower than the coupon people charge, and you must sell at a price that will almost send you into the insolvent court.

2575. Do you say that before the coupon system was introduced you could give 5 per cent. discount?—You had a better profit then.

2576. Could you have afforded to do it?—Yes.

2577. Now you cannot do so?—No.

2578. Did you ever do so?—No, it is not a custom in the business.

2579. You put 5 per cent. in your pockets that you could have afforded to put into your customers' pockets, is that the custom of the trade?—No, the trade fluctuates.

2580. For how many years did you put that 5 per cent. into your own pockets?—Perhaps for not a year.

2581. The result of this coupon system is that the public get the benefit of that 5 per cent. which you formerly put into your own pocket?—Yes.

2582. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—You bought the coupons from other people?—Yes.

2583. How could they let you have them for 1s. 9d. per 100?—They got them for nothing from their tradespeople.

2584. They preferred to get 1s. 9d. to 2s. per 100 from you to going to the warehouse and selecting an article?—Yes.

2585. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Did those people who sold coupons to you say why they desired to sell them?—No.

2586. How did you know they had them to sell?—I put up a placard in the window that I would buy coupons.

2587. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Your business is a dangerous one owing to the climate?—Yes.

2588. Would the average profit be $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. all the year round?—Yes.

2589. If this company wants 5 per cent. out of the $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. there is not much left?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Ernest Little, examined.

2590. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business in Carlton.

2591. *By Mr. Deakin.*—How many years have you been in business?—I am in partnership with my brother—he has been in business about fifteen years. I have been with him for ten years, and a partner for about three years.

2592. Have you more than one shop?—We have four shops in Carlton, North Carlton, Fitzroy, and East Brunswick.

2593. Have you had anything to do with this coupon system?—Yes, when the Coupon Company started their representative called upon us and stated the case. We considered the matter, and felt that it would be unprofitable to enter into any negotiations with the company—we felt we had not a large enough margin of profit to allow 5 per cent., and we refused to take them. Some time after this we found that the coupons were taking away our business, and we had to face either losing our business or paying this percentage to keep our business, so we approached the Coupon Company on behalf of two of our shops that were suffering most, but the company refused to allow us to have coupons in those shops on the ground that there were other people within a certain radius who had the coupons before us, so we could not get them, but after frequent application they allowed us to have them in one shop—the Carlton shop.

2594. What has been the result?—The result has been that the business has been increased to a certain extent—we lost business by not having the coupons, and that business has been regained, and perhaps a few pounds over; but, while the business was increased by perhaps 20 per cent., we have to pay 5 per cent. upon 80 per cent. of our business in order to gain $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on 20 per cent. The other alternative was to lose our business, so, in the hope that the Legislature would do something, we have been carrying on—we have tried frequently to get the coupons into two other businesses that were suffering most.

2595. Have you succeeded?—No, they refused to allow us to have them. We found that we could get the coupons in another way, and in the meantime we were informed by the company that the reason that we could not get them in the Fitzroy shop was that some people had opened in opposition to us on the understanding from the company that we were not to have the coupons—the company gave them the sole rights to the coupons in that district, and they would not allow us to have them under any consideration.

2596. Does that prejudicially affect your Fitzroy business?—Yes, to a great extent. We found we could buy the coupons from the public by paying them 2s. per 100, and we felt that that was one means by which we could injure the company's business, quite rightly, as we considered. We have been able to buy the coupons with the result that we have been able to regain the business that we lost, but we have had to pay for it.

2597. Your present position is worse than it was before the company appeared on the scene?—Certainly it is.

2598. The company has imposed this taxation on you?—Yes, as a sleeping partner.

2599. Have you found any advantage to your business, except self-protection, from obtaining the coupons?—We have only accepted them in self-defence; in one shop in which the coupons have not affected us very much we are not giving them, but in the other three we have had to give the coupons, and we have regained the trade.

2600. Beyond regaining the trade you had before do you find any advantage accruing to you in those three shops?—The advantage is very slight, if any.

2601. Do you get a greater proportion of cash trade?—We are cash grocers.

2602. Any advantage you get is simply in the increase of your business?—We have to pay to maintain our business at the standard it was before, there is a very slight increase.

2603. What additional business you do get costs you more than the profit it yields?—Yes, considering that we have to pay 5 per cent. on 80 per cent. of the business in order to get $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on 20 per cent.

2604. What do you say the coupon system does as at present applied?—We can only speak by our own experience; but we feel if this system becomes universal we shall have to raise our prices to recoup our expenses.

2605. The traders would gain nothing from that?—No, nor the customers either.

2606. The only gainers would be the company, who would levy their tax upon the customers through the traders?—Yes, as far as we can see.

2607. Have you always been cash buyers?—Yes.

2608. Are the profits in your business such as to permit you to pay a tax of from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 5 per cent.?—No, from our experience we cannot do it.

2609. Have you any experience of the desire for coupons leading to a small extra expenditure?—One customer came to me and bought $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. worth of goods, gave me another halfpenny, and said—"You will have to keep that and give me a coupon." I have known people who were buying butter at 11d. per lb. pay 1s. in order to get the coupons.

2610. Would it not be a benefit to you to get the extra penny, seeing that the coupon is estimated only to cost three-tenths of a penny?—It would be a benefit to us, but detrimental to the consumer.

2611. In your opinion, does this system increase the total amount of the cash purchases?—In our experience the increase is very slight.

2612. Presumably the extra cash which would be spent with the coupon shops would be withdrawn from the other shops where they formerly obtained credit?—Yes.

2613. Have you anything to say about the system as a whole?—For the reasons I have stated as to people ignorantly offering tradesmen higher prices, we do not think it encourages thrift.

2614. Do you see any advantage in the system?—None whatever. If the system becomes universal another company will be started, and then there will be no gain to the individual trader, but only to the company.

2615. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You say you cannot afford to pay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount upon your cash sales?—It is a question whether it is $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

2616. You say you cannot afford to pay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.?—No.

2617. Have you any objection to a person who can afford to do so giving that discount?—I suppose he would not ask me.

2618. You would not complain of his doing it if he said—"I can afford to give $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount, and I am going to do it." You would not say he was dealing unfairly with you?—If he was competing fairly we would not complain.

2619. Are you going to infer that these people are competing unfairly because they say—"We can and will pay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. by way of cash discount"?—My experience is that grocers, as a rule, are unable to pay the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—that is generally admitted among the tradespeople.

2620. Are you going to infer that the grocer who says—"I will give $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as a cash discount," is acting unfairly?—I could not say that.

2621. If men come here and say—"We can afford to pay the company this amount, and we get good value for the money," would you say they are mistaken?—I should say my testimony was as good as theirs.

2622. Your testimony is about your own business. I am speaking about their business. If they say it pays them, will you say they are wrong?—I will say that it does not pay me.

2623. All you know is your limited experience in one shop for a few months?—I suppose we have had the coupons for four or five months.

2624. When did you start the one shop under an agreement with the Coupon Company?—I am not quite sure.

2625. Have you discontinued the coupon system in that shop?—When we started to buy from the public the agreement was at an end.

2626. You broke your agreement with the company, and they refused to supply you any longer?—Yes.

2627. You said you did not think this system increased cash purchases. What do you know about any other system. You have had nothing but cash business all along. You meant that it slightly increased the number of your cash customers?—Yes, that is what I meant.

2628. You did not desire to tell the Committee that this system might not turn credit customers into cash customers?—No. I have no knowledge of that.

2629. Why do you carry on a cash business instead of a cash and credit business?—We prefer to deal for cash. One reason is that the credit trader has to have more capital. Then, with a cash trade, there is no collecting of accounts, no bad debts, and no bookkeeping.

2630. Do you solicit orders?—Yes.

2631. And deliver goods?—Yes. We have a few rounds, and on those rounds the customers do not all pay cash; but in our counter trade, in connexion with which we give the coupons, it is all cash.

2632. Your business as a whole is a cash one?—Yes.

2633. In addition to these reasons you have given, have you not got certain advantages in purchasing?—I suppose buyers with capital always get advantages.

2634. As a man of sense, if you had an ordinary mixed business, half cash and half credit, such as grocers in many suburbs have, would you not consider it desirable to turn it into a cash business?—I do not know. I cannot express an opinion.

2635. I suppose the result of your cash system is that you cut down prices as low as you can?—Yes.

2636. Do you see any difference between your allowing your customers 5 per cent. better price than the man next door, and the man next door giving 5 per cent. discount upon the sales he makes. Is there

any difference. If he sells goods at £100, and gives 5 per cent. discount, and you sell the same goods for £95, you are both in the same position as far as the public are concerned?—We do not hold that it is quite as satisfactory.

2637. I am speaking of the cash discount. Is it not the same as far as the purchaser is concerned?—Yes.

2638. Have you got a wine and spirit licence?—No.

2639. Do you advertise?—No. The margin of profit is not large enough to allow of advertising.

2640. You cut the prices down in order to attract custom to yourself?—Yes, to compete with others.

2641. The competition is necessitated by the desire to attract custom to your shop?—Yes.

2642. You consider cutting prices to the lowest possible point a satisfactory way of doing that?—Yes.

2643. Would you consider cutting down the wages of your employés a satisfactory way of doing it?

—No, but we will have to do that if we keep on giving coupons.

2644. If people come here and say that they have raised the wages of their employés in consequence of their taking the coupons would you say they were dishonest?—I should say their experience does not tally with ours.

2645. Would you say they are mistaken or dishonest?—I can quite conceive of a man, whose business has benefited perhaps to the extent of 200 per cent., doing such a thing as that, but the thing seems to me most improbable.

2646. I suppose you recognise that if you sell £100 worth of goods, certain expenses are absolutely the same as if you sold £150 worth of goods; that is, interest on the capital invested in the buildings, rent, remuneration for your own services, and things of that kind?—Yes.

2647. The only additional cost in selling £150 worth, where you previously sold £100 worth, would be the cost of the extra labour?—Yes.

2648. There is no other element to be considered at all?—Your accommodation may not allow you to turn over that amount.

2649. Assuming you could do the business on the same premises?—If you assume a lot of things you might be able to do it.

2650. How much can you increase your present business without having to increase your accommodation?—I could not increase the business very much without having to increase the accommodation—perhaps 30 per cent., and when you increase the business, you increase the rental value of your property.

2651. You mean that your landlord at the expiration of your lease might put up your rent?—Yes, there are increased expenses with the increased amount of business done.

2652. Can you suggest any other increase except the extra labour?—I may not be able to suggest any, but that does not say that there will not be any.

2653. What shop was opened in Fitzroy in order that the coupons might cut into your business?—It is in St. George's-road, between Reid-street and Scotchmer-street.

2654. Is that Mrs. Pouton's shop?—She is known as Mrs. Pouton.

2655. Do you know that the Poutons have a large shop in Wellington-street, and have had it for years, and that this is merely a branch?—The representative of the Coupon Company told me that this woman opened on the distinct understanding that no one else would be allowed to have the coupons within a certain radius of her.

2656. Have not Scott and Coles in that vicinity both got shops which distribute coupons?—Yes, when the representative told me that within a certain radius there were restrictions he mentioned Scott across the railway, but it was not until we had been refused more than once to be allowed to distribute coupons in St. George's-road, that Coles bought Thompson's business there, and started to distribute coupons.

2657. Will you swear that Mrs. Pouton did not carry on business in that shop for years before the company came into existence?—I will swear that the representative of the company informed me that Mrs. Pouton opened that shop and started the coupons.

2658. If the representative of the company tells me that the shop was in existence before the company, will you persist in that statement?—I will stick to my statement.

2659. Will you swear the shop was not in existence to your own knowledge?—No, not of my own knowledge.

2660. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—Do you distribute coupons in all your shops?—In three shops; one shop is not affected, so we do not distribute them there.

2661. Do you find any difficulty in getting coupons from the public?—Not much.

2662. How did you go to work to get the coupons?—We put an advertisement in the window that we were buying coupons, and the people brought them to us.

2663. What price do you give?—2s. per 100.

2664. You have no difficulty in getting all the coupons you want?—We have not had up to the present.

2665. How many coupons do you get through in the three shops?—I cannot say. My brother is senior partner in the firm.

2666. Can you give us any idea?—It would run into something like from 1,500 to 2,000 a week.

2667. You have no difficulty in buying those at 2s. a 100?—No.

2668. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—You are of opinion that if this Bill does not pass the shopkeepers will have to form other coupon companies for their own protection?—Yes, in self-defence.

2669. Therefore it will become universal?—It may do so.

2670. Do you think it will?—I think so, and if it does become universal we will have to increase the prices.

2671. Under those conditions the Coupon Company would become a permanent incubus upon the trade?—Yes.

2672. And the company would be the only ones likely to derive any benefit?—Yes.

2673. The result of that would be a permanent increase in the prices to the public?—Yes.

2674. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Were you advertised in the company's books?—I believe we were for the Elgin-street shop.

2675. Did you get a greater increase in business in connexion with that shop than in those that were not advertised?—No, we had less advantage in the Carlton shop than in any other.

2676. How do you account for that?—I do not know; in some districts the people are more gone on the coupons than in others, that is how we noticed the decrease in business more in some districts than others; in one of our shops there was hardly any decrease at all, showing that the people did not take an interest in the coupons, but in some shops it had a very marked effect.

2677. Do you buy the coupons from the people to whom you distribute them or from people outside?—They all came from outside at the start, we bought a great number at the start and we have not needed to buy many since.

2678. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Is that done pretty widely as a sort of antidote to the company?—I cannot say how widely it is done.

2679. Can you buy more than you could at first?—We have to refuse them.

2680. The people prefer money to getting goods at the shop?—Yes, they prefer the cash.

2681. Have they admitted that to you?—Some of them have admitted that they would sooner get the cash than go and get a present.

2682. The mere fact that you refuse to buy shows that you cannot take as many as you can get?—We cannot buy all that we can get.

2683. *By Mr. Coldham.*—And still you apply to the company?—We have not applied to the company since we started to buy them from the public.

2684. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Do you buy them in books and pull them off?—We buy them in any way we can.

2685. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Instead of presenting the coupons to the company and getting goods for them, the public bring them to you and get cash?—Yes, they prefer that; first of all, we started to buy them in books and steamed them off ourselves, but when we found we could get so many we made it a condition that they brought them to us in the same condition as they received them.

2686. Are the same coupons brought to you time after time?—They may be, we cannot identify them.

2687. If they are passed from hand to hand to that extent they are not redeemed by the company?—Yes.

2688. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—In reality it is a sort of floating paper money?—Yes.

2689. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Do you find the people to whom you give these coupons bring them back to you and sell them for cash?—Some of them.

The witness withdrew.

James Henry Mason, examined.

2690. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, in High-street, Malvern.

2691. *By Mr. Deakin.*—How long have you been in business as a grocer?—As an assistant and a master, some sixteen years.

2692. You are acquainted with the coupon system which has been introduced by the company?—Not by personal experience. I have not taken the coupons; I understand the system and have had some experience of its working.

2693. Having heard the previous evidence, will you say how the system has impressed you?—Not having personal experience of having the coupons, I can only speak of the tactics in trying to get me to take the coupons. About sixteen months ago the representative of the Coupon Company called upon me, looked round my shop, and stated he called upon me first, seeing that I held a very good position—my shop is on the corner of two streets. I then asked him what was the idea of the company; what were the advantages? He stated it was a co-operative company, and their coupons would be distributed to those who would take them. I said—“Well, if I take the coupons, I will have to give those coupons, which represent a percentage of my takings, on all the takings I already enjoy, so if I do £100 a week I will have to give coupons representing 5 per cent. on the £100. I do not like that.” Then he said—“The advantage you will have is this, we will not give the coupons to any other tradesmen in your line in the district, or in the vicinity”—he did not name any boundaries. I said—“Do you want me to give 5 per cent. on the turnover which I am now doing for the advantage that I will get in taking cash trade from my neighbours? I refuse to do it. We are all neighbours; we enjoy each other's company, and if you want me to do such a creeping thing as that, I refuse.” He said—“Well, we will have to go to the others.” I said—“Very good, I will depend upon the others' sense of right in refusing you, as I have done.”

2694. Did the others refuse?—Yes, they did. Just after that, Mr. Moran, my neighbour, came down and he said—“Did you have the coupon man call upon you?” I said—“Yes;” he said—“Are you taking them?” I said—“No;” he said—“That is right; I am not taking them either.” Then Mr. Hayes, my next neighbour, came and said—“Are you taking coupons?” I said—“No, are you?” and he said—“No.” I told them the agent had approached me, and they said he had done exactly the same thing. I found other tradesmen were taking them, and I found my wife was getting them. I told her not to get them; it was lowering her to get them, especially from one man, a fruiterer. I said—“You see how that man has to work—he gets up at four o'clock in the morning when we are asleep. When you ask him to give you a discount it is cruel, and I will not allow it.”

2695. Will your business afford it?—No.

2696. Will the other businesses, such as a fruiterer's, afford it?—No; they cannot possibly do it. I think it is an insidious thing, undermining honest trade; it is merely diverting the cash trade which already exists from those who enjoyed it, into a channel where those coupons are given.

2697. And the customer pays for it?—Yes; every one in business knows that. All articles of trade do not carry the same profit; there are lines in every trade, which are not in every-day requisition, which carry a fair amount of profit, and there are lines which are in every-day requisition which carry a

small percentage of profit. Take kerosene—to-day it costs 3s. 3d., and it is sold in some places at 2s. 9d. Mr. Scott told you he only did business in those lines which showed the largest margin of profit, and when they take those lines from every tradesman and give them away for nothing, it takes away the chance of those tradesmen averaging up their profits, because people will not buy goods which they think they can get for nothing. This company is drawing the 5 per cent. from the tradesmen and dealing in the very goods which the tradesmen are depending upon to average their profits.

2698. You are pointing to the company as a seller of goods?—Yes.

2699. By the coupon system, the customer is led to suppose that he gets the goods for nothing?—Yes; and, of course, the novelty of running after something, and getting something for nothing, makes people run to places where they get coupons.

2700. The company do not sell groceries?—No; they only sell lines in which the public are really ignorant of the profit which exists. Everyone knows the price of a bag of sugar or a ton of sugar, but everybody does not know the price of an umbrella or bric-a-brac. Those are the lines on which a large profit exists, and on which the crockeryman or other tradesman averages up his profits.

2701. You do not blame Mr. Scott for picking the articles which give him the highest profit?—I believe the trade would not take the action they are taking to-day if articles were given which represented their face value, because then the company could not exist. It is the tremendous margin of profit between the article they get and the article they are supposed to get.

2702. It is clear that this system does not commend itself to you?—No, it does not.

2703. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Would you have any objection to cash discounts themselves?—No.

2704. Supposing a person by means of cash discounts should get a pound together, would there be any objection to his going to a jeweller and investing it in plate?—Certainly not, when the pound is his he can do as he likes with it.

2705. If the person who gets the coupons is content to spend the face value of that coupon in plate, you say you have an objection?—They have no option; they must go and take what is marked up.

2706. But have you any objection to it?—They take those things, thinking they are getting their face value, but they are not.

2707. Do you mean getting 12s. 6d. worth of goods for them?—Yes.

2708. Do you mean at wholesale or retail prices?—Retail.

2709. You assert that this company does not supply face value at retail prices?—If they do they select those lines on which there is a large profit.

2710. Do you say they do not supply articles to the face value at retail prices?—Never having tried, I cannot say.

2711. You think this is a system which deals exclusively with "mugs"?—Undoubtedly, and selfish ones at that.

2712. You say you consider it an insidious undermining of fair, honest trade?—Yes.

2713. Where did you get that from?—I know what insidious means, and what undermining means, and what honest trading means, and I say when people get trade by trading upon the selfishness of tradesmen and the credulity of the public, it is insidious undermining of fair, honest trade.

2714. Do you object to one tradesman endeavouring to attract trade from another tradesman?—Not in a fair, honest way.

2715. Such as lowering the prices or advertising to any extent?—Yes, whenever there is a profit existing.

2716. You draw the line with regard to reducing prices to the point at which a fair profit exists?—Yes.

2717. You do not consider selling kerosene at 2s. 9d. a tin is fair, honest, legitimate trading?—There are circumstances—the kerosene might have been bought at a lower rate.

2718. Do you consider selling kerosene under present circumstances at 2s. 9d. a tin fair, honest trading?—If a person bought kerosene at 2s. 8d. he is justified in selling at 2s. 9d.

2719. Is that a fair profit?—That is as much profit as we can get.

2720. Is that a fair profit?—No, it is not an average profit.

2721. What is the average profit?—If you sell the kerosene at 1d. profit and a pound of tea at 5d. profit that averages each article. It would be about 15 per cent., which is a fair average profit on the turnover.

2722. Have I to look to each article to find out whether what you consider is a fair average profit is being obtained, or must I look at the turnover?—The total turnover will give you a certain percentage.

2723. Which am I to look at to find out the proper percentage?—Whichever way you like.

2724. Is sugar sold at an unfair price, A1 sugar?—There is 3d. a bag profit on that.

2725. You give that as an example of undercutting?—That is an example where it does not do the tradesman justice when the lines on which he does get a profit are taken from him.

2726. He does not sell that line at a fair profit?—He sells that line with the idea of selling other lines at a fair profit.

2727. He cuts this line with the object of attracting business in other lines?—Yes.

2728. Is that fair?—It is hardly business-like.

2729. You consider 15 per cent. a fair profit all round?—Yes.

2730. If the man next door cut prices so as to make a profit of 10 per cent. is that fair?—He would be justified in doing it as long as he could.

2731. The cutting off of 33 per cent. would be justifiable in order to take away your business?—We generally rely upon fair competition.

2732. Is that fair?—It is hardly business-like.

2733. If you were selling goods that you could only afford to sell at £100 and the man next door sold them at £95, would you consider that fair?—It would be hardly fair in this way—it would be departing from the custom.

2734. Would you consider it fair trading?—Yes, I suppose it would be fair enough.

2735. If instead of selling the goods at £95 he sold them at £100 and gave his customers 5 per cent. discount, would that be fair?—It would be evidence that he was trying to get a little advantage.

2736. Would you consider it fair?—If he thought he could do it it would be fair enough.

2737. You consider it fair for a man to give cash discounts for the purpose of attracting trade from you to himself?—It would only remain for me to do the same.

2738. But it would be fair?—I should feel a little annoyed at it.

2739. But would it be fair from a trading point of view?—I could not say it was unfair.

2740. If he chose to give the 5 per cent. discount in the form of printed pieces of paper, that would not affect you?—Yes, it would in this way—if a cash discount is given individually by each tradesman the whole thing becomes so unmanageable that it falls through, but this Coupon Company renders it easy for the public to collect from the butcher, the baker, or every other tradesman. Concentrating the coupon and making it the one value affords greater facilities for the public to get hold of the coupons, and it tends to success where individual cash attempts fail—we consider that is inimical to business.

2741. It would not be unfair if the man next door were to give 5 per cent. cash discount?—If he did it to the injury of his neighbour it would be unfair.

2742. If he did it with the object of taking trade from you that would be unfair?—If he cut under the prices at which I could sell, or if he gave away articles of my trade to induce custom to himself it would be unfair. In the town in which I live there is a draper who is doing a large business—there was a boot man next door also doing a splendid business. Presently the draper conceived the idea that he could do an enormous trade and attract business from other channels, so he found out from the bootmaker where he got his boots from, and gave an order for about £500 worth of boots from the same merchant. They were supplied, and then the draper told his customers that every purchaser of £5 worth of drapery would be presented with a pair of boots, and any purchaser of a guinea's worth of drapery would be presented with a boy's or girl's pair of boots. The consequence was, that the man was deluged with business and the poor bootmaker never sold a pair—he had a tremendously large stock and he had to go insolvent, simply because the draper took away his trade. In the same way I say this business is unfair.

2743. Supposing you were selling goods at £100 which you considered gave you a fair profit, and the man next door started to sell the same goods at £95, would you consider that unfair upon his part?—Not in ordinary fair trading.

2744. If instead of selling at £95 he sold them at £100 and gave 5 per cent. cash discount, would you consider that unfair?—It would not be so straight; there would be an ulterior motive in it.

2745. Suppose a man sold the goods for £100 and gave 5 per cent. discount in coupons, what would you say to that?—Under the present circumstances it would be less straight still, because these coupons draw away trade.

2746. Do you consider it unfair to attempt to attract your trade by these devices?—Yes, because it is trading upon the credulity of the public, and giving them something novel; it would be taking an advantage.

2747. You object both to the 5 per cent. discount and the 5 per cent. coupons?—Yes.

2748. Why do you not consider it quite straight for a man to allow 5 per cent. discount in cash?—It is suggestive of doing something secretive from his neighbour; he is doing something that his neighbour has not an opportunity of knowing about.

2749. If he advertised in his window "5 per cent. discount given here," you would not have any objection to it?—Perhaps not.

2750. You object to the 5 per cent. discount because the public are fools?—I do not say that.

2751. They think they get something that they do not get?—Yes, there is a pervading desire to get something for nothing, and the public are attracted by it.

2752. Is your business affected by this coupon system?—No, because I put on extra exertion to make up for it.

2753. Your opposition is merely upon high moral grounds?—Yes, I dare say I might be doing more trade that I do not know anything about.

2754. Have you a wine licence?—No.

2755. Do you regard that as a monopoly?—I have a grocer's licence.

2756. Is that a monopoly?—Yes, it is to a certain extent, but we have to pay £35 a year for it.

2757. The people who buy coupons have to pay for the privilege. The people in competition with you cannot get a licence?—They could if they had been as smart.

2758. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—Is yours entirely a cash business?—No, it is a cash and family trade.

2759. Do you give any discount for cash?—It is not recognised in the retail trade, but in the wholesale trade discount is recognised. If you buy goods and pay within a month you get 2½ per cent. discount, and if you pay spot cash you get 3½ per cent. In the retail trade a cash discount is not recognised, but there are a few gentlemen who have been connected with the wholesale trade and being extra keen they sometimes demand it. In those instances we give it, knowing they are accustomed to it, but it is not the custom to give discount.

The witness withdrew.

Thos. II. Whitworth, examined.

2760. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer and wine and spirit merchant, in Victoria-avenue, Albert Park.

2761. *By Mr. Deakin.*—How many years have you been carrying on business?—Sixteen years for myself.

2762. Have you had any dealings with the Coupon Company?—The first time I came into contact with the Coupon Company one of the representatives called on me and asked me if I would take the system up. I thought over it and I could not see that it would pay us to do it, having a good business at the time. He called on me several times and I refused to have anything to do with it. Finally, he came down on a Saturday and told me he would give me until Monday at midday to come in and see them, and if I did not come in then, they would give the coupons to my neighbour, who was anxious to take them up. I did not go in, and on the Monday night I saw my neighbour, who told me he had taken them up. I thought it might be awkward for me and I intended to go in in the morning, but on the way I met the canvasser. I said I would take them, but he said—"You are too late, you cannot have them now."

2763. Did your business suffer in consequence of your not having them?—No, I did not give them the chance. I got a few shopkeepers together and we started a company of our own so as to keep our businesses together.

2764. Were your coupons interchangeable by drapers and bootmakers for their goods?—Yes, it was our idea to interview the draper, butcher, and other tradespeople, so that we could make an interchange of coupons, and any of the shopkeepers would redeem them, and we had a depôt where a shopkeeper would give the value for them when they were brought there.

2765. How did it work?—It worked very well for a time. We had a great number of shopkeepers who had been refused by the Coupon Company coming to us and asking for our coupons, but those who took them up were very much against the system, like ourselves, and when they thought the thing had died out they let it drop. A good many have been given away; I am giving them away at the present time.

2766. Do you give them to everyone?—To those who ask for them.

2767. You do not limit them to one tradesman within a certain area?—No, we give them to men next door to one another. We got it up for the defence of the trade.

2768. Did giving them to everyone who asked for them militate against the success of your coupon company?—No doubt if we had pushed the business we would have made a success of it, but we only took it up in self-defence. So long as we had the baker, the butcher, the draper, and so on, taking them, that was all we required, but we are opposed to the whole system.

2769. You are a supporter of the Bill?—Yes.

2770. Do you think your trade can afford to pay this extra 5 per cent.?—Not in the grocery trade, we cannot afford to pay anything at all. We must get it out of the customers if we are to make it pay.

2771. Are you a director of this Coupon Association?—I am one of the active men in it.

2772. How many coupons have you issued?—315,000 altogether.

2773. How many have you redeemed?—98,000.

2774. How is it that such a large proportion are unredeemed?—We cannot understand it. Not many have been inquired for lately and very few have come back. There seems an immense profit in it.

2775. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Are you still issuing them?—Yes.

2776. Do you redeem them in cash or goods?—Whichever they like.

2777. *By Mr. Deakin.*—What price do you issue them at?—We issue them at 2s. per 100, and redeem them at 1s. 3d.

2778. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—What is the face value of the coupon?—We give them on the same terms as the other company—one 6d. coupon for every 6d. worth purchased.

2779. How much can they purchase for them?—100 coupons are worth 1s. 3d. in goods. We take them back from the shopkeepers at 1s. 3d. per 100 and sell them again for 2s. They are brought back in books. They must be pasted in the books when they are brought back again.

2780. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Yours is a genuinely co-operative company, which binds together all the tradesmen connected with it?—Yes.

2781. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—What do the public give you?—We issue them to the public free of charge, and when they bring them back we give them 1s. 3d. worth in cash or goods.

2782. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—What does a customer get when he buys goods by coupons?—When a purchaser gets 50 of those coupons he can bring them back and get 7½d. for them in cash or in goods.

2783. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—Who gets the benefit of this profit?—The association.

2784. The association pockets the difference?—Yes, and it pays us very well.

2785. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Have you any notion where the remainder of the coupons have gone to?—No, we started last November, a week or two after this Coupon Company.

2786. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—What is the name of your company?—The Australian Coupon Company. We have a registered trade mark. It is a 6d. in a diamond. The other people have an oval; ours is blue and theirs is green.

2787. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Do you know Mr. Seidel, who gave evidence here?—Yes.

2788. Does he take your coupons?—No.

2789. Does a brother of his, or one of his partners?—I never knew that he had a partner.

2790. Do you sell your coupons to rival grocers?—To anybody who wants to take them.

2791. You depend upon the sale of your coupons for your profit?—Yes.

2792. Could you shut up your grocery business now?—No.

2793. You issue 100, and if those are redeemed you make a profit of 9d.?—Yes.

2794. In fact, it is more than 9d., because you only supply 1s. 3d. worth of goods, and the wholesale price of those goods would be about 10d., so that when they bring in their 2s. worth of coupons they get about 10d. worth of goods?—We give them 1s. 3d. worth of goods at retail prices.

2795. What happens to the other 9d.?—It goes into our pockets.

2796. What do you do for that 9d.?—We have advertised them, and issued books exactly the same as the other company.

2797. You think it is perfectly fair and legitimate?—No, I do not.

The witness withdrew.

James Collins, examined.

2798. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business in Rathdown-street, Carlton.

2799. *By Mr. Deakin.*—How long have you been in business?—Seven or eight years.

2800. You are acquainted with the business of the Coupon Company?—Yes.

2801. Have you ever had their coupons?—Yes.

2802. From the company?—No; they refused to give them to me.

2803. Did they offer them to you?—They did in the first instance, but I declined to take them because I could not see my way clear to make it pay.

2804. Do you not think your business could stand 5 per cent.?—No; but I have been compelled to take them since in self-defence.
2805. Do you mean the company's coupons?—Yes.
2806. Where do you get them?—From the public.
2807. How do you get them from the public?—I advertise in the *Age* sometimes, and sometimes I put an advertisement in my window.
2808. That brings you all the coupons you want?—Yes, ten times as many as I want.
2809. What do you pay for them?—From 1s. 6d. to 2s. a 100.
2810. You found that others who were granted the coupons were depriving you of the volume of your business?—Yes; and when I asked for them the company would not give them to me.
2811. Since you have been using the coupons have you retained your business?—Yes; I got back what I was losing.
2812. Have you got any advantage?—None whatever that I can see.
2813. Not even in the way of improving your cash takings, or getting rid of bad debts?—It has increased my cash takings about £20 a month, but against that it costs me about £2 a week for coupons.
2814. Is the £20 of gross receipt extra?—Yes.
2815. You do not make much out of it?—I am at a dead loss, but I am compelled to do it because others are offering them.
2816. But what do you say to the system?—I do not like it at all.
2817. If you could get the coupons, and your neighbours could not get them, what would you think of it then?—I could not afford to take them in the first instance. A grocer's profits come to about 10 per cent. gross in the first instance.
2818. How much do you deduct for your working expenses?—Between $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and 8 per cent.
2819. Is yours a cash business?—Cash and credit, both.
2820. You cannot stand a 5 per cent. demand if you only make 3 per cent. profit?—No.
2821. If you have to take the coupons you have to make up for it in some way?—At the present time I am losing by it. The money I used to make, now goes to pay for coupons, and I am not able to take out such a large salary for myself as I used to do.
2822. If the system is continued the customers will have to pay for it?—Decidedly; I cannot afford to pay for it.
2823. Can people in the grocery business bear this 5 per cent. impost?—No; those that have got it have got a huge monopoly, and the extra takings pay for the coupons, but they have no advantage for it, they simply work for the coupon people.
2824. How is it those coupons are offered to you at those prices?—The public prefer to sell them for cash rather than have them redeemed by the Coupon Company; almost in every instance I have taken them from people who have had them redeemed by the Coupon Company in the first instance, and have been so dissatisfied with the things they have got that they preferred to take cash instead. I know that from complaints made to me in almost every instance.
2825. Practically the coupons you use simply go backwards and forwards between you and the public without going back to the company at all?—Yes, as many as four or five times, to my own knowledge.
2826. Who are those who are most eager for the coupons?—Children, as a rule.
2827. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Do you suggest that the children are buying groceries on their own account?—No; but the mothers in a great many instances will not trouble with the coupons, whereas the children do.
2828. The children are buying on behalf of the family with the family's money?—Yes.
2829. They are the ones who generally ask for the coupons?—Yes.
2830. It is in the poorer families as a rule that the children are sent to make the family purchases?—Not always.
2831. Is it not so generally?—Not as far as my experience goes.
2832. Is your experience limited to this colony?—Yes.
2833. You say that the children are not generally the children of the poorer classes?—No, the children of the well-to-do classes come as well.
2834. What classes do you divide them into?—There is the better class consisting of people who are earning a decent salary, say from £3 to £5 a week.
2835. Which do you consider the poorer classes?—Those earning from £1 up to £3.
2836. Are not those the two classes from which the children come to purchase goods from you?—Yes.
2837. Do you say that the return on your capital per annum is only 10 per cent.?—I say the gross profits are about 10 per cent. on the gross turnover.
2838. How often do you turn over your capital in the course of a year?—Some of it once a year, some of it every week.
2839. How often do you reckon you turn over your capital in the course of a year?—I should say from four to five times.
2840. Then you make upon your capital about 40 to 50 per cent. gross profit?—I cannot see it.
2841. You make 10 per cent. on each turnover?—Yes.
2842. And you turn it over from four to five times a year; does not that mean that you make a gross profit upon your capital of 40 to 50 per cent.?—Yes, I dare say it would be if you look at it in that way, but that is not the way we look at it. We look at it that if our gross profit is 10 per cent. and our working expense is 8 per cent., that leaves 2 per cent. to ourselves. If your turnover is £100 a week, your gross profit 10 per cent., and your working expenses 8 per cent., that leaves £2 a week for yourself.
2843. When you turn over your stock, that stock represents your capital?—Not necessarily.
2844. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Are you speaking of the 10 per cent. upon the turnover?—Yes, the gross sales.
2845. *By Mr. Coldham.*—And the sales are sales of goods purchased by your capital?—Yes.
2846. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—You take stock once a year?—Yes.

2847. You calculate your profits for the year to be 10 per cent.?—Yes.
2848. Out of which 8 per cent. goes for working expenses?—Yes.
2849. *By Mr. Coldham.*—If you invest £100 in stock on the 1st January, you turn that over five times in the course of the year?—Yes.
2850. Then you sell £500 worth of goods?—Yes.
2851. And you make 10 per cent. each time you turn that £100 over, which is 50 per cent. on the original capital?—Yes; but then you have to take the working expenses out of that.
2852. You make a gross profit of 50 per cent. upon your original capital?—Yes, if you look on it in that way; but we do not look at it in that way.
2853. What do your working expenses come to?—About 40 per cent.
2854. Then you make 10 per cent. upon your working capital?—Yes.
2855. You have to pay your working expenses and keep your wife and family out of that?—Yes.
2856. Do you consider that a fair margin of profit?—No, I do not.
2857. But you are compelled to do that by undercutting?—Yes.
2858. Undercutting is a means of attracting custom from other people to the man who undercuts?—It all depends upon how you go about it.
2859. Supposing a person comes alongside of you and reduces prices to attract custom, do you consider that unfair?—No.
2860. You do not consider the reduction of prices in order to attract business is unfair?—No, that is a matter of business.
2861. Do you consider giving a cash discount is unfair?—Not if you can see your way clear to do so.
2862. If a man says—"I can afford to give a cash discount, and thereby supply the public at a less rate than you can do so," do you consider that unfair?—No; he uses his own discretion.
2863. It may ruin him?—Yes.
2864. Is there any difference between a cash discount of 5 per cent. and a coupon discount of 5 per cent.?—Yes, a very great difference. In the one case, if a man sees his way clear, he can give 5 per cent. discount for cash; but, in the other case, he is compelled to do so, whether he wants to do so or not.
2865. You may assume that when a man says—"I can afford to pay 5 per cent. discount for cash," he is justified in doing so?—Yes.
2866. He is in no worse position if he pays 5 per cent. discount for cash than if he pays 5 per cent. for coupon discount, as far as his pocket is concerned?—No.
2867. You would not consider it unfair if he can do it?—No.
2868. You recognise that, prior to this coupon system, there was no method of giving the cash purchaser a discount on small purchases?—No, and there was no margin to do it with.
2869. All you know outside your own personal business is mere hearsay?—No, I see what their prices are marked up at, and I know what they can buy at, so I know what their profits are.
2870. Different people can buy at different prices?—There is very little difference in the prices.
2871. Cannot people like Moran and Cató land stuff here cheaper than you can?—By importing their own they can.
2872. The man who can purchase from whoever he likes has an advantage over the man who has to deal by bills?—I have never had anything to do with bills, as I buy on monthly terms.
2873. Are you tied to anybody?—No.
2874. Another factor in determining the business is the street in which you carry on business?—No, I do not see much difference in that.
2875. If you paid a Collins-street rent you could not sell goods at the same price as if you carried on business in a back street?—I am not speaking of the city proper, I am speaking of the suburbs.
2876. Are the rents in Rathdown-street as high as in Lygon-street?—Yes.
2877. Do you mean that the rents in Lygon-street, up which the trams run, are not higher than they are in Rathdown-street, which runs along the Exhibition Gardens?—I am not near the Exhibition Gardens.
2878. Are the rents the same in the one street as in the other?—Yes.
2879. You recognise that Carlton may be a bad stand for selling under certain circumstances?—No, I do not think so.
2880. Have not Ball and Welch shifted to a more central position to encourage trade?—No, I am not aware of it.
2881. Are you not aware that they have shifted?—No, I know they have opened a branch establishment in town.
2882. Is your business both cash and credit?—Yes.
2883. Has it always been so?—Yes.
2884. Are there any disadvantages in the credit system to your mind?—No, I cannot see much.
2885. Do you make any bad debts?—Very few.
2886. Those that you do make are a tax upon your business?—Yes, from a $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent.
2887. Even that is not desirable?—No; but it is better to do that than to pay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for cash.
2888. What are the longest terms you have to let your money be out?—Monthly accounts.
2889. Have you no accounts that stand longer than a month?—I give no credit over a month.
2890. Do you mean that you get all your accounts collected every month?—Not quite all; there is a little standing over—not much. I have not gone into the percentage, but perhaps it is $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
2891. That stands out for varying periods?—Never more than three months.
2892. Would you not change your credit business for a cash business if you could?—No; I find the credit business pays better. You make sure of your customers, which you do not with cash.
2893. It is more expensive in bad debts, bookkeeping, and collecting; but there are more than compensating advantages for that?—Yes; the increased trade.
2894. If a man is on your books he will stick to you instead of going somewhere else?—Yes, and plenty of people will come to you and book for a week where they cannot pay cash down.

2895. You like to see people who cannot pay cash booking the goods?—Yes.
2896. Is that a thing that is desirable?—If they wish it so.
2897. If a man comes and says—"I cannot pay cash, but I will pay some time," you will take him on?—It is better to take him on with that understanding, and run the chance of his paying, than to pay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in order to get cash from everybody.
2898. When you sell goods to a man who says—"I am not going to pay cash," do you charge the same prices as to a cash customer?—Absolutely the same.
2899. Then it is not so desirable from a monetary point of view as a cash transaction?—Yes, it is.
2900. It is just as good for you to get your money in one, two, or three months as to get cash down?—Up to two months it is.
2901. Have you given cash discounts at any time?—Never, the trade will not allow it. Things are cut too fine; there would be no advantage either to me or to the customer to put on the price, and then take it off in discount.
2902. If a large number of grocers come and say it does pay them to get cash paid by means of the co-operative coupon system, thus enabling them to buy for cash, are they wrong?—If you buy for cash from the merchants you will get from 3 per cent. to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount; if you buy on one month's bills you get seven weeks' credit, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., so I do not see where you save much by buying for cash.
2903. When people come here and say that it does pay them, what have you to say to that?—I have only heard one grocer say it pays him.
2904. Supposing one man says it pays him to give these coupons on his cash takings, do you say he is mistaken?—I do not think it pays him, but it gives him a huge monopoly over his neighbours.
2905. And that huge monopoly does not pay him?—No.
2906. Then a monopoly is an undesirable thing?—How can it pay him if he has to give away the profits of the increased trade to pay for coupons, what advantage does he derive from it? I think a man is very foolish to work for the Coupon Company or any one else if he can do without it.
2907. But if men do say that, do you say they are mistaken?—I say I do not believe them.
2908. Does it pay to have a monopoly in a business?—You would not care to work overtime for nothing, it simply means that you are working for the coupon people.
2909. You say a monopoly is not a desirable thing?—No.
2910. Have you a monopoly in anything?—No.
2911. Have you a grocer's licence?—No.
2912. Do you not think that is a monopoly?—Some say it is, and some say it is not. I do not know from experience.
2913. Can you speak from experience of the coupon system?—Yes.
2914. You never bought any coupons from the company?—No, but I have issued them.
2915. You knew when you purchased those coupons that the understanding on which they were given out was that they were to be redeemed for goods only?—No.
2916. Would you swear that you did not know it?—Yes.
2917. Do you know it now?—No.
2918. The public know that these coupons are redeemable by the company?—Yes.
2919. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—You have never applied to the company to have them redeemed?—No, I simply issue them to the public, and they bring them back to me and sell them; I re-issue them again, and when they are tired of that they take them to the company and get them redeemed.
2920. *By Mr. Coldham.*—In your business do you sell special lines at cutting prices to induce customers?—Yes, a few.
2921. That is to attract custom to your business?—Yes.
2922. You do not consider that unfair?—No.
2923. But you would much prefer that nobody did it?—Yes.
2924. You would prefer that everybody should sell at 15 per cent. profit?—Decidedly.
2925. The cutting system prevents you making that profit, and the coupon system and the expenses of advertising prevent it also?—I do not think the retail trade do much advertising.
2926. Is not Moran and Cato's a retail business?—They are about the only firm that do it, and they are as much wholesale as retail.
2927. All their shops in the suburbs are retail, are they not?—Yes.
2928. They advertise on a scale that no single man could afford?—Yes.
2929. They practically cut trade away from you by means of their extra capital?—They are not reckoned as cutters—that advertising is principally done for their country customers.
2930. Is it cutting to sell kerosene at 2s. 9d. a tin?—It all depends on what you buy it at.
2931. Suppose you bought it at 2s. 8d.?—That is making it a leading line.
2932. Is that not cutting to attract custom?—Yes.
2933. Sugar at $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. is another leading line?—Yes.
2934. Do you consider those devices perfectly fair?—Yes.
2935. You do them yourself?—Yes, I do them of my own free will.
2936. You need not take these coupons unless you like?—Yes, you are compelled to do it or lose your trade.
2937. You are compelled to cut certain lines or you would lose your trade; you would not sell kerosene at 2s. 9d. if you could get 3s. 6d.?—No, but you give the public the benefit of that and they come to you again.
2938. But the public get the benefit of the coupon discount?—No.
2939. They get the benefit of 5 per cent. discount if it is given in cash?—Yes.
2940. The only difference is that with the coupon discount people have to take goods?—The only difference is that with a cash discount the customer receives the full 5 per cent., while in the other case the company have to take their profit out of it, and that does not leave the customer very much.
2941. All the customer can do with his coupon discount is to invest it in goods?—Yes.
2942. Under the other system he has to do the same thing?—He could spend it more profitably than in buying the things that are there.

2943. Is your objection that he cannot go to your place and buy sugar and tea with the coupons. Would you consider the system was all right if the customer were allowed an unlimited choice of goods at retail prices?—No, I do not believe in the system at all.

2944. What is your objection?—It tends to create a monopoly for one thing; you are compelled to keep them and to give away a discount that you cannot afford to give.

2945. What is the monopoly?—Giving coupons to one and not to another.

2946. There is nothing to prevent your issuing coupons?—No, but when I issue them I gain nothing by them.

2947. But there is nothing to prevent your issuing coupons to the extent of 5 per cent. upon cash purchases?—Nothing whatever.

2948. The company do not prevent you from issuing 15 per cent. coupons upon cash purchases?—No, but I cannot afford to do so—if there was not such a thing as a Coupon Company in existence there would be no such discounts given.

2949. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Is not the difference between cash and coupons that, if your rival offers 5 per cent. cash discount, you can do exactly the same thing, and meet him on level ground, but if he gives 5 per cent. discount in the coupons of the company, you cannot meet him, because you cannot get them?—Yes, that is where he has the monopoly.

2950. *By Mr. Coldham.*—In your opinion the 5 per cent. cash discount is a better thing for the public?—Yes, if you can afford to give it.

2951. If you could afford to give it, the public would take the 5 per cent. discount in preference to coupons?—Yes, it would be a better thing for the public.

2952. There is nothing to prevent you offering it in opposition to the coupons system?—No, there is nothing to prevent my giving 20 per cent. if I could afford it.

2953. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—You refused to take the coupons in the first instance?—Yes.

2954. You found your business declining, and in self-defence you had to get them, and as the company would not give them to you, you have had to buy them from the public?—Yes.

2955. How did that benefit you?—Some of my customers left me because I would not give them coupons, and when I gave coupons they came back to me.

2956. If your net profits are $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and these coupons cost you $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 per cent., how does it benefit you?—It does not benefit me financially, but I took them because we expected that it would not be very long before the coupons ran themselves out. I would not do it as a permanent thing. Another thing is that they cause dissension among your customers. Customers who pay you weekly say their money is as good as cash, and it is really better than cash, because you retain their custom for the week.

2957. But if the custom lands you in a loss how does it benefit you to retain that loss—if your net profits are $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and the coupons are 3 per cent., how does that benefit you?—It does not benefit me at all.

2958. Your only object is to keep the business going until better times come?—Yes. People who pay cash every week reckon that their money is as good as cash and they want coupons, and if you do not give them they say they will go elsewhere where they can get them.

2959. Do you deal with tradesmen who give coupons?—No.

2960. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Do you consider that those tradesmen who have the privilege of buying coupons from the company have a monopoly?—Yes, they have over those who cannot get them.

2961. They pay 24s. per 1,000 for them?—Yes.

2962. And you buy the same coupons for 1s. 6d. per 100?—Yes.

2963. Are you not in a better position by being debarred than those other tradesmen?—Financially I am, because I do not pay as much.

2964. I understand you to say that you prefer credit customers to cash customers?—Yes, so long as they are anything like good pay.

2965. You consider your net profits are from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.?—Yes, about that.

2966. And you consider your losses through giving credit amount to from $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 1 per cent.?—Yes.

2967. Does that mean upon your credit customers or on your total business?—On the total business.

2968. What proportion of your customers are credit customers?—About half.

2969. That would mean from 1 to 2 per cent. on your credit customers?—From $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent.

2970. You give them one month's credit but sometimes it runs into two months?—Yes.

2971. Two months would be equal to 1 per cent. in the bank?—No, for a current account you do not get any percentage in the bank.

2972. Is not money worth 6 per cent. per annum to you?—It all depends upon where you invest it.

2973. As a business man, is not money worth 6 per cent.?—Yes.

2974. Does not it cost you 6 per cent. if you overdraw?—I cannot say.

2975. Is not the net result of all this that you actually lose on your credit customers?—If a man who is doing a turnover of £100 per week is careful, his bad debts would not run him into more than £25 or £30 per annum.

2976. Does it not mean that your losses of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 2 per cent. are on the total amount that you sell on credit during the year?—Yes.

2977. Is there any profit on your credit customers after you have deducted your expenses, which come to about 8 per cent., your losses by bad debts, which come to 2 per cent., and the value of the money for the time you are out of that money?—No; if you look at it in that way there would be none.

2978. So your profits would be made on your cash customers?—Yes; but if you do an entirely cash business, and you only get $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. over working expenses, while you pay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the Coupon Company, what becomes of your profit?

2979. Your profits are really on the cash customers?—The biggest profit is, if you look at it in that way, but a number of people will come and ask if I will give them weekly credit, and if I say "No," they say—"We cannot deal with you." They may be first-class credit, and they go to some one else, whereas if I give them weekly credit they give me their entire custom, and that is an advantage. If I gain £5 or £10 per week from people like that, that is a distinct gain.

2980. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—In reckoning your expenses, do you include your bad debts?—No.

2981. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Would you prefer a good man, who paid his £3 or £4 every week, to a cash customer?—Yes, I would prefer him to pay every week or every month.

2982. If a good man paid every week you would sooner have him pay once a week than every day? Yes, or in fact once a month.

2983. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—When you take stock do you show a profit of 10 per cent. after making allowance for bad debts?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Edward Purvis, examined.

2984. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, in Gertrude-street, Fitzroy.

2985. *By Mr. Deakin.*—How many years' experience have you had?—Twelve years.

2986. When did you first become acquainted with the coupon system?—About fifteen months ago.

2987. Did the company offer you their coupons?—Yes.

2988. Did you decline them?—I agreed to take them, but when I went into the matter I found I could not afford to take them, so I decided not to do so.

2989. Did your neighbours take them?—Some of them did, I believe.

2990. Did your business suffer because your neighbours were taking them?—No, I did not give it a chance. I started a coupon company of my own.

2991. Were you one of the managers of that company?—Yes.

2992. Do you endorse what Mr. Whitworth has said about that company?—Yes.

2993. It was carried on in a co-operative way among the different tradesmen?—Yes.

2994. Did you find your coupons effective in preventing the loss of trade?—Yes, I maintained my own trade when I had them. A lot of my customers gave me notice that if I did not get the coupons they would leave me.

2995. Do you still issue them?—No, I gave them up about two months ago. I gave it a trial to see how things would go.

2996. Have you suffered since you left them off?—Yes.

2997. Are you going to take them on again?—Yes.

2998. Supposing this Bill does not pass, what will you do?—Then I am going to push this other company. I have been approached by several tradesmen and asked if I would start it again on a larger scale, which I have agreed to do.

2999. Do you think this coupon system is any gain to the tradesmen?—No.

3000. Or to the public?—Not much; it is a gain to the Coupon Company.

3001. It was a prosperous business to your company?—Yes.

3002. You adopted it as a matter of self-protection?—Yes.

3003. And it would be only for that purpose you would revive it?—That is all.

3004. Do the coupons always pass into the hands of the people for whom the goods are purchased—are not goods purchased by servants and others?—Yes.

3005. What happens in that case?—I think the families have to pay more for the coupons. About three weeks ago a man came into my shop for a bottle of patent medicine. I was selling a certain article at 5s., while round me they were selling it at 5s. 6d. After I had rolled it up, he asked me for coupons. I told him I had given them up. He said—"I cannot take it; I must get the coupons." I said—"If you get the coupons you will have to pay 5s. 6d." He said—"I will pay you 5s. 6d. if you give me coupons." I asked him whom it was for, but he did not tell me. I said—"If you call round in the morning I will get them for you;" but he wanted them that night.

3006. Was he paying his own money for that medicine?—I could not say; he would not tell me.

3007. Do you know that servants will pass the family tradesman in order to collect coupons at other places?—Yes. A customer came into my place last week who had not been there for three weeks. I said—"You are a stranger, where have you been?" She said—"I have had a servant girl for the last three weeks, and I have been sending her for the groceries, and it was only last week I found she was not coming here; she was going to another place for the coupons." I said—"How did you find it out?" She said—"By the bad coffee I got."

3008. Generally do you think this coupon system is advantageous to anybody but those who are running the company?—No, only to the company.

3009. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Your company is an aggregation of honest men?—I hope so.

3010. And this Coupon Company is a fraud in your opinion?—I would not like to say so.

3011. Have you said so?—No.

3012. Was not an action for slander started against you for that reason?—They entered an action against me.

3013. Did you apologise?—No.

3014. Did you call them frauds?—No.

3015. Did you say anything at all against them?—I asked one of their agents a question. I told him I heard his goods were on time-payment, and I asked him if that was true, and he turned round and said I made the assertion.

3016. On that he entered an action for slander?—Yes.

3017. What is the percentage of gross profit that you make on your turnover?—From 10 per cent. to 12 per cent.

3018. How much is the net profit?—About 3 per cent. I should say.

3019. Is your business both cash and credit?—Yes.

3020. What is the percentage of each?—There is more cash than credit; perhaps about 75 per cent. is cash.

3021. Is that the same proportion that obtained before you took up the coupon system?—Yes.

3022. There has been no increase in the cash part of the business?—No, not when I had the

coupons, but I had to give the coupons to weekly customers.

3023. You gave the coupons to people who did not pay cash?—Yes.

3024. Were those your own coupons?—Yes.

3025. Do you consider a cash business more desirable than a credit one?—I would sooner have a weekly credit business on which the losses were very trifling.

3026. What do you put down for bad debts in your credit business?—It is very trifling, because I will not give any one credit unless I have a reference.

3027. Even with that precaution what do you reckon to be your annual loss in your credit business through bad debts?—Last year I did not lose anything.

3028. What did you lose the year before?—I do not think the average would be $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

3029. What is the term to which your accounts are allowed to run?—Weekly—we have three or four customers who run them monthly.

3030. Do you cut lines for the purpose of attracting trade?—I get a fair profit on everything.

3031. What do you call a fair profit?—About 10 per cent. to 12 per cent. gross, on the average.

3032. Do you cut lines for the purpose of attracting business?—Yes, you must.

3033. What lines do you cut?—Anything I can buy cheaply. Just now I am cutting colonial beer at 3s. 9d. a dozen.

3034. You have a grocer's licence?—Yes.

3035. What is the ordinary market price for colonial beer that you are retailing at 3s. 9d.?—This is a line I bought at auction, the ordinary price is 4s. 6d. a dozen net, but this is a job line.

3036. Is there anything else you are cutting to attract trade?—No, not just now.

3037. You consider that perfectly fair and reasonable?—As long as I get a profit on it.

3038. If some one sold colonial beer at 3s. 6d. would you have any cause of complaint against him?—I would come down lower still.

3039. You would consider that perfectly fair and legitimate?—No, it is not legitimate.

3040. You would do it all the same?—I have not done so. If I were compelled to do it I would.

3041. By finding some one else cutting into your trade?—Yes.

3042. You thought the coupons cut into your business?—Yes.

3043. So you started coupons on your own account?—Yes, to retain my business.

3044. Is that much worse than cutting colonial beer?—Yes.

3045. Why?—If I cut my beer down I do not interfere with any one else.

3046. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—You issued these coupons to your customers?—Yes.

3047. Do you not think it encouraged the purchasers to save money?—Not very much; it might a little.

3048. How much did it encourage them?—I cannot say.

3049. It might be a good thing to encourage a little thrift?—They have to pay more for the goods.

3050. Did you charge your customers more for the goods?—Yes, in most of the cases I did, and I told my customers so when I was serving them.

3051. When you sold your goods and gave away coupons, you sold them at a different price to what you sold for cash?—Yes.

3052. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—They were willing to accept the condition?—Yes, that was the reason I gave them up, I thought it was imposing on my customers.

3053. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—You thought it was dishonest?—I did.

3054. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—When you gave your coupons, did they answer the purpose of retaining your business?—Yes.

3055. Were the people as well satisfied with your coupons as they were with the company's?—They were better satisfied.

3056. Although your coupons were 1s. 3d. per 100, and the company's were 2s. 6d. Is the value of the coupons merely in the imagination of these people, or do they look for what they get for them, or do they like them simply because they are coupons?—I think most of them like them because they do not know the value of them; they take them because they are coupons.

3057. They are satisfied with coupons to the value of 1s. 3d. per 100 as fully as they are with the 5 per cent. coupons?—Yes, because they can redeem them to the amount of 50 or 100; they can either purchase bread or meat with them or get the cash for them, but with the other coupons they have to have half a book, and when they have got 300 or 400 perhaps they may lose the book.

3058. Which do you consider the most dangerous class of competitor, the tradesman who is entitled to have the Co-operative Company's coupons, or a tradesman with a number of shops, like Moran and Cato?—The ones using the coupons; I am not afraid of competing with any man by fair means.

3059. Do not the grocers object to an institution like the Mutual Store?—I do not think so; I never heard any objection to it. I am alongside Foy and Gibson and I reckon they do me good.

3060. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—How do you inform your customers that you are going to increase your price when they come in?—I tell them I cannot afford to give them these coupons at the cash price.

3061. Do you ask them whether they want coupons or are going to pay cash?—Not always.

3062. Then how do you manage?—We get to know when they come a second time.

3063. You give them their goods and ask them for the money?—Yes, but there are some lines that we tell them we will have to charge more for when they ask for the coupons.

3064. If you sell a pound of tea for 1s. 3d. or 1s. 6d. cash, do you charge more if they want coupons?—Not on tea, but if a customer comes in and buys sugar or tinned meat, which is cut very fine, and asks for coupons, we tell him we will have to charge more.

3065. Then you only increase the price for some goods?—We do not increase the price of tea.

3066. If a woman wanted a pound of coffee, you would increase the price if she asked for coupons?

—Yes.

3067. She would then be paying you cash for the coupons?—Yes.

3068. At what rate?—About 1s. 3d. per 100.

3069. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—You are one of the managers of the Australian Coupon Company?

—Yes.

3070. Have you the same exclusive policy that the existing Coupon Company have of restricting the privilege to certain tradesmen?—No, we give them to everybody.

3071. If this Bill is not passed, will you continue the company and allow any one to have the coupons?—Yes.

3072. And you would put up the price of goods?—I do not think everyone would put up the price. I think it will come out of the assistants' wages.

3073. You found the public took your coupons quite as readily as the others?—Yes.

3074. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—You say you give coupons to the weekly customers—how do you issue the coupons?—When they pay their account. We have customers who have been on our books for ten or twelve years, and I would not like to insult them by telling them their weekly account is not as good as cash.

3075. Do you give coupons on monthly accounts?—I would if they wanted them. I have not done so so far.

3076. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—You have not found that there has been any inquiry as to the amount of capital behind the company?—No.

3077. Has there been any inquiry as to the company's position by those who took the coupons?—I do not think so.

3078. *By Mr. Deakin.*—What proportion of your old customers took cash for your coupons when they presented them?—I could not say.

3079. Was it a considerable proportion?—I do not know.

The witness withdrew.

Percy Rendle, examined.

3080. *By Mr. Deakin.*—You represent Ackman and Company?—Yes, they have a general furnishing warehouse in Smith-street, Fitzroy.

3081. How long have you been in business?—In their employment for about sixteen years.

3082. How long is it since you first became acquainted with the Coupon Company?—Last August twelve months one of their employés waited on me to see if I would take the coupons, and subsequently the manager of the company, Mr. Thomas, came.

3083. Did you take them?—Yes.

3084. Did you have an agreement with the company?—Yes, the agreement produced is the one —[reading the same].

3085. For how long did you take the coupons?—For three months.

3086. Why did you discontinue taking them?—I found the trade did not increase as it had been represented to me it would increase. Then some customers that we were in the habit of serving for cash before still came to us, but we had to give them coupons, which increased our expenses without any corresponding gain.

3087. Did not the proportion of your cash business to your credit business increase at all?—No, not the slightest.

3088. Was there any enhancement of the volume of your trade?—No.

3089. In your case the coupons had no effect?—None at all.

3090. What position are you in as regards competition?—There are a number of other furniture shops within a small radius.

3091. Since you have abandoned the coupons have any of those shops undertaken their issue?—Not that I am aware of.

3092. During the time that you had the coupons, did you give them to all your cash customers?—All who asked for them at the time they took away the goods and paid for them.

3093. Did your credit customers seek to obtain the coupons, as well as your cash customers?—No.

3094. Did they ask for them?—No.

3095. Do you call time-payment customers credit customers?—No.

3096. Did they ask for coupons?—No; time-payment customers and credit customers are two distinct classes.

3097. Was there any other reason why you gave up the coupons?—It caused confusion among our customers and the clerks to determine what constituted the difference between a cash customer and a credit customer. If a person came into the shop and purchased 5s. worth of goods, paid for them over the counter, and took them home with him, he was a cash purchaser. If he ordered the goods, and they were delivered by our cart the day following, and paid for on delivery, that would also be a cash customer. If, on the other hand, the customer was not at home, or the carter could not give him change out of a £5 note, he might leave the goods and ask the purchaser to call in and pay for them; but, the moment the carter left those goods without our having the cash for them, that constituted a credit purchase. Then, if the person came in next day and asked for the coupons, we said he was not entitled to them. Then people just turned round and said—"This is a fraud. It must be a swindle, because we are entitled to them. Practically, we pay cash for our goods." It was a cash purchase practically, but technically it was a credit purchase.

3098. Did you endeavour to arrive at some settled principle in this matter. Did you appeal to any one?—One customer came to us several times about the same thing; he got very rude over it, and said he would show us up. I referred him to the Coupon Company. I said—"It is their rule; if you go down to them and they say you are entitled to the coupons, we will give them to you." That was a case where a man purchased goods for cash. He came up two or three days subsequent to the delivery and paid for them, and he reckoned he was entitled to the coupons, but we said—"No, according to the rules of the company you are not." The company told him he was not entitled to them, and then he was better satisfied, but in the meantime it was very aggravating to him, and during the time between his getting the goods and his seeing the Coupon Company, he was very aggravating to us, and caused a considerable amount of annoyance in the shop.

3099. You found the system irksome in carrying on your business?—Yes.

3100. Your idea when you took on the coupons was that it would increase your business?—Yes. We adopted it as an advertising medium as much as anything.

3101. The name of your firm appeared in their books?—In the set of books issued during the currency of the coupons we had taken.

3102. You had their advertisement in your windows?—Yes.

3103. And yet it did not succeed as an advertisement?—No; it did not increase trade.

3104. From your experience of business in your locality you are aware that coupons are given in other businesses round you?—Yes.

3105. Have you formed an opinion as to the operation of the system—has it affected trade in your neighbourhood?—I think it has with some of the smaller shops. It has directed trade to those who had coupons.

3106. Is there any advantage to anybody but the company?—I reckon the Coupon Company get the great advantage.

3107. Does any one benefit by the coupons except the company?—I do not think the purchasers benefit by it.

3108. The furniture business comprises cash, credit, and time-payment business?—Yes.

3109. Furniture purchases are generally for considerable sums of money—you have very few small purchases?—It varies considerably.

3110. On many of your individual transactions you would require a large number of coupons?—If we sold £100 worth of goods it took a large number of coupons.

3111. Were the people who conducted these large transactions as eager as any one else for the coupons?—They asked for them.

3112. Can you give any further information about the system?—One reason why we gave them up was, that the books the Coupon Company issue state that the customers do not pay more for their goods on receiving coupons, but we found that if we continued the system, we should have to put the price of the coupons on to the cost of the goods. We would not do that, so we threw it over.

3113. If you raised the prices the statement in the books would have been untrue?—Yes.

3114. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You know Mr. Ballantine, one of the canvassers for this company?—I might, but not by name—I know there is a Mr. Ballantine.

3115. Did you tell him your reason for giving up these coupons?—I believe I did.

3116. Did you tell him your principal reason was the difficulty in settling matters with those of your customers who considered they were cash customers, but who were not absolutely cash customers?—That was one reason.

3117. I understand you to say that the principal reason for joining in this system was as an advertising medium?—That was the great reason.

3118. Did you not find it satisfactory as an advertising medium?—No, I cannot say I did.

3119. If people said that the advertising in these books of the names of the different firms was a splendid means of advertising, would you not agree with them?—No, I would not call it a splendid medium.

3120. You discontinued the system about the end of November?—Yes; up to the 24th of November we purchased £45 worth of them.

3121. You gave up using them about the end of November?—Something like that.

3122. Did you ever have an opportunity of seeing the class of goods the company supplied?—Yes.

3123. Did they appear to be good value for the prices marked?—They have a very good profit, I think.

3124. They would not strike you as good value?—No.

3125. On the 1st of December, 1898, you say—

Smith-street, Fitzroy, December 1, 1898.

After inspecting your stock of goods to be given away to the public for coupons, we are of the opinion that the public will get good value for their coupons; also that, to save any trouble, your system of goods marked in plain figures is a good one. The way you advertise in the papers, and also the names of firms taking coupons through your books, is a *splendid medium*, keeping the system well before the public. Any person presenting a book filled with coupons to you *cannot fail to be satisfied* with the choice you offer them.

P. RENDLE, for H. ACKMAN & Co.,
Furniture, Ironmongery, and Crockery Importers.

Did you write that?—Yes, that is my name printed there, but I do not remember writing it.

3126. If you did write that was it a truthful, honest letter at the time?—Those books were in circulation for months after we had given them up.

3127. Did you write that letter?—I believe I did.

3128. Were the statements you made in that letter true or not?—They were true enough, but subsequently we found out that these things did not work out as we thought they would.

3129. You bought your last lot of coupons eight days before the date of that letter—was that statement true?—We reckoned it was at that time—we reckoned we would get some advantage through it, through the books being in people's homes, but it did not turn out so.

3130. You had given up the system then?—But those books were not given up—some of them are in the homes now.

3131. You say you thought it was a good advertising medium?—We did at that time.

3132. You do not think it is now?—No.

3133. How is that?—From experience.

3134. You have had no experience since the 1st of December, 1898?—No, but we have had experience of the books being in the homes of the people since.

3135. You knew that books were issued in that form, and you told the company that you considered the names of the firms taking the coupons, appearing in those books, was a splendid advertising medium?—So we did.

3136. Was it true that "any person presenting a book filled with coupons to you cannot fail to be satisfied with the choice you offer them," or was this a bogus testimonial, got up to deceive the public?—No, certainly not.

3137. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—Did you give any discount before you adopted the system?—No.
3138. The coupon system cost you 5 per cent. on the profits?—Yes.
3139. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Suppose this coupon system had succeeded with you, would you have been satisfied?—If it had answered the purpose for which we took it on.
3140. You would not have thought it an unjust system if it had brought you a lot more custom?—Not as far as we were concerned.
3141. Since you gave up the coupons have you been asked for them by customers?—Yes.
3142. Does not that show that the books introduced those people to you?—No; the people who had had the coupons before were not aware that we had given them up, and they asked for them as a matter of course.
3143. Do you make a difference in price between cash and credit customers?—Yes, we charge more for terms.
3144. Then you give a discount, practically, in that way—if I bought for cash I would buy cheaper than for terms?—We would add the bank interest; you save the bank interest by paying cash.
3145. From your experience, the fact of your having a kind of monopoly in these coupons did no harm to your rivals?—No, I do not think so.
3146. Was that owing to the nature of your business?—Possibly; it is a different line of business to a grocer or a trade of that sort.
3147. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—You were going to charge more than the cash prices if you continued to give the coupons?—Yes.
3148. Would it, in your opinion, have been honest trading to put the cost of the coupons on to the cash price?—We would have to make a certain percentage of profit, and if we did not realize that profit we would have to charge more for the goods.
3149. You intended to make the purchasers pay for the coupons?—If we continued them, but we did not do so on that account.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow, at half-past Two o'clock.

THURSDAY, 16th NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present:

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair;

The Hon. W. McCulloch,
The Hon. W. Knox,
The Hon. T. C. Harwood,
The Hon. J. M. Davies,

The Hon. T. Comrie,
The Hon. G. Godfrey,
The Hon. D. Melville.

David Kerr, examined.

3150. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business in Ballarat and Buninyong.
3151. *By Mr. Deakin.*—How many years' experience have you had as a grocer?—Four years'; I have had 25 years' experience in business generally.
3152. When did you first become acquainted with the operations of the Coupon Company?—About twelve months ago, when they called on me and asked me to take on their system.
3153. Are you president of the Grocers' Association?—No, I am a member of the committee.
3154. What did the agents of the company represent to you?—It was represented to me that it would be a great advantage to my business, as it would increase the cash takings. It would be an inducement to people to pay cash instead of taking credit. I went into the matter carefully and from a business point of view I did not see that such could be the case. I did not see that it was possible for me to give away 5 per cent. of my profits. I could not see that the business would stand such a drain, even admitting that everything they said was correct, so I did not take them.
3155. Did any of your neighbours take them?—Yes.
3156. Have you felt any consequences to your business from their use of the coupons?—Slightly. It decreased my cash takings slightly.
3157. Did it have any other effect on the business as far as you know?—It made people considerably dissatisfied. It looked as if those who were not taking the coupons were attempting to take advantage of the public; it was in fact as much as saying to the grocers that they were cheating the public in not giving them their rights.
3158. Is the grocery trade cut so fine that it cannot afford 3½ per cent. for coupons?—I have no hesitation in saying that it would be impossible for a grocer to give away 3½ per cent. of his profits at the present prices.
3159. Then you must increase the price to the consumer?—There are only three ways in which it can be done—either supply inferior goods, sweat your employés, or increase the price to the public.
3160. When you were offered these coupons, were you informed whether any special advantages would accrue to you if you took them?—The special advantage held out was that no one in the same block, trading in the same line of business, was likely to get them.
3161. Would there have been any advantage to you in taking the coupons without such a limitation as that?—None whatever. The only benefit the coupons can possibly give is to have them restricted in their use; if every grocer had them they would all be on the same footing.
3162. What would the coupon system amount to then?—The grocers would have to increase their prices all round in order to make a living.
3163. That does not mean on every line, but you would have to increase the average profits?—Yes.

3164. Is your business cash or credit?—Both. I should say about 35 per cent. is cash, and the balance credit.
3165. Have you any objection to say what percentage you think you lost through the operation of the coupons?—About 5 per cent.
3166. Do you give discount to your cash customers?—No.
3167. Do you give discount to credit customers who pay within a certain time?—No; I do not give discounts at all.
3168. What other effect do you think the existence of this system is likely to have upon the retail trade?—It disorganises it to a large extent; it makes a considerable number of your customers dissatisfied. The statements made by the company, and circulated in the district, induce in the minds of the public the idea that you are realizing much larger profits than you really are, and therefore you can afford to give them a portion of those profits back.
3169. Have you never used the coupons?—Never.
3170. Or any other coupons?—No.
3171. You are an opponent of the use of coupons altogether?—Altogether; I do not look upon it as a legitimate system of business at all. It simply misleads the public, as they are induced to think they are going to get something for nothing, and the articles they receive are nothing like the value they are represented to be.
3172. Do you form that opinion from your own inspection?—Yes, from the articles I have seen, and the prices I have been told have been paid for them.
3173. Have the people who obtained those articles been dissatisfied?—Yes, very dissatisfied.
3174. The company has a branch in Ballarat; are the articles to be seen there?—Yes.
3175. Have you looked at them?—I have not inspected them closely; the only articles I have seen are those which have been obtained by people who have realized on the coupon books and have brought them to show me.
3176. Do you desire to add anything else?—Only that I do not think that under present circumstances it is possible for any business man to give away anything like $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of his profits. I believe there are not many grocers realizing $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on their turnover, after paying wages and all other expenses.
3177. *By Mr. Coldham.*—What business were you in before you were a grocer?—I was a partner in a jam factory.
3178. Does the business of jam manufacturing enable you to form an opinion as to the value of electro-plated goods?—No.
3179. When you venture to pass an opinion as to the value of the goods supplied, you are speaking simply as a member of the public?—That is all.
3180. Do you know what the ordinary profit on electro-plated goods is?—I have been informed that it is about 50 per cent.
3181. You mean that these people in supplying these goods make a profit of more than 50 per cent.?—Yes.
3182. What articles have you inspected?—I have seen an album.
3183. What was the price of the album?—12s. 6d.
3184. Who was the customer who brought it to you?—My sister-in-law, Mrs. McLeod, of Tribestreet, South Melbourne.
3185. Where did she get it?—In Melbourne.
3186. Can you give any idea how long ago that was?—I could not say exactly.
3187. What value did you put upon that article at retail prices?—I should be sorry to pay 7s. 6d. for it.
3188. Did you value it at 7s. 6d. retail price?—Yes.
3189. What other articles have you seen?—Various articles.
3190. Is that the only specific case you can give me?—I have given you one, and I think that is enough.
3191. Will you give any other specific instance?—I cannot give any specific instances.
3192. You make this charge against the company upon your sister-in-law's album?—Yes, but I have seen other goods.
3193. Do you see any objection to giving cash discounts in the grocery business?—Yes.
3194. If a grocer is able to give cash discounts you would not object to his doing so?—He could carry on his business as he pleased.
3195. If any grocer believed he could give cash discounts you would not say he was wrong in doing so?—Not at all.
3196. You recognise that giving coupons does not cost the retailer any more than giving cash—if the grocer considers he can afford to give 5 per cent. discount you do not object to his doing so?—No.
3197. If, in place of giving 5 per cent. cash discount, he prefers to give 5 per cent. worth of coupons have you any objection to make to his doing so?—My objection is that the man who gives 5 per cent. discount is dealing with his own capital, while the man who gives coupons is virtually taking a partner in without any capital, who is taking the profits of his business by these coupons being given away.
3198. Were you not once a Member of Parliament?—At one time.
3199. As far as the pocket of the man who allows the 5 per cent. is concerned, what difference does it make whether he buys £5 worth of coupons or pays the £5 over the counter in the form of bank notes or sovereigns?—That makes no difference.
3200. So, as far as the pocket of the retailer is concerned, it makes no difference whether he pays the discount he thinks he can afford to pay in the form of gold, bank notes, or coupons?—Not as far as the pocket is concerned, because it all comes out of the profits of the business, but the difference is, that if a grocer who is my competitor in business gives $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 5 per cent. discount, I am at liberty to follow the same course, but if he becomes a customer of the Coupon Company I am boycotted. If I am in business in the same street I am not allowed to have the coupons.
3201. Is that the only difference. Which do you consider is best, from a public point of view, to receive 5 per cent. in cash or 5 per cent. in coupons?—Undoubtedly 5 per cent. in cash.

3202. So, if the company give their coupons to a grocer in your street, it is still open to you to give the more attractive 5 per cent. in cash?—There is nothing to stop it.

3203. If you give the 5 per cent. in cash while your competitor gives 5 per cent. in coupons, you are holding out the greater inducement to the public?—Yes, if they only could see it.

3204. The fact that the company does not supply you with coupons does not prevent you from holding out greater inducements to the public than the person who patronizes the Coupon Company?—Not in the slightest.

3205. Does not the whole of your objection come down to this, that, in your opinion, your business cannot stand an allowance of 5 per cent. for cash?—Undoubtedly.

3206. If other people think differently, and say they make a sufficient percentage of profit to allow them to do so, you would not say they were behaving unfairly towards you?—Not at all.

3207. Roughly speaking, what is your percentage of profit on the whole of your business?—About 10 per cent. gross profit.

3208. What is the percentage of profit upon your cash trade?—I do not know; the difference between cash and credit might be about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in favour of cash.

3209. You would prefer a cash to a credit business?—Undoubtedly.

3210. How do you arrive at the difference of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Do you mean that if you make 15 per cent. on a turnover of £100 in cash you would only make $13\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon a turnover of £100 in credit?—Yes.

3211. What would you reckon that a cash trade of £100 would give you in net profits?—Not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

3212. The credit trade then would only give you a profit of 1 per cent.?—That would be so, assuming the prices were equal.

3213. Do you charge more for your goods if you sell them on credit than if you sell them for cash?—Yes, all cash customers get an advantage, but it depends upon whether a customer is a monthly, a three-monthly, or a six-monthly customer.

3214. What is the general average?—It would be very hard to give a general average.

3215. Take a turnover of £300—£100 is cash, on which you make £2 10s., and £200 is credit, on which you make £2, so you make a profit of £4 10s. on a turnover of £300?—Yes.

3216. Then you only make a profit of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. all round?—Business fluctuates—your profits are entirely according to the competition you meet with in your business.

3217. If you have a turnover of £1,000 you would only make a profit of £15?—It might be so.

3218. Is that the way you carry on business?—Sometimes a business man finds the balance on the wrong side of the ledger.

3219. When the balance is on the wrong side of the profit and loss account, you have made a loss on the six months' transactions?—That entirely depends upon your buying—if you buy flour at £10 per ton and sell it at £7 10s. you will not make a big profit.

3220. Do you make a loss in respect of bad debts?—Yes.

3221. About what percentage would you allow for bad and doubtful debts?—About 1 per cent.

3222. What other additional expenditure is a credit business saddled with?—There is a little more bookkeeping.

3223. Do you reckon that those two items come to one-half per cent. on the whole of your business?—Yes, about that.

3224. You say your cash business has decreased?—I thought that it had decreased to the extent of about 5 per cent.

3225. That would mean on £100 there would be a reduction of about $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.?—About that.

3226. Then what you would lose in the reduction of your business would be $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon 35s., what would that work out to?—About 10d.

3227. Then by the introduction of this coupon system you have lost 10d. upon a total turnover of £100?—I have never worked it out, but I will take your figures.

3228. Are you a licensed grocer?—Yes.

3229. Do you find that any advantage to you?—I do not know.

3230. Do you pay £35 per annum for nothing?—I suppose not, but we have either to pay that or we cannot take out the licence.

3231. You would not take it out unless you thought it was an advantage to you in your business?—No; we have to judge whether it is worth taking.

3232. It is because you think it is an advantage that you pay that £35?—Yes.

3233. Does the advantage arise from the profit you make upon the sale of liquors under the grocer's licence?—I do not know; we sell liquor like every other article.

3234. Do you know that you could sell your monopoly for £500?—I am not aware of it.

3235. Would you take £500 to transfer your licence to the grocer next door?—I have not had the offer.

3236. How far are you from the next licensed grocer?—About 3 chains.

3237. Have you and he got a monopoly?—No, there is another one about the same distance on the other side.

3238. How many grocers are there there within a quarter of a mile of you who have not got a licence?—I do not know.

3239. When people are attracted to your shop to buy one article there is a possibility of their buying other articles?—Sometimes, but sometimes they come for a special article and do not take anything else.

3240. Do you not think it desirable to try and draw people to your shop by means of special attractions?—No.

3241. Do not your shopmen ask customers if there is anything else they want to buy?—I suppose they do.

3242. Is it not part of their business when a man comes in to buy a particular article to try and get him to buy other articles?—Sometimes it is better not to try and do too much of it—people do not like to be badgered.

3243. You do not consider it an advantage to have people tied to your house—that is to say, is it an advantage when a man owes you money from month to month?—I do not know; I am very pleased when they settle their accounts.
3244. You do not consider it an advantage to have people on your books?—I have not considered the question.
3245. Would you sooner have people on your books than have cash from them?—It depends upon the customer.
3246. Taking a man of undoubted stability, would you prefer to have his name on your books rather than have him pay you cash on each transaction?—That would be a question for him to consider, not for me.
3247. Suppose he said—“I will pay you cash, or let the bills run on for a month, whichever you prefer,” what would you say?—I would probably say I would prefer the monthly account.
3248. Would that be because you would prefer his coming to your shop rather than entering the first shop he came to?—I have never considered the question at all.
3249. Do you buy for cash?—I never gave a bill in my life.
3250. Do you consider it an advantage to be able to buy for cash?—Undoubtedly.
3251. Why?—Because you are able to get discount.
3252. In addition to that, you are in a position to choose the house from which you will buy particular lines?—Yes.
3253. To a certain extent you are master of the situation—if one house does not suit you, you can say—“I will see whether I can get better prices from another house”?—Yes.
3254. The person who is most likely to be able to buy for cash is the person who sells for cash?—Yes.
3255. If a man of small capital has two-thirds of that capital standing out as book debts, he would not be in as good a position to buy as the man with the same capital who traded solely for cash?—That would depend upon what his expenses were.
3256. Supposing one man has £300 in his business in the form of stock, that being his whole capital—if he turns that over at once as cash is he in a better position than the man who, at the end of the month, has only £100 cash and £200 owing to him?—Yes.
3257. Not only is there an advantage to the retailer in the prices at which he buys, and the lines which he can buy, but there is an advantage in the fact that the retailer who buys for cash can afford to undersell his rivals who do not buy for cash?—That is simply the difference between the man who is in a position to buy for cash and the man who is not.
3258. That advantage is shared by the public who purchase from him. Do you think a profit of £15 in £100 is a fair and reasonable thing for the investment of capital?—Sometimes it is more than that.
3259. Is that profit anything like a fair profit?—A good many do not make that.
3260. Do you think that is a fair return for the investment of capital in your business?—No; it is not.
3261. Is not the grocery trade the trade of all others in which the prices are cut the finest?—I believe it is.
3262. That is brought about by the underselling of certain individuals?—No; but by the fact that the public are more in touch with groceries than any other line. The papers every day publish the wholesale prices of all classes of grocery goods used by the public.
3263. If the grocers agree among themselves to sell with a certain margin of profit, what does it matter what the papers publish?—Our association does not go in for that.
3264. But it is competent for the grocers to say—“We will restrict ourselves to a minimum profit”?—I do not think it would be possible.
3265. Because certain individuals will persist in undercutting?—Yes.
3266. Undercutting is one means of endeavouring to attract custom?—Yes.
3267. Do you sell any lines practically at cost price?—No; there are certain lines which have very small profits, but other lines have larger profits.
3268. If some of your lines are below $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. profit, you are cutting those lines practically to cost price?—That does not follow, because you have your expenses to meet.
3269. If you are making less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on any line, you must practically be selling at cost?—Not at all.
3270. Do you sell some lines at such a price that, if they were the only lines you sold, you could not carry on your business?—Yes.
3271. That is brought about by the unfair competition of certain traders?—I do not know that it is so—it seems to be more a custom among the trade than anything else—certain articles, such as kerosene, sugar, and flour, bear a very small profit on the cost.
3272. What do you make on kerosene?—Seven and a half per cent.
3273. How much does it cost you to sell it?—About $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
3274. You say that it is necessary, in order to pay cash discounts in whatever form they may be paid, either to give inferior goods or to increase prices?—Yes.
3275. And when people say they do neither the one nor the other and yet can afford to give the coupons, are they mistaken or are they stating what is untrue?—I am afraid they do not know what their business costs them to run.
3276. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Suppose you, being in good credit, give your bill at three months, the merchant would get that discounted?—Yes.
3277. What discount would he pay?—About 5 per cent.
3278. If you paid cash, how much discount would you get?—The usual rate is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but there are many lines upon which we do not get $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
3279. If in lieu of buying on a three months' bill you pay cash, what do you get for prompt cash?—Two and a half per cent., or you might get 3 per cent. in some cases.
3280. If it is 3 per cent., that is 12 per cent. per annum, so if you are in undoubted credit the merchant would prefer to sell to you on three months' credit rather than give you discount on cash?—Yes.

3281. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—You reckon bad debts at 1 per cent. and bookkeeping at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., do you not allow anything for interest as between cash and credit?—I do not take that into consideration, sometimes it does not amount to anything.

3282. *By the Hon. W. McCulloch.*—You have a great objection to these coupons?—Yes; if given to one man in the street and not to another it is virtually a boycott. If my neighbour likes to sell at any particular prices I am at liberty to sell at the same prices, but if he distributes coupons and the public like to take the discount in that form, my not being at liberty to give these coupons places me at a great disadvantage.

3283. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Certain witnesses said yesterday that they could buy coupons from the public at from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per 100, can you do that in Ballarat?—No, I do not think so.

3284. If you could do it would you be in a better position than those who bought coupons from the company?—You would have the benefit of 6d. per 100 for the coupons, but it is not what a business man likes to do, he likes to go to the fountain-head.

3285. *By Mr. Deakin.*—You do not get any advertisement from the books?—No.

3286. *By the Hon. W. McCulloch.*—You object to the coupons if you cannot get them yourself?—Yes; and I also object to them because it is impossible for me to pay away $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. out of my profits.

3287. Why do you not print coupons for yourself?—The customers could not get them in sufficient quantities to be of any material value to them; it would take a much longer time to get sufficient coupons.

3288. Do you not think it fair that the man who pays cash should have some advantage over the man who takes credit?—That always happens. You have the competition of the cash stores as well as the credit ones, and if a customer comes in, knowing he can get the goods at a certain price at a cash store, he will have those goods at that price.

3289. Then you have to cut the prices down?—You must do so. A man in business looks upon his credit customers who pay him regularly in the same light as his cash customers. It is simply a question of those who are long-winded and take a considerable time.

3290. Have you any bills with the drapery establishments in Melbourne?—None whatever.

3291. I find they will not give you any discount whatever; ought there not to be some concession to a man who pays cash?—He gets a concession in price.

3292. Supposing two of your assistants who have saved £100 each start in a general grocery business, is it not an advantage to them to get cash for their goods?—Unquestionably; but if they are going to do any good for themselves they must sell at a profit, and the probabilities are that the advantages that they would have would lie in their being able to work the business at a less expense.

3293. They could not come to Melbourne and buy on credit, because they are not well known; or, if the merchant in Melbourne would sell to them on credit at all, he would charge them an outside price?—It would be a question whether he had confidence in them or not; if he had confidence in them he would treat them liberally, because he would expect them to be permanent customers.

3294. If a man has the money in his pocket he can go to different places, and pick out the cheapest lines at each place?—There is very little difference.

3295. You say the company do not give full value for the coupons?—I say the profit on the goods is very large, and the public get nothing like the equivalent value.

3296. If the public find that out, they will not buy them again?—They have an idea they get the goods for nothing, and there is an old Scotch proverb that you must not look a gift horse in the mouth.

3297. Where is the gift if you pay cash instead of getting credit?—They look upon it as a gift.

3298. What is there to prevent your giving a gift also in your own coupons?—I could not afford it.

3299. Then those people can sell at a lower price than you can?—Apparently; every man must endeavour to make a profit out of his business.

3300. Are those people who give coupons selling at a loss?—I cannot see any other way; they must take it out of the public in some way; they must either increase their prices, supply inferior goods, or sweat their employés.

3301. Cannot the public or the employés look after their own interests?—I do not know. You may get a boy who has an idea that he may learn the business, but your business does not pay, and you say—"I cannot give you any higher wages, you must go somewhere else," and then you take another boy.

3302. That same objection would apply to the cash store on the other side of you?—Not at all, because you are at liberty to do the same if you like, but with the coupons you cannot; the company objects to give you coupons.

3303. You can issue your own coupons?—No one could do that, the public would not have the same confidence in you as in a company.

3304. You said your reason for not taking the coupons was that you could not afford to give the discount?—Yes.

3305. How do you deal with the cash man next door?—It is a well-known fact that many a man, when he first enters into the business, cuts the prices in order to gain a footing, because that is the only means of doing so, but when he has gained that footing and got a business together he drops into the same prices as his neighbour.

3306. Would you prevent that man selling for cash?—You cannot prevent a man selling for cash.

3307. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—Some goods you get no discount on at all—what are those goods?—Colonial produce of all kinds you get nothing on.

3308. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Do you give any discount for cash in your business?—No.

3309. Is not the principal part of your business the wine and spirit trade?—No.

3310. You have a privilege over the grocer who has no wine and spirit licence because a person who comes to him to buy groceries cannot purchase a bottle of wine or spirits?—I have to pay for that privilege.

3311. Does not that give you a monopoly over the man who is not allowed to have a licence in your district?—It is not a monopoly when there are other men in the same trade.

3312. Is it not a monopoly for those who are in the same position as yourself?—It is only a monopoly in one line—we pay the licence, and we are allowed the right to sell these things.

3313. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—If this Bill does not pass, and you only make $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. profit, you would have to close up?—A man takes his own wages out of the expenses.

3314. If the Bill does not pass will you people in Ballarat form a society to issue these coupons?—It would certainly be to our interest to do so.

3315. Practically, your objection is that it is likely to become a permanent imposition on your trade which the trade cannot stand, and you are of opinion that ultimately the public will have to pay for it?—The public must pay for it sooner or later.

3316. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—Do you mean that you make 1 per cent. in addition to the capital you have in the business, or do you charge any interest on the capital?—Yes.

3317. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Your $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. net profit is after charging interest on capital and a salary for your own services?—Yes.

3318. *By the Hon. W. McCulloch.*—A good deal will depend on the value you put on your own services?—Yes.

3319. Supposing your employé who has been getting 25s. a week and his board started in business next door to you, he would not value his services as highly as you do?—A man will only charge his business what is legitimate and fair.

3320. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—In estimating your expenses, do you put down the cost of yourself and family?—No.

3321. But you allow for your own wages?—Yes.

3322. And out of that you pay the household expenses?—Yes.

3323. *By Mr. Coldham.*—What percentage would the amount you allow to yourself for your wages, which covers your living expenses, be upon your turnover?—It might be from 1 per cent. to $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the turnover.

The witness withdrew.

Martin Kennedy, examined.

3324. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A salesman and clerk in the employment of John McLeod, wholesale grocer, of Ballarat.

3325. *By Mr. Deakin.*—How many years' experience have you had?—About eight years.

3326. You have a knowledge of the profits that are earned by retail grocers?—A general idea from hearing the discussions of the grocers, not an intimate knowledge.

3327. You can form a pretty adequate idea?—We have a fair idea.

3328. Are the profits of the retail trade such that they can afford to bear an impost of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the coupons?—I do not think they can possibly, judging from the prices in Ballarat and from our prices to the retail grocers.

3329. Are your prices the same as the other wholesale grocers in Ballarat?—They have to be.

3330. Although retail grocers will differ slightly in particular lines, yet taking them together, there is a general average of prices?—Yes; there is a general average of very low cut prices; for instance, Cadbury's $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tins of cocoa we sell to the trade at 16s. 9d. per dozen, and they are retailed at 1s. 6d. each—that is the standard price; Cadbury's $\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. tins of cocoa are sold by every grocer in Ballarat at 9d., and we sell them at 8s. 9d. per dozen.

3331. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Do you allow any discount when you sell at these prices?—We allow $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Then herrings, for which the retailers' price is 6s. per dozen, we sell at 5s. 11d. per dozen for tall tins; Red Heart tomato sauce is sold by the grocers at 4s. 6d., while our price is 4s. $4\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Havelock tobacco, pocket-pieces, fourteen to the lb., are sold by the grocer at 4d. each, while our price is 4s. 4d. per lb.; currants, which are retailed by the grocers at 6d. we sell at $5\frac{3}{4}$ d.; Van Houten's cocoa is sold by the retailer at 11s. per dozen, and our price is 10s. 9d.; Seigel's Syrup, which is sold by the grocer at 2s. 6d. per bottle, is sold by us at 28s. 6d. per dozen; Red Heart plum jam is sold by the retailer at 6d. per tin, and our price is 6s. per dozen.

3332. *By the Hon. W. McCulloch.*—What do you pay for that?—I think we make about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. out of it, allowing for discount. Sugar is sold by the retail grocers all over Ballarat at 2s. 6d. per dozen lbs., while our price is 23s. per cwt., and the greater number of the grocery lines are cut in the same way.

3333. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—What discount do you allow on sugar?— $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

3334. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Do you buy in Melbourne?—Most of our lines are bought in Melbourne, but occasionally we indent. We indent herrings, sardines, and oysters; we do not indent many lines.

3335. In your opinion the retail grocery trade cannot stand an impost of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.?—No.

3336. What experience have you had of the coupon system?—We have not any direct personal experience ourselves, but we think it is not for the good of customers who deal with us. We reckon that a man cannot give the coupons and do a fair honest trade. He has to get it out of his customers or out of his employés. The coupon people tell him that his cash trade will be considerably increased, but, supposing his present turnover is £100 per week, on which he makes a profit of 5 per cent., if, by means of the coupons, his cash trade is increased by £50 per week, he is taxed to the extent of 5 per cent. on the whole £150, so that he is in a worse position than he was before. He gives 5 per cent. on the total turnover of £150, which is £7 10s., so that he loses all his profit.

3337. Have you any knowledge of the opinion of the storekeepers of Ballarat generally on this system?—Yes, the opinion of the storekeepers I have met is adverse to the system, although a lot of them have been compelled to take up the coupons in self-defence.

3338. Do you know anything of the petition?—Yes, I had a petition signed by 500 or 600 storekeepers in Ballarat, and I think there were close on 100 coupon holders who signed it.

3339. Can you say whether the 100 who hold coupons purchase direct from the company or buy their coupons from the public?—I cannot say, I have heard that the coupons can be got outside the company, but I do not know of my own knowledge. This is one of their presents—[*producing the same*]—it is marked half a book.

3340. Have you any knowledge of the retail price of such an article as that?—No, I am no judge of it; but I have had it valued by experts, and I have affidavits from them as to the value.

3341. Who made those affidavits?—Walter Dawson, ironmonger, of Ballarat; Edwin Geary, Ballarat, and William Forsyth, ironmonger—they value it at 7s. 6d.

3342. Why are they not here in person?—I could not get them to come down. The ironmongery trade has not been touched in Ballarat, so they did not think it incumbent on them to come down to Melbourne.

3343. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Did you see them making the affidavits?—Yes.

3344. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Was that article purchased from the company?—I wanted to see whether their articles were up to the value that they said they were, and I asked my wife to go there with a coupon book and pick out an article. She did so, and I have her affidavit to that effect.

3345. Have you anything else to add?—No.

3346. *By Mr. Coldham.*—When did you instruct your wife to buy this article?—On Saturday, the 21st October.

3347. Was that after this Bill had been brought into the Legislative Council?—I think it was brought before the Council before that.

3348. Was it after communications had been received from Melbourne by the Ballarat association asking them to prepare evidence against this company?—I do not know anything about communications.

3349. Are you a member of the Grocers' Association?—No.

3350. You say that certain signatures were obtained by you to petitions?—I did not obtain them myself.

3351. You know nothing personally about the manner in which those signatures were obtained?—No.

3352. You have given us a list of the articles which are cut. I presume that we may take it that these are the lowest lines you could pick out?—They are a few picked out at random from three or four shops.

3353. Do you say that this is a fair indication of the grocers' profits?—I think it is pretty fair.

3354. Cadbury's cocoa would work out at a profit of about $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. gross to the retailer for $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tins?—Yes, that is a profit of 1s. 3d. on an outlay of 16s. 9d.

3355. Do they not get a rebate of 5d.?—Yes.

3356. That is one of the worst cut lines you can point out?—No, not by a long way—there is sugar.

3357. Practically that is not sold at a profit at all?—It is sold at 23s. $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cwt. and it costs them 23s. per cwt.

3358. Is there any profit on that at all, allowing for bagging and so on?—The bags are sold in the 23s. per cwt. too.

3359. Is there any profit in selling sugar at that price—suppose you only dealt in sugar would you make $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. profit selling it at that price?—I think so—that is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. gross.

3360. Then, when a person sells it at that price, he is actually selling at a loss?—Yes.

3361. Are there any other articles in the list that are actually sold at a loss?—There are three or four cut lines that are sold at a loss—Cadbury's cocoa in $\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. tins is sold at 9d. per tin, and bought at 8s. 9d. per dozen. That is pretty close.

3362. There is Red Heart jam sold at 6d., and bought at 6s. per dozen wholesale—that must be an absolute loss?—Yes.

3363. How long have those prices obtained in Ballarat?—I cannot say longer than the day I took them, which was a week ago.

3364. Does your knowledge not go back further than a week?—I am not supposed to have any knowledge of retail prices at all.

3365. The evidence you have given is simply statements made to you by persons you interviewed for the purpose of this inquiry?—They were made to me by their windows.

3366. Did you not ask them personally?—I asked one or two personally; Mr. Gray told me those prices.

3367. You have Mr. Mudie's name in this list, in connection with six cut lines, and your opinion is that Mr. Mudie, having to sell at those prices and give coupons, the result of the system must be a reduction in the quality of the goods, or a reduction in some other way?—That is my impression.

3368. If Mr. Mudie swore that his business used to be both a cash and a credit one before taking the coupons, that he had given no other form of discount, that his business now was on cash lines only, that his business had increased 40 per cent. in three months, and that he had increased the wages of his employes, though not their hours—what do you say to that?—I do not want to make any comment upon that.

3369. Is that consistent with the view you have expressed?—He is a customer of ours, and I am not going to make any comment upon it.

3370. If he says he is satisfied you will not say he is not satisfied?—I am not going to say anything.

3371. He sells blacking, matches, currants, oysters, salmon, and candles at certain prices—you say they are cut lines which do not afford any profit?—Very little.

3372. If he says that notwithstanding these cut lines he is quite content to go on with the coupon system, do you say that he does not know his business?—I do not say anything.

3373. Is Mr. Gray a customer of yours?—No, he is a grocer who does not give coupons.

3374. He sells old currants?—Old and new both.

3375. You have him down as buying currants wholesale at $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. and selling them at 6d., while you have Mr. Mudie buying wholesale at $5\frac{5}{8}$ d. and selling at 6d.; why do you put down Mr. Mudie as paying more for his currants than Mr. Gray?—In the one case the currants are new and in the other they are old.

3376. How do you know?—I saw them.

3377. Were they in the window, or did you go inside and inspect them—how did you get this information up?—In Mr. Gray's case, from personal information; in Mr. Mudie's case, from the currants we were selling him.

3378. Did you make inquiries as to the price of currants from other people?—No, I took a few items at random.

3379. Are you the only firm that deals with those persons?—I cannot say.
3380. They may buy from other people?—They may.
3381. Do you allow discount or rebate on the articles you indent?—When we sell them we allow $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
3382. You make a greater profit on the lines that you indent than on the lines that you buy?—Sometimes we have not done so.
3383. Your idea in indenting is to make a greater profit?—If possible.
3384. You recognise it as a legitimate thing to make a profit by selling at a less price than you would get under ordinary circumstances?—Yes, that is fair trading.
3385. If you could afford a rebate of 5 per cent. to the customers you supply, you would feel justified in doing so?—No.
3386. Suppose somebody else did it, would you do it then?—We would consider whether we would allow it or not.
3387. Would you consider it unfair?—We would consider that the other man had a right to do so if he could afford it.
3388. If you could stand it you would raise your rebates to 5 per cent. in order to compete with him?—Under those strange circumstances I suppose we would.
3389. If a man can afford to give 5 per cent. discount, and does give it, with the object of attracting business, you consider that unfair?—Yes, it is unfair in this way—that the door is not open to every tradesman.
3390. I am now speaking of cash discount. Supposing a man is selling a certain lot of goods for £100 and his rival sells them for £95, is that fair?—It may not be fair to the man he buys from in a month or two.
3391. Suppose he buys for cash, it would not then make any difference to the man he bought from?—No.
3392. If he can do it it is perfectly fair?—It is fair competition.
3393. If, instead of selling the goods for £95, he sells them for £100, and gives 5 per cent. cash discount, it would be just the same?—Just the same, if he did not mislead the public.
3394. Suppose he offers a cash discount off £100, that is exactly the same thing as selling the goods for £95?—Yes.
3395. As far as the retailer is concerned, it costs him £5 in the form of discount to sell £100 worth of goods under those circumstances?—Yes.
3396. Whether he gives that 5 per cent. in cash or in the form of printed pieces of paper, the cost to the retailer is exactly the same?—Yes, but not the opportunities of competing.
3397. If we have two shops side by side, one giving £5 discount in cash on £100, and the other giving £5 in coupons on £100, the public would naturally go to the cash shop?—Not altogether so, the public's buying is not altogether done by the heads of the household, it is done by children and servant girls, and they go in for these coupons, and foolish wives do so too.
3398. Certain members of the public do not know what is good for them?—That is true.
3399. You condemn the system because certain members of the public do not appreciate its deficiencies?—That is one of the reasons.
3400. They do not appreciate the fact that a cash discount is better than the coupon discount?—That is one reason.
3401. Can you tell me any other disadvantage to the public?—There is no other disadvantage to the public.
3402. As far as the public are concerned, the only objection you have is that they do not recognise that it is not as good as cash?—They do not get the value.
3403. If they got the value it would be as good as cash?—Yes, to them.
3404. You complain that the public do not get proper value for their coupons?—That is one of my points.
3405. Can you point out any other objection from a public point of view?—There is this fact, that the head of the house in most instances does not make the purchases—most of the purchases are made by the women folk, or the servants, or the children, and in many instances they are encouraged into thriftless and extravagant habits, they will buy 5d. worth of goods and want a coupon, and if the shopkeeper will not give them one they will ask for a pennyworth of lollies to make up the 6d.
3406. Is there anything else you can think of?—It encourages the gambling spirit among the general public.
3407. Where does the gambling come in?—You might draw a prize or you might draw a blank; the specimen produced is very nearly a blank.
3408. You mean that some people may get better value for their 12s. 6d. than other people?—Yes.
3409. When people come to a retailer and buy a particular article they may get it very much nearer to the wholesale price than they do if they buy another article?—Yes.
3410. Take sugar—if a customer comes in and buys sugar he gets full value for his money, whereas if he buys other articles he may not get within 30 per cent. or 40 per cent. of the wholesale price?—I do not think there are any articles carrying 30 per cent. in the retail trade; the articles carrying even 20 per cent. must be very few and far between.
3411. But that is what you mean when you say there is a lottery in the things the public purchase—that occurs in purchasing articles from wholesale grocers—tea carries a fair profit, while sugar carries no profit at all, so that one is a better investment than the other?—Yes.
3412. What percentage above Melbourne prices do you reckon the wholesale grocers in Ballarat sell at?—It all depends upon the freight.
3413. You get your goods in large parcels?—Yes.
3414. What do you reckon your prices are above Melbourne prices?—I could not give an average.
3415. Take Smith's fresh herrings, tall tins, you sell them wholesale at 6s. per dozen?—Yes, they are a little cheaper than Morton's.
3416. I see that people can sell Morton's herrings down here at $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. per tin retail—is it possible to do that and make a profit?—Moran and Cato might do it, they buy as largely as we do.

3417. You can afford to sell Morton's herrings at 5½d. ?—If we had the turnover Moran and Cato have, we might be able to afford it—you have to allow 2½d. to 3d. per dozen tins for freight to Ballarat.
3418. What do you sell kerosene at ?—10¾d. per gallon ; that is, 3s. 5d. per tin, or 6s. 11d. per case.
3419. What is the lowest price at which you have been able to sell 150-flash test kerosene within the last six months ?—The kerosene market fluctuates a great deal, up and down, so I could not say.
3420. You keep your prices as low as possible, to meet the competition of the Melbourne houses ?—Yes.
3421. The wholesale houses here are cutting very close ?—I think so.
3422. If it were not for cutting, you would be able to put up your prices, and the retailer would be able to put up his prices ?—I think so.
3423. Is cutting a desirable thing ?—It is only natural ; you cannot stop it.
3424. You regard it as a means of attracting trade ?—Yes.
3425. It is not illegitimate when people do do it ?—No.
3426. You recognise the fact that cash buyers have an advantage over credit buyers in dealing with wholesale houses ?—Yes ; I think they buy a shade cheaper than credit buyers. They get the same prices, but we might give them one-half per cent. discount more for cash on the spot.
3427. They are in a position to go to any house they like, and get quotations for goods ?—Yes, that is an advantage.
3428. And even when they buy from the one house they get an advantage of the extra ½ per cent. discount ?—Yes.
3429. The cash buyer can also say—"I do not care for this line, I will go to another house ;" is not that an advantage ?—He might get an advantage by comparing prices.
3430. If he gets an advantage in buying, he is in a position to give an advantage in selling ?—Yes, if he wishes to do so.
3431. Do you deal with Harper and Ramage ?—No.
3432. Did any one go with Mrs. Kennedy when she bought this jam dish ?—No ; I told her to take a book and pick out an article.
3433. What article did you tell her to pick out ?—Something she fancied.
3434. Had you not a pickle jar or jam dish in the house ?—Yes.
3435. And you wanted another ?—No, I did not want it ; it is not good enough for my house.
3436. Did you give her any intimation as to what article she should select ?—I told her she need not pick out the most valuable article.
3437. Did you tell her to pick out the poorest article she could see ?—Yes.
3438. Was that quite fair ?—Decidedly.
3439. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Have you a grocer's licence ?—No.
3440. Your explanation of thriftlessness was purchasing a pennyworth of lollies to make up the coupon ?—Yes.
3441. *By the Hon. W. McCulloch.*—What is the coupon on 6d. worth ?—Three-tenths of a penny. The householder would not do that, but the servant girl or the children might do it.
3442. Have you any customers who keep these coupons ?—Yes.
3443. Do you trust them ?—Yes.
3444. Do they pay you ?—Yes.
3445. Are they prosperous ?—I could not say.
3446. You would not trust them if they were not prosperous ?—You cannot close down on a man all of a sudden.
3447. Is Mr. Mudie doing a large business ?—I think he is doing a pretty good business.
3448. Does he buy all his goods in Ballarat ?—I could not say. I think he buys manufactured goods in Melbourne.
3449. He is a man of good standing ?—Yes.
3450. Does he buy for cash ?—As good as cash to us. We would trust him to any amount he wanted.
3451. Is it possible he can buy as cheaply in Melbourne as you can ?—I do not think so. He cannot get the quantities, and as a general rule discount goes according to quantities.
3452. Have you bought in Melbourne ?—Not myself—I am not the buyer for the firm.
3453. If you go into a warehouse and want to buy tea, they might ask 10d. a pound, but if you were a cash buyer they would be prepared to make a reduction rather than have you go somewhere else ?—Yes.
3454. If a man can buy cheaper for cash than a man who is buying on credit, he can afford to give a discount to his customers, and still make a profit ?—He might make 1½ per cent., and still he would not make what he gives away in coupons.
3455. He is a cash buyer, and he gets the goods as cheaply as possible, because the merchant does not want him to go away, and then he gets his 2½ discount, whereas the other man has to buy from you, and you have to make your profit ?—We buy in a different market to the other man—the other man cannot buy 200 or 300 tons of sugar in a month, and we can.
3456. Sugar is cut very fine in the trade ?—Yes, but if we wanted 100 cases of herrings they would offer it to us cheaper than if we wanted only 25 cases.
3457. Your objection to this system is that the public is cheated ?—That is one objection, that they do not get the value the company professes to give them ; they are not judges of these articles.
3458. You want to protect the public ?—We want to protect ourselves, and if we can protect the public at the same time, so much the better.
3459. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Do you say the amount of discount varies according to the quantity bought ?—Yes, if you bought a ton of sugar they would charge you £22 in Melbourne, but if we bought a couple of hundred tons they would allow us a big discount.
3460. Is it the discount for cash that varies, or the discount on the price—if you got 200 tons on credit would you not get it at a lower price than if you bought a small quantity ?—If we bought a large quantity on credit I do not think the price would be altered at all.

3461. The ironmongers have not objected to this system?—They have not been much affected so far.

3462. Is not their actual trade affected by the company giving away these articles?—I think it must be.

3463. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—The ultimate result must be that if the coupons are maintained the public must pay higher prices?—I think so, unless the difference is taken out of the employés.

3464. And the only party that benefits is the Coupon Company?—Yes.

3465. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—The instances you have given are those in which the profits are very small—can you give us some instances in which the grocers make more profit?—I should say tea pays the retail grocer about 3d. a pound. We sell a tea at 10d. that is sold by the retailer at 1s., and we sell another at 1s. 2d. which he sells at 1s. 6d., so that is a good profitable line—it is reckoned the best line on the average. I think there is also a good profit on coffee, but it depends upon the amount of chicory in it. I should say there was an average of 3d. or 4d. a pound on coffee. I think those are about the best lines.

The witness withdrew.

Albert J. Thomas, examined.

3466. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A crockery and fancy goods dealer, in the Sydney-road, Brunswick.

3467. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Will you look at this pickle jar—[*handing the same to the witness*]—do you know that class of goods?—Yes.

3468. What could you buy that for wholesale?—About 60s. per dozen.

3469. What would be a fair retail price for it?—We put about 50 per cent. on that sort of stock—of course, you have to stand being cut down occasionally.

3470. Can you get a similar article to that in a Melbourne shop to-day for 7s. 6d.?—I have just sold two better articles to-day for 8s. 6d. each.

3471. Is it a common line?—Yes, I have the same line in stock; it is only pressed glass, not cut, and common electro-plate of the lowest quality, unless you go to tin.

3472. Can you say anything about the coupon system generally?—It has done a great deal of injury to my business.

3473. Were you offered the coupons?—Yes.

3474. Did you accept them?—No, I declined them, because I did not believe in the principle.

3475. Did your neighbour take them?—Yes, the man opposite took them, and I lost the greater portion of my trade. I do a lot of trade with children in fancy goods and school requisites. Children come in and say—“Do you give coupons?” “No,” and then they go over the road to make their purchases. They will come in and ask for two exercise books and ask for a coupon, and if you do not give the coupon they will go straight over the road. Also, they steal the coupons from their mothers, and come in with a dozen and ask for an exercise book. They have got the 3d. from their mothers for the book, but they spend that 3d. on lollies.

3476. Do you believe in the system?—No, I do not believe in it in any way. When the man came to me and asked me to take the coupons, I said—“Mine is a cash business, I do not require them.” He said—“There is an article marked 4½d.; if you ask 6d. for it, and give a coupon, you will do a far better business.” One man told me he made £2 a week on the coupons alone by having the same value at different prices to catch the coupons.

3477. Do you think this system is advantageous to the public?—No; I think the people are deluded.

3478. It does not draw any more cash into the business?—No, I do not see that it can. There is only a very small trade done, and people do not buy goods they do not want.

3479. Has it a tendency to divert the cash business into the coupon shops?—It has. I cannot keep on the way things are with me for the last three months. I have been there fourteen years, and had the principal shop in that locality, but the person opposite me, who took the coupons, has now opened next door but one to me, and carries on the two shops.

3480. Could you obtain the coupons now if you wanted them?—Not now.

3481. You cannot put yourself on a footing of equality with your rival now?—No.

3482. Even if you offer a discount you cannot offer the same kind of discount?—No, it is the coupons, the public do not look at the discount, they are mad for collecting coupons.

3483. They think they get the presents for nothing?—They think so.

3484. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Your impression is that small cash discounts are frittered away?—Yes.

3485. These coupons cannot be frittered away?—No, unless the children get hold of them, and go to the shops that deal in them; the shopkeeper benefits slightly by taking these coupons, and giving a 3d. book for them.

3486. But they are not frittered away?—No, not in the same way.

3487. Is it desirable to prevent cash discounts being frittered away?—It is the principle I look at.

3488. Do you think it desirable that cash discounts should not be frittered away?—If people have the ready money they are at liberty to spend it.

3489. Do you think it desirable that cash discounts should not be frittered away?—Yes, when they can do it.

3490. There is nothing to prevent your giving cash discounts if you like?—No, I object to it on principle, I do not believe it is a good principle.

3491. If you allow a cash discount it is exactly the same thing as supplying the public with goods at a less price?—Yes.

3492. Is it not desirable to supply the public at the lowest price that affords you a fair margin of profit?—We do that now.

3493. If your opposite neighbour can afford to undersell you, is it unfair of him to do so?—It is not fair to undersell.

3494. If a person can afford to sell goods at £9 10s., which you cannot sell at less than £10, you do not consider it fair?—Not if it does not give you a fair margin of profit; it is not unfair if he can do it, but I know the prices of the stuff.
3495. Supposing a man chooses to make a present of the goods, do you object to that?—I do not object to any one giving his own stuff away.
3496. If a person happens to be throwing his own stuff away by giving cash discounts, you cannot complain?—No.
3497. You are always willing to make a deal if you can make money out of it?—Yes.
3498. Would you enter into a contract to supply Mr. Scott with articles like these on the table at the price you have mentioned—can you supply them?—I would not say I could at a moment's notice, I might not be able to get them.
3499. What is the highest profit that you make on any article you sell?—That electro-plate runs the highest, we make 50 per cent. on it.
3500. If you paid 6s. 6d. wholesale for this jam dish, you would consider it quite out of the way to charge 12s. 6d. for it in Ballarat?—That is nearly 100 per cent. An article I bought for 5s. I would sell for 7s. 6d.
3501. Is that the highest profit you make on any line whatever?—There may be a job line that you pick up occasionally.
3502. Are there not many lines in your business on which you make 100 per cent. gross profit?—There may be on very small items, but taking general prices there are not.
3503. Have you not many lines in your business on which you make 100 per cent. and more gross profit?—There are not plenty of lines. I do a wholesale trade, and I do job buying—at stock time I might buy £100 worth of goods and get it fairly thrown at me.
3504. If a small buyer will pay you 200 per cent. or 300 per cent. on your bargain you will take it?—Yes, but I would not undercut my neighbour.
3505. What fixes the price of an article with you?—The market value of the goods.
3506. If you got hold of a sacrificed line you would probably sell it a little bit under the ordinary price in order to get the trade?—No, I do not.
3507. Suppose an article was sold at 5s. wholesale, and you happened to get a line at 2s. 6d., would you insist upon your 50 per cent. profit?—It would depend upon whether my neighbour had any of the same class of goods. I would mark them at the market price, I do not believe in undercutting.
3508. You would make your bigger profit than your neighbour?—Yes.
3509. That is perfectly fair business?—Yes.
3510. Is there anything to prevent you giving cash discounts if you want to?—No.
3511. Could you afford to?—The business would have to increase.
3512. You reckon that cash discounts are not an unfair way of attracting trade if you can afford to give them?—Yes, I believe in marking an article at the lowest possible price you can sell it at.
3513. You take off what other people consider is a cash discount by marking the goods down as low as possible?—Yes.
3514. Suppose you can sell goods at £95, would there be any difference between selling them at £95 and selling them at £100 and allowing 5 per cent. off for cash?—No.
3515. Would you consider one system unfair and the other fair?—Yes.
3516. You consider it unfair to mark goods at £100 and allow 5 per cent. for cash?—Yes.
3517. That is the basis of your objection to the cash discount system?—Yes.
3518. Have you any personal knowledge of the value of the goods supplied by the Coupon Company?—I have had two or three lines shown me. A lady came and asked me for coupons. I said—“I cannot give them.” She said—“Then I cannot deal with you. I want coupons, and I will have to go to your neighbour across the road.” After dealing there she brought in the article to show me, and said—“There is the article I have got.” I did not reckon the article as good as the one that has been produced here.
3519. Have you any personal knowledge of the goods?—I was not in the shop when she got it. I have never bought the goods or seen any bought.
3520. What would this article be described as in the trade?—It is electro-plate.
3521. What is it plated on?—Generally white metal.
3522. What is this particular article plated on?—White metal, which is a mixture of zinc, lead, and pewter.
3523. Is there any difference in the quality of the goods manufactured by the Britannia Company?—I expect so; there are different coatings of silver.
3524. Is this article silver?—It is silver, but it is only a single dip.
3525. That is, it is put into the bath only once?—I should imagine that is all.
3526. Suppose the Britannia Company say it is a quadruple plate, what do you say?—That is what I am told in the trade.
3527. Do you know how many dippings this article has had in the bath?—No, I cannot say for certain.
3528. You sell for cash?—Yes, I give no credit at all.
3529. Is a cash business desirable?—Yes, because then you know how you are going on.
3530. What are the advantages of a cash system?—You need not keep books in a cash business, and you avoid the trouble of collecting; there is not the same interest on capital.
3531. Have you ever run a credit business?—Never an actual credit business—sometimes a neighbour will come in and obtain a thing on credit.
3532. You make no bad debts?—No.
3533. You recognise generally that turning a credit business into a cash business is a desirable thing?—Certainly.
3534. *By the Hon. W. McCulloch.*—You were offered these coupons, but declined them?—Yes.
3535. If you had the opportunity now, would you take the coupons?—No, I am not sorry I refused them; I do not believe in the principle.

3536. You object to give 5 per cent. discount?—Yes, I would rather mark the goods down to the price at which I could sell them.

3537. If you get 50 per cent. profit you cannot object to give 5 per cent.?—You do not make that amount of profit in every line. On crockery I do not make 10 per cent., and that is the line I sell most of. You could not give 5 per cent. all round on the goods I sell.

3538. Suppose a man starting across the road was satisfied with 25 per cent. profit on his articles instead of 50 per cent., what would you do?—I would meet him then.

3539. Why do you not issue your own coupons?—People prefer the company's coupons. One man had the other company's coupons, but the people would not take them.

3540. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—You say that the canvasser of the company told you that you could put a 4½d. article up to 6d. if you gave a coupon with it. Do you know the name of the canvasser?—No.

3541. When was it?—I cannot say the date, but it was when the company first started in Brunswick. He came out to me about half-a-dozen times.

3542. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—What did the man point out to you as the advantages of the system?—He said it would encourage dealing for cash. I said—"I deal for cash;" he said—"You will get the advantage in the increased trade; people are going mad for these things and I would advise you to go in for them." He quoted America and one or two other places.

3543. Was he to bar any other tradesmen?—Yes, I could have barred the whole street as I had the principal business.

3544. You object to it on principle, you would not beggar your neighbour?—No, I think there is room for us all to do an honest trade.

3545. What has been the result of this system to you?—I have lost one-third of my trade.

3546. Were the articles supplied by the company shown to the people in the district?—Yes, the presents were exhibited in the shop windows.

3547. Why do you call them presents?—They call them presents.

3548. The price in number of coupons was marked on the present?—Yes.

3549. And people, seeing those things in the windows, would go to the shops that have the coupons?—Yes.

3550. If you give 5 per cent. discount on £100, you would have £95, but if you buy the coupons it is your money that is involved; the company do not give the coupons on credit—you have to provide the capital for the coupons before you have sold the goods?—So I believe; I do not know what the principle is. I did not ask them if they wanted cash.

3551. Do those grocers and butchers supply the company with the capital?—I do not know.

3552. Your only objection is on the ground of principle, that it deprives your neighbour of his legitimate trade?—Yes.

3553. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—When was this company started?—I could not say.

3554. Was it twelve months ago?—It might be, but I did not take particular notice.

3555. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Who is the person opposite you who takes the coupons, and has now set up next door to you?—Mrs. Groube.

3556. How long is it since she took the coupons?—I could not say exactly—about five or six months.

3557. How long before that had the canvasser called on you?—I could not say; he called on me two or three times—perhaps it was a month or two before.

3558. It would be eight or nine months ago when this conversation took place, to which you refer?—I could not say for certain, I did not notice the date. I did not feel the effects of the coupons for some time after the other shopkeeper took them.

3559. Was it summer or winter—was it before Christmas?—I cannot say. I cannot fix the date at all. I did not take any particular notice of the date.

The witness withdrew.

William Fimmel, examined.

3560. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business in Lydiard-street, Ballarat.

3561. *By Mr. Deakin.*—What experience have you had of the Coupon Company?—I have lately taken the coupons under different circumstances to most people. I have had an opposition tradesman, trading under the coupon systems, open close to me, and I have been compelled in self-defence to take up the system to try and keep on an equal footing. I went to the company and asked to be supplied with coupons, and was met with a blank refusal. When I asked the reason I was shown the agreement between the company and this opposition firm, giving them the monopoly of Lydiard-street, which is nearly a mile and a half long, and in which I have two businesses. Now, although I do not approve of the system, I have to get the coupons as best I can. I find that the system has not increased my cash trade, but it has placed me on a footing to hold my own and retain my customers, which means that I am now giving them 5 per cent. discount, which I had previously no occasion to do.

3562. When you were not taking the coupons did you lose a portion of your cash trade?—Yes.

3563. Did it affect your credit trade?—No, I cannot say it did.

3564. Did not your credit customers go to coupon shops, and deal with them for cash?—Not to my knowledge.

3565. Have you anything to say in regard to the articles the company gives?—I have heard people say (who have procured articles from the company) that they considered they were not good value for the money. I intended to bring them to give evidence before the Committee, but they did not care to be mixed up in the business and would not sign affidavits, so I asked a friend of mine to go to the Coupon depôt with a book, pick out an article, and have it valued, as I wanted to use it as evidence, which has been done.

3566. Did you give any instructions as to the kind of article to be picked out?—No; I said I wanted them to procure an article and have it valued, and if it was under value I would use it as evidence—this is the article—[producing the same]. This other article—[producing the same]—I saw marked up at 7s. 6d. in Bridge-street, so I went in and bought it.

3567. Do you approve of the coupon system?—I cannot afford to give 5 per cent. of my profits away ; it would be impossible ; I would soon have to shut up shop.
3568. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Who bought that article?—A friend of mine named Mrs. Edith Codlin, of Dunnstown.
3569. Is it in the same condition now as when it was brought to you?—Exactly.
3570. Did you go with her?—I did not.
3571. Do you see that the price charged against that article is torn off?—It is just as I got it.
3572. You did not see the article delivered from the shop?—No.
3573. It may have been marked a quarter-book?—I have an affidavit here on the subject.
3574. To whom did you hand the book?—To Mrs. Edith Codlin.
3575. What is her husband's name?—I could not say.
3576. Do you know that the name of Ford was given when that thing was purchased?—I do not know.
3577. Did you give any instructions or make any suggestions as to the name to be given?—Nothing whatever, I simply asked them to get the article.
3578. Did they say that, when they were asked the name of the purchaser for the purpose of putting it on the back of the book, they gave the name of Ford?—I do not remember what name they gave to the company, and it has nothing to do with me.
3579. Did they tell you they had not given their own name but a false one, and the false name was entered in the book?—They might have done so.
3580. Did they tell you they had not given the name of Codlin?—Yes.
3581. Did they tell you what name they had given?—They might have done ; I do not remember.
3582. How long ago is it?—Two or three weeks.
3583. Did not the Codlins tell you that they had signed the book in the name of Ford?—I do not remember what name they told me.
3584. They do not say in the affidavit what name they gave so that we can produce the book?—No ; I filled in the affidavit and they signed it.
3585. Did they tell you that the article you have produced was the article they got for half a book?—They did.
3586. Are those people here?—No, I thought it would be sufficient if I brought an affidavit.
3587. Where did you buy the other article?—At Woodburn and McKenzie's, Bridge-street, Ballarat.
3588. You say Lydiard-street is about a mile and a half long, but in what length of it is business carried on?—It starts at the gaol and finishes off at the cemetery.
3589. Do you suggest that the business part extends past the railway station, going from the gaol?—It all depends upon what you call the business part.
3590. I mean the part between the lawyers' offices beyond Craig's and the railway gates?—That is not the principal business part, no doubt, but business is done in the whole length of the street.
3591. Is Lydiard-street as a business street a mile and a half long?—There is nearly a mile between my two shops.
3592. Have you a grocer's licence?—No.
3593. Were you offered these coupons?—I was, at the beginning.
3594. You refused to take them?—Yes, because I did not go into the system, and I did not understand it properly.
3595. Your business is both cash and credit?—Yes.
3596. How much is cash and how much is credit?—About 50 per cent. of each.
3597. What is the gross percentage of profit that you make on the whole business?—Roughly speaking, from 10 to 12 per cent.
3598. What is the net profit?—I have never worked it out properly, but, roughly, I suppose it is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
3599. What is the difference of profit between your cash and credit trade?—I do not run long accounts, and I consider my credit trade is as good as the cash one. In fact I consider the booking trade is better.
3600. You do not desire a cash trade?—No.
3601. If you could turn the whole trade into a cash one you would not do so?—No.
3602. Do you object to other people trying to get together a cash business?—Certainly, if it affects the trade.
3603. Would you object to their doing so by advertising?—It all depends upon the means they take of advertising.
3604. You would allow one form of advertising and not another?—As long as it was not injurious to the trade generally I would not object.
3605. You would not object to one form of advertising, while you might to another?—It all depends on the system of advertising.
3606. Would you object to advertising in the *Ballarat Star*?—I would to a certain extent, and to a certain extent I would not.
3607. Would you object to a full-page advertisement in the *Ballarat Star* with special lines?—I could not afford it.
3608. Would it be unfair if you could afford it?—I cannot afford to advertise on that principle.
3609. Is that the test you apply—that you cannot afford it?—So far as I am personally concerned.
3610. If you could afford to give special attractions in the way of reduced prices you would do it?—If I could afford it.
3611. You would not object to anyone else doing it if they could afford it?—Certainly I would if it interfered with my business.
3612. What you would do if you could afford it, you would object to another person doing if it cut into your trade?—Certainly.
3613. If a man could afford to give 5 per cent. discount and you could not give it, you would object to it?—Certainly, because it would affect trade.

3614. If a man can afford to sell £100 worth of goods for £95 why should he not do so?—Because it compels others to do the same.

3615. You say that although a man can afford to supply the public with goods at £95, he should not supply them at less than £100, because you cannot do it for less—do you advertise much?—Not to a great extent.

3616. You have leading lines?—On an equal footing with others—the usual thing.

3617. You do not consider that unfair?—We are all on an equal footing—a leading line in our trade is a leading line with everybody.

3618. If you could afford to have a larger number of leading lines, and still make a profit, you would not object?—No, but I could not afford it.

3619. Have you always been in business on your own account?—No; I was a partner with Mr. Harper at one time—he is now a partner with Mr. Ramage.

3620. How long is it since he left you?—About nine months.

3621. Do they give coupons?—I believe so.

3622. Are they wrong in doing so?—Certainly they are.

3623. Do you think they cannot afford it?—I do not know what they can afford.

3624. If they could afford it, would you say they should not do it?—Certainly, if it affected the trade generally.

3625. It will only affect the trade by increasing their business or by decreasing yours?—It affects the trade all round.

3626. It affects individual tradesmen by taking business from them?—Yes.

3627. You say it is wrong for particular individuals to adopt means to attract trade?—Under those circumstances it is.

3628. You consider that giving discounts is unfair?—A discount of 5 per cent. is.

3629. Would you consider a discount of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. unfair?—It would be quite the outside.

3630. If a man gives $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount, you would not object?—No; I do not think I would; but if he gives more than the trade can possibly afford I would object.

3631. As long as he can afford it himself he is justified in giving it?—No.

3632. You want to limit a man's freedom of action, and fix by Act of Parliament the price at which he shall sell his goods?—No, but we must protect the trade.

3633. The reason that you want protection for the trade is that you want protection for your own pocket?—Everybody does.

3634. How long have you been buying these coupons and giving them to your customers?—A month or two.

3635. How many have you bought?—I do not remember.

3636. From whom do you buy them?—I do not feel disposed to say.

3637. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Is it from a man who buys them from the company?—Yes; I get them from private people.

3638. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Are they customers of the company?—They are.

3639. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You buy them from some shopkeeper who obtains them from the company?—I did not say a shopkeeper. I buy them from a person who obtains them from the company.

3640. Do you buy them from any shopkeeper in Ballarat?—No.

3641. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Do you buy them from someone who buys them direct from the company, and who is not a shopkeeper?—Yes, I got them from a person who does not have a shop though he is a retail business man.

3642. Are the coupons you buy the company's coupons?—They are, they come from the company indirectly to me through one of their traders, but I have given a promise that I would not divulge his name.

3643. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Do you call a confectioner a person who keeps a retail shop?—Yes.

3644. Even if he carries on business in a coffee palace?—It does not matter where he carries it on, he is a retailer all the same.

The witness withdrew.

James Sainsbery, examined.

3645. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A butcher, carrying on business in Victoria-street, Ballarat East.

3646. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Do you belong to the Master Butchers' Association?—The association is in abeyance, but I am the recognised secretary.

3647. Have you had any dealings with the Coupon Company?—I have bought their coupons.

3648. For how long?—Soon after they started in Ballarat—nine or ten months.

3649. Have they increased the volume of your trade?—Slightly at first, but not now.

3650. Have they increased the proportion of your cash to your credit business?—No.

3651. Would you be glad to give up the coupon business if you could?—Yes, I only take them in self-defence, and I would be glad if the system were abolished.

3652. Did the system prejudice you in any way?—I found that I had to take them because I was losing customers who were asking for them, and as I could not supply them I was losing the trade; some people will always go where they can get something for nothing.

3653. Who were the people who were mainly anxious to get coupons from you?—Servants, and others who are spending other people's money, not their own.

3654. Presumably they keep the coupons themselves?—Presumably so.

3655. If they are purchasing with other people's money, are they anxious to spend as little as possible?—No, I have known instances where they have endeavoured to reach a certain amount so as to get a certain number of coupons.

3656. Then that encourages lavishness?—In some instances.

3657. Can your business afford this extra impost?—No.

3658. *By Mr. Coldham.*—I am instructed that your consumption of coupons in the last ten months has been at the rate of 2s. a week?—It has not been a great deal, I do not know how much it is.

3659. You were the first man in your locality in your particular business who took the coupons?—No, a butcher in Bridge-street, Mr. Angwin, about 300 yards from me, had them first; Victoria-street is a continuation of Bridge-street.
3660. Who else has them?—Another butcher in Peel-street, Mr. Barnet; he is not quite so far away.
3661. Are you the only man in Victoria-street who has them?—No, there are two in Victoria-street, Mr. W. H. Blezard and the Grazing Company.
3662. Mr. Blezard says that he could afford before the coupon system was introduced to give 8 per cent. cash discount in his business, and he is called a “cutting butcher”; what do you say to that?—I say that no man in our trade, and I voice the opinion of five-sixths of the butchers of Ballarat, can give 8 per cent. of his takings and treat the public honestly; that is, to supply them with a first-class article.
3663. He says it paid him well to give a discount of a penny in the shilling to his cash customers, and he was prepared to give another penny discount as it paid him to do it?—He ought to do it then.
3664. He sells cheaply?—He does not do one-thousandth part of the trade of Ballarat.
3665. Is he a small man?—He is not a small man, he has three shops, and does a fair business.
3666. He is a good typical retail butcher?—There are types and types—you can call him a type.
3667. Do you regard him as a decent respectable tradesman?—I have nothing to do with him or his business—I do not interfere with his business.
3668. Does he do as big a business as you do?—I decline to say.
3669. Does he do a fair business?—I suppose he does his share.
3670. Do you say that no reasonable honest tradesman can afford to pay 8 per cent. discount on his cash business?—In our trade no man can give a first-class article, charge a fair price for it, and give 8 per cent. discount.
3671. Then he must either be charging an unfair price, or not give a good article?—You assume so.
3672. Did you take coupons to protect yourself?—I did.
3673. Against Mr. Blezard?—Against nobody in particular and everybody in general.
3674. Against the people in the vicinity?—Yes.
3675. Who were the people in the vicinity that you wanted to protect yourself against?—My nearest neighbours who gave coupons.
3676. Did your business fall off before you took these coupons?—I lost some trade—I could not say the percentage.
3677. Was it worth reckoning?—I lost trade.
3678. Do you attribute that to the coupons?—Yes.
3679. When did you notice the loss?—When people came in and asked me if I gave coupons, and when I said “No” they walked away.
3680. Did you find a shrinkage in your receipts?—Yes, I lost trade, because I had not the coupons.
3681. Supposing you were taking £100 a week before, to what extent did your business fall off?—Perhaps 2 per cent.
3682. How long did it continue before you took the coupons?—Not very long—a week or so I suppose.
3683. You have had them ever since?—Yes.
3684. Did those other people have the coupons before you had them?—Some of them. Mr. Angwin and Mr. Blezard in Bridge-street had them, and there was one in Peel-street, Mr. Barnet.
3685. If I am informed that everyone of those tradesmen got the coupons after you, what would you say?—That they did not.
3686. Which of them had them before you?—Mr. Angwin and Mr. Barnet.
3687. That is the basis of your testimony?—Yes.
3688. Is your business both a cash and credit one?—Yes.
3689. What is the percentage of each?—About 70 per cent. is credit.
3690. Do you find that cash butchers are liable to cut into your trade?—That has always been so in our trade.
3691. The cash butchers necessarily cut in?—They cut in for a certain time and then go out again.
3692. How is it that the butcher who sells for cash takes away your business for a time?—The public are always running after something new.
3693. The public do not know their own business—they run after the cash butcher because he is new?—That is very often the case.
3694. Are there any advantages to the public in this coupon system?—I cannot say.
3695. You do a cash business?—Only partially.
3696. Do not people buy meat cheaper when they buy for cash?—Not with me; I sell to the credit man cheap enough, and the cash man does not want it any cheaper.
3697. Do you prefer cash yourself?—Under certain circumstances.
3698. If everybody said to you—“Will you take cash for all that I have bought to-day?” would you refuse?—No.
3699. You would prefer to take it?—In some instances I would, not in all.
3700. Some men you would prefer to keep on your book?—Yes.
3701. That is, to keep their trade?—Yes.
3702. Otherwise they may go and buy in the best market?—I give them the best market. The person who pays his account regularly, either weekly, fortnightly, or monthly, is quite as good as a cash customer.
3703. Do you pay cash yourself?—Under some circumstances; I prefer paying cash if I get a profit. Sometimes it would not pay me to pay cash, even if I got discount, because I might make a better use of my money.
3704. The only case you would like to pay cash is where you get a cash discount?—Not always; sometimes we prefer to pay cash even if we do not get a discount.
3705. One of the inducements to pay cash is a cash discount?—Yes.
3706. Is it not an inducement to retail people to get a cash discount?—Yes, but rather than give a cash discount I would mark down the prices and not give a discount—that is a more honest way.

3707. You do not complain of a man who gives a larger discount than you if he can afford it?—Not in the least.
3708. It is fair legitimate competition?—Certainly.
3709. You do not object to his picking out the particular form in which he will give discount?—I object to his forcing me into giving a particular form of discount and a third party coming in and getting two-thirds of that discount.
3710. You do object to the form in which the rival tradesman chooses to give his discount?—I object to the coupon system when I have to pay 5 per cent. straight off.
3711. If another person chooses to pay 5 per cent. in a particular way you object to it?—As long as it does not interfere with me I do not object to it.
3712. If a man issues his own coupons it would still interfere with you?—Not half so much, because the company's coupons can be got at a greater number of places.
3713. Would you object to issuing coupons yourself if you thought it would attract trade?—I object to the principle of giving coupons.
3714. You do not object to the principle of giving discounts?—I do. I believe in having a bed-rock price and not giving discount. If goods are worth £95, call it £95; do not sell those goods for £100 and take off £5.
3715. That is the basis of your objection?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

William F. Cocks, examined.

3716. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business in Ballarat.
3717. *By Mr. Deakin.*—How many years' business experience have you had?—Six years'.
3718. When did you first become acquainted with the Coupon Company?—When they started in Ballarat.
3719. Who waited upon you?—Mr. Greenwood, I think, was the agent's name.
3720. What were his representations to you?—He explained the system to me, and asked if I would take the coupons, telling me that if I did not my neighbours would have them, and consequently my cash trade would go to them. After explaining the system, and putting it in a plausible way, saying that I need not give coupons on everything, but only on those lines on which I made a fair profit, I was led into taking them.
3721. How long did you keep them?—For a few weeks, but I found it did not suit me—I found I could not afford to give 5 per cent. discount on my profits, so I determined to give them up, and I did so for a week or two.
3722. Did they not enhance the volume of your business?—No.
3723. Did they increase the proportion of your cash business as against the credit business?—No, I had the same number of customers who paid cash, and those who paid cash demanded the coupons, but I had no extra customers.
3724. You had to give coupons to those who had previously paid cash without getting coupons?—Yes, and so I gave it up for two or three weeks.
3725. What was your experience during that time?—That the customers who had their books partly filled with coupons desired to get them filled, so they went to other places, and I lost them.
3726. What did that lead you to do?—To resort to the coupons again.
3727. How long did you keep them?—I have had them ever since.
3728. Do you give them because you gain any advantage, or simply as a matter of protection?—I have to do it in self-defence. I would rather see the whole system abolished.
3729. How long have you had them altogether?—I think it is about ten months since the company started in Ballarat. I took them at the beginning, and gave them up for a few weeks. I suppose I have had them for about eight or nine months.
3730. Has the volume of your business increased?—No.
3731. Has your cash business increased in relation to your credit business?—No.
3732. Except as a protection against loss of business, can you point to any advantage that you have gained by the use of the coupons?—No advantage whatever.
3733. What agreement have you with the company as to the area within which they are not to issue coupons to persons in your own line of business?—I have not any agreement. The canvasser told me if I did not take them the neighbours would take them, but the neighbours have them just the same.
3734. Have the nearest two or three grocers to you got them?—Yes, with one exception—one grocer a little distance away has not got them.
3735. As far as you know, the other grocers who give coupons have not gained at your expense, nor have you gained at their expense?—No.
3736. Who are the people who look most eagerly after these coupons?—People who have been credit customers hang up their old accounts, and pay cash for the sake of getting coupons, so the old accounts are left standing. I myself have customers who have their old account hung up in this manner. They have paid nothing off their accounts, but they pay cash now and get coupons. Others are ashamed to come to me and pay cash and leave their old accounts standing, so they go to other places, and I get nothing off the standing account, and very little cash—they are ashamed to come while they owe their old accounts.
3737. As far as you could tell, has the amount of cash business done by yourself and your neighbours been increased by the coupons?—My cash trade has not been increased.
3738. Will your business bear this extra outlay?—No. I am selling my goods at as low a price as other grocers, to keep the trade; but the danger is that, if this thing is kept going, we will have to increase our prices or sell inferior goods, to make up the deficiency.
3739. You are opposed to the system altogether?—I am.
3740. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You have had about £6 worth of coupons in ten months?—I cannot say how many I have had.

3741. Is not that about it?—Yes; I have not had a great many. Of late they have been increasing because customers have been demanding them.

3742. You have had about 5,000?—I do not know how many, exactly.

3743. That is at the rate of about 15s. worth per month that you have used?—Yes.

3744. Is your business both a cash and a credit business?—Yes.

3745. Have you got any objection to giving cash discounts?—Yes.

3746. That is because you cannot afford to pay them?—Yes.

3747. If you could afford to pay them, you would be willing to do so, as a means of attracting customers?—No; I do not know that I would, because the goods are cut so low that I cannot do it.

3748. If you could afford to do it would you object to cash discounts?—No.

3749. Then your objection is that you cannot afford it owing to the way prices are cut down at present?—Yes.

3750. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—Do you not give any discount?—No.

3751. Do your credit customers get the goods at the same price as the cash customers?—Yes, I have not any bad credit customers—I look upon all my credit customers as good customers—they do not pay at regular times, but I can always depend upon handling their money at some time or another, and I look upon that as being as good as cash. Each tradesman must judge of his customers himself—we can always tell whether people are honest or dishonest.

3752. Do you make any allowance for bad debts?—A little, but not very much.

3753. What percentage do you allow?—Very slight, perhaps 2 per cent.

3754. What profits do you make on your turnover?—I should think an average of from 10 per cent. to 12½ per cent. all round.

3755. What are the working expenses?—About 7 per cent. or 7½ per cent.

3756. And you cannot see your way to give a discount for cash?—No.

3757. Would it not pay to give a small discount for cash?—If I had a lot of bad debts it might, but I have not—if people are out of work and cannot pay their accounts, when they start to work again they begin to pay their debts, so I do not look upon them as bad debts.

3758. When people get behind it takes a long time to wipe out the obligation?—Yes, but I have not many like that, so it does not make much difference to my business.

3759. Your business is principally a booking business?—Yes, but very short credit.

3760. You do not allow any discount to those who pay weekly or monthly?—No.

3761. You do not give coupons to those who pay weekly?—No, I believe some grocers are doing it now, but they may not keep it going. If everybody keeps the coupons the storekeeper will get tired of giving away presents, and prices will go up—they must make up that 5 per cent. in some way or they will be the direct losers.

3762. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Do you lose 2 per cent. on your credit sales by bad debts?—About that.

3763. On the total turnover?—About that; I could not say exactly, but it is not more than that.

3764. Does it cost you more to sell on credit than it does to sell for cash in the way of bookkeeping, collecting accounts, and so on?—No, I think not. I suppose it costs a little, but it all comes in the general expense of the business.

3765. That particular expense is not attached to cash sales—is there not a greater expense attached to credit sales, apart from bad debts, through booking, sending in accounts, and collecting those accounts?—If we were doing a strictly cash trade the booking would be done away with, but we are doing half and half, so in giving coupons to cash customers we must naturally have the same expense with the other customers.

3766. Would not the expense be increased if you had to book for all?—Not much in my case—mine is nearly all a credit business.

3767. What do you lose in the way of interest by not getting cash?—I could not say. It would not be very much, because my credit accounts come in at short intervals.

3768. Suppose you sold everything for cash, how much per cent. would you save if you got the same prices?—I could not say; it would make a little difference no doubt.

3769. It would make 2 per cent. difference for bad debts?—Yes.

3770. It would mean something for booking and something for interest. What average credit do you give?—Three months would be the longest. I have some longer, but fortunately the monthly account is the rule.

3771. Do you charge your cash customers and those who take three months' credit exactly the same price?—Yes, I look upon those credit customers as good customers, better even than the cash customers. A casual customer may come in and pick out a cheap line on which there is no profit, but a credit customer will come in and give a weekly order for all lines.

3772. A cash customer may pick out only the line on which there is no profit and go somewhere else for a line on which you expect to make a profit?—Yes, the casual customer may come in, buy 6d. worth, and demand a coupon, but my credit customer will come in and buy weekly or fortnightly, and I am not supposed to give him coupons because he does not pay cash over the counter, but his cash is as good as the other's. Lately it has been affecting my credit sales, because the customers want coupons on their weekly or fortnightly accounts as well as the cash customers. Some of the other tradesmen are giving coupons on everything, while I have not been doing so, consequently, those people go to the other place and get them.

3773. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Do your customers ask for coupons on credit accounts?—Yes.

3774. Do you know that the Coupon Company do not allow their customers to give coupons on credit accounts?—They told us that we were not to do it, but we do do it, and the company do not object to it.

3775. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—You give three months' credit on a running account?—Yes, the customer pays at the end of three months, and there is always something owing then.

3776. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Is there no way that you know of of avoiding the discontent as between the monthly customers and the cash customers?—Only by giving the coupons—we would rather

have the credit customers than the casual cash customers, and in order to keep them we will be obliged to give them the coupons as well, so that I do not see how it can increase the cash trade.

3777. You treat the introduction of this coupon system as a serious disturbance?—Yes.

3778. You want the thing abolished?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

James A. Pittard, examined.

3779. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A boot and shoe dealer, in Ballarat.

3780. *By Mr. Deakin.*—How many years' experience have you had?—Nineteen.

3781. Are the boot and shoe dealers organized into any association?—Informally.

3782. Are you associated with them?—I am.

3783. Have you discussed this coupon question with them?—Yes. When the agents of the company called upon me some twelve months ago, in reference to taking the coupons, I saw it was not a good thing, as far as I was concerned, and I called a meeting of the trade to discuss the matter. At that meeting we carried a resolution as a body that we were totally against the coupon system in Ballarat; I have signatures representing 27 shops. The canvasser who called on me said that if we did not take them the company would have to find some one who would, implying that they would set up some one in opposition. The other shops have not touched them, and I do not think they intend to touch them unless they are compelled to do so by force of circumstances—that is, if any large shop in the centre of the city took them they would have to do so in self-defence. The agent of the company offered to give me a monopoly—he did not say to what extent, but I declined to have anything to do with them. I believe that if we were forced to give them we would issue coupons of our own. We would not take them from this company—we would not let a company who are strangers to us monopolize our capital. I take up the position that the company are forcing themselves into a partnership in my business, while they have no interest in my business.

3784. How many boot dealers are taking these coupons?—I believe there are two at the present time—one man named Thwaites, in Skipton-street, promised that he would not continue them after he had got rid of the stock he had on hand—another man had them, and my son bought him out.

3785. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—Did you distribute them afterwards?—No, we sold them to a grocer at a loss.

3786. *By Mr. Deakin.*—The bootmakers in Ballarat have united in resisting the introduction of the coupon system into their trade?—Yes.

3787. On what grounds do you object?—We consider it would be introducing an element into the business that is not necessary—by having an unseen partner to participate in all profits—that the boot dealers would work and receive nothing at the end of the year, while the Coupon Company would have it all.

3788. Will not your business bear a discount of $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent.?—Not if the coupon system is honestly administered—that is, if every person buying boots and paying cash received a coupon for every sixpence he paid—it is a matter of figuring out. I take about £3,000 a year in cash, and if I give a coupon on every sixpence it comes to a very big item—it would be about £150 a year, and if I gave a coupon to every customer I would be at a loss at the end of the year.

3789. That is the cash business irrespective of credit?—Yes.

3790. The majority of the boot dealers in Ballarat are both cash and credit?—Yes, I do not know of any one who has a cash business only.

3791. As a consequence, as long as you are united, as at present, it would be difficult for the coupons to obtain a footing in your trade?—Yes, they cannot affect us individually.

3792. But if one tradesman introduced the system the rest of you would probably have to follow?—Yes, the resolution was to the effect—that any tradesman wishing to keep the coupons must acquaint the rest of the trade with the fact.

3793. Providing that there is a breakaway of that kind, the rest of you will be driven to resort to coupons of your own?—I think the first step I should take would be to call a meeting of the trade and advise them to form a coupon company.

3794. If you all issued coupons what advantage would it be to any of you?—Merely to kill the men who brought the coupons in.

3795. Is it any gain to the public?—It is a gain to the public, but a greater gain to the Coupon Company.

3796. Would the gain made by the public, and the gain to the company, be made up by your traders in some way?—We should have to make it up.

3797. Would you make it up out of your own pockets, or out of the pockets of your customers?—If the profits are not sufficient we should have to raise the price of the goods, or supply an inferior article.

3798. Would the customers, under such a practice, obtain any real advantage?—They would not; it would be an advantage at first, but after a while they would really get nothing, though they would imagine they were getting something.

3799. You are opposed to the coupon system altogether?—The trade as a whole is opposed to the system, and we support the Bill that is now before Parliament.

3800. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You say the coupon is at first an advantage to the public—that is, to those members of the public who pay cash?—Yes.

3801. That is because the coupon system, like any other discount system, means a reduction in the selling price of the article to the public?—They get a discount, but that would only happen until such time as the system could be thoroughly understood; we would be bound to take it out of the goods.

3802. But as to the system as worked in Ballarat, the public do get an advantage?—They say so, but I have no knowledge of the fact.

3803. If the public gets something now which they were not getting before, they are getting some advantage?—They think so.

3804. Do you think so?—I do not think so.

3805. They get discounts which they did not previously obtain?—They think so.

3806. If a man gets 5 per cent. discount, why do you say he only thinks he gets an advantage?—Because he believes he gets an article worth 12s. 6d. which is only worth 7s. 6d.

3807. If he gets 7s. 6d. worth which he did not get before that is an advantage to him?—He might get a luxury that he does not require.

3808. If a customer thinks he requires a certain article, and gets it by means of coupons, you say that is no advantage?—I think the Coupon Company is getting the most profit.

3809. The public get something in the form of a discount which they did not obtain before?—They say they do, but I have no knowledge of the fact that they do. I have never seen an article that was bought.

3810. They get something which they did not get before?—I do not know.

3811. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Did your customers get coupons before?—None of my customers got them.

3812. And they are now getting coupons which they did not get before?—Coupons are now being given in Ballarat.

3813. Then whatever may be the value of those coupons, they do get them?—Yes.

3814. *By Mr. Coldham.*—The public get something that they did not get before—is that a disadvantage to the public?—It may be; women of a certain class get articles of luxury, which it is a disadvantage to them to have in the house—such as silver plated-ware and plated kerosene tins.

3815. Is that how you describe the articles we have seen?—I do not think they are much better.

3816. What is the gross profit in your business?—25 per cent.

3817. How much do you make upon the cash part of your business, and how much on the credit part?—I charge one price right through.

3818. Do you make any bad debts?—I do occasionally.

3819. What is the disadvantage of the credit business as compared with the cash business?—Not much, I do not look upon it as a disadvantage.

3820. You do not look upon bad debts as a disadvantage?—I do not; I am rather partial to a credit trade. I take no notice of bad debts.

3821. How much do you lose by your bad debts?—I do not suppose it is $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

3822. Is that a disadvantage?—Not much—it is not worth thinking about.

3823. Is there any other disadvantage in the credit business as against the cash business?—No.

3824. You have to book in the credit business—is that not a matter of expense?—No; I do my own booking.

3825. Do you pay for collecting?—No; I do my own collecting.

3826. Do you charge your business for your own efforts?—I take out a weekly wage, to support my wife and family.

3827. Does that include house rent?—No.

3828. The net profit you make is after deducting the living of yourself, your wife, and family?—We have all our expenses to pay; we have taxes, wear and tear, and losses of other kinds to reckon, such as thieving from the door and bargain hunters.

3829. Do you take out from your gross profits the living expenses of your wife and family and yourself?—Yes. I take out so much per week for living expenses.

3830. And a wage for yourself?—I do not take it as a wage.

3831. What percentage of your turnover do you take out under that heading?—I have never gone into the percentage.

3832. Can you not say whether it is 1 per cent. or 10 per cent.?—No; we have a lot of salaries to pay, and we pay them.

3833. Is your objection to the coupon system an objection to giving discounts in any form?—Yes; I totally disagree with discounts.

3834. You charge the same price to your cash customers as to your credit customers?—I do.

3835. You think it is a fair thing to charge the man who pays spot cash the same price as the man who does not pay for twelve months?—Yes.

3836. Is the one transaction as profitable to you?—Yes, more so; I would sooner have the credit customer. I prefer a good booking customer to a ready cash customer.

3837. What do you reckon to be the value of your money?—About 5 per cent.

3838. Then, surely, the man who pays spot cash is better for you than the man who waits for twelve months?—Not necessarily; because I have had the advantage of his family trade.

3839. One man comes in and pays you spot cash, and another pays you in twelve months; is one as good as the other?—I would as soon have the one as the other.

3840. The man who does not pay for twelve months costs you 5 per cent. for the use of the capital?—He does not cost that, on the average. When a man comes in and pays cash the chances are that he will pick all the cheap lines that are in the place, and you get nothing out of him; whereas, if a man comes in and buys a pair of boots for £1 or £1 5s. on credit, the chances are that you make a profit. The person who pays cash, as a rule, is a bargain hunter, who comes in looking for stuff that there is little profit on, and takes a long time to pick the stuff out; whereas the person who comes in for a pair of boots costing 15s. or £1 takes about three minutes, and you make a profit out of the transaction.

3841. Supposing two men came in on the same day, and each borrowed £5 from you, and one paid you back next day, and the other twelve months afterwards, which is the best man to you?—I should not lend it to them.

3842. Do you consider there is any difference in principle in giving 1 per cent. discount and 5 per cent. discount?—I do not believe in giving discounts at all.

3843. That is the basis of your objection?—That is one of my objections—I object to any person coming to me and dictating to me how I shall manage my business, by telling me I shall give a customer so much discount—it is virtually a stand-and-deliver business.

3844. You have an objection to cash discounts no matter what the amount may be?—Yes.

3845. You would have that objection just as strongly if you could afford to pay a discount out of the profits of your business?—I do not believe in the principle.

3846. Because you yourself object to giving cash discounts you object to any one else doing so who is in competition with you?—No, I do not.

3847. You do not object to another man who is desirous of giving cash discounts, and who can afford to do so, doing it—suppose a man next door to you in the same business could afford to give cash discounts, and did so, would you object to his doing it?—I cannot see what that has to do with the question, there is no one there or likely to be there. I object to discounts, but I could not prevent any one else doing it if he thought proper.

3848. You might object, because you thought he might take your business from you?—No, but I think I should give him a bad month—I should make him lose £100 or so.

3849. If he gave cash discounts you would meet him by cutting down prices and trying to drive him out?—I should try to do so.

3850. You would consider that perfectly legitimate?—I think I should be within my rights in doing so.

3851. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Why cannot you give the man who gives coupons a bad month?—We have no one giving them.

3852. The coupons are not injuring you?—No, because we have agreed not to give them.

3853. Then you yourself have no grievance against the Coupon Company?—Not at present, but the trade requested me to put their views before the Committee.

3854. As a matter of fact, does not every retail trader in Melbourne, who sends in his accounts once a quarter, give $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount if the accounts are paid within a month?—I do not know; they never do in Ballarat.

The witness withdrew.

Richard Opie, examined.

3855. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, in Ballarat.

3856. *By Mr. Deakin.*—What experience have you had in the business?—Thirteen years, principally in Ballarat.

3857. When did you first make the acquaintance of the Coupon Company?—About six months ago.

3858. Did they call upon you?—They called upon me, because I was getting coupons in an indirect way.

3859. Why did you use them?—I found my trade was going away.

3860. In consequence of your neighbours having the coupons?—Yes.

3861. Where did you obtain your coupons from in the first instance?—From a friend of mine.

3862. Then you approached the company?—Yes.

3863. Did you obtain a supply from them?—Yes.

3864. Have you continued to obtain a supply from them?—Yes.

3865. What is your consumption of coupons?—About 1,000 per week.

3866. Since you have taken the coupons has the volume of your business increased?—It has come back to what it was at first before my neighbours began to take the coupons.

3867. Has it increased the amount of your cash business as compared with your credit business?—No.

3868. Beyond enabling you to get back the business which your neighbour's coupons took away, what advantage has the system been to you?—Nothing beyond that, I have found it a loss in the last few months.

3869. You have to get 1,000 coupons per week, what does that cost you?—24s. per week.

3870. You pay that for the privilege of retaining the business that you had prior to the coupons coming to Ballarat?—Yes.

3871. Is that the only gain you can see?—The only gain I can see is that I have got back the trade I had lost, and I find it would have been just as well if I had let the trade go. I am going back every week; I am paying 24s. every week.

3872. And the profit on the business that you might have lost does not amount to that?—No, I am giving more than I have got back.

3873. Have any of your credit customers asked you to give them coupons?—Yes, that is where the trouble is.

3874. Your business is partly credit and partly cash?—Yes, about half and half.

3875. What length of credit do you give?—About three months; the average is monthly.

3876. Have your monthly customers been asking you for coupons?—No, but people who owe accounts try to hang them up and want coupons as they go on; they let the old accounts stand.

3877. Have you been giving any coupons on accounts on which you formerly gave credit?—Yes, I do it regularly with fortnightly and weekly customers.

3878. Have you been doing it because you imagined you would get any good by it?—No, I was obliged to do it to keep the trade.

3879. Would any of your neighbours have given them coupons upon their weekly and fortnightly accounts if you did not?—Yes, others were doing it and I had to follow suit.

3880. You have taken them up entirely as a means of self-defence?—Yes.

3881. You are not in favour of the system?—No, I wish it was abolished.

3882. You support the Bill before the Legislative Council?—Yes.

3883. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How long did you use the coupons prior to taking them from the company direct?—It was not long; it might have been a week.

3884. You started taking them in June?—Yes.

3885. Did you give them to all cash customers in June or only to those who asked for them?—To those who asked for them.

3886. Has not your business in coupons trebled between June and September?—No, not as far as my memory goes.

3887. It is incorrect that you took 2,000 in June, and 6,000 in September?—I would most likely have taken more than that in June; it might be 5,000 in July.

3888. How many might it be in August?—It might be 4,000, and it might be 4,000 or 5,000 in September.
3889. You will not say the figures I have given for those months are incorrect?—They may be correct.
3890. If they are correct that would mean a very large expansion in your cash trade?—Not necessarily.
3891. If you are paying 24s. a week in September, that would be on a cash business of £24?—Yes.
3892. What proportion does your cash business bear to your credit business?—It was about half before I took on the coupons.
3893. And you have not found the coupons beneficial to you?—No; except in getting back the trade I had lost.
3894. Does not the system encourage a cash trade?—A few people run after them in that way.
3895. Does it not increase your turnover?—It has not increased mine; I cannot speak as to others.
3896. In October, 1899, Opie and Son say—"We, the undersigned merchants, hereby certify that we have been distributing co-operative coupons for some time past, and have found the system beneficial to our business, as it encourages a cash trade and increases the turnover. We may also state that our customers express themselves fully satisfied with the value of the goods they receive in exchange for coupons." Is that your signature?—Yes.
3897. Does that truly represent the facts?—No, not exactly; it is partly true.
3898. How did Messrs. Opie and Son, who have been suffering under this system, give this certificate in October, 1899, to the coupon system which they have now come to condemn?—The agent for the Coupon Company called upon me and asked me to sign the petition. He asked me whether I found any benefit from the coupons. I said I had found a benefit in this way, that I had got back the old trade I had lost. He asked me would I be willing to sign to that effect, and I said I did not mind. I never read the paper, but I knew it had done me good, and I signed it on that account. I did not read the petition at all.
3899. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Was it read to you?—Not that I know of; if it was read I did not take any notice.
3900. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You know Mr. Shattock?—Yes, he was the gentleman who called on me with the paper.
3901. Did Mr. Edwards come with him?—Yes.
3902. Were you at your desk when they came to see you?—Yes.
3903. If they both swear that Mr. Shattock read it over to you and spent ten minutes in conversation with you before you signed it, will you contradict them?—I will not contradict them, but I do not remember his reading what you have read out. I was busy at the time, I know. I did not notice what he was talking about.
3904. Are you in the habit of signing statements without seeing what is in them?—It is often done.
3905. Do you mean to say that you had not the purport of that statement read over to you and explained to you before you signed it?—I signed it because the system did do our business good—that is why I signed it.
3906. Do you say that statement is true and you would subscribe to it now?—No, I cannot say I would now.
3907. Would you have signed it on the day Mr. Shattock came into the shop?—No, if I had understood it I would not.
3908. Then we are driven to the conclusion that when you signed you did not know the purport of the document?—No, not the heading.
3909. You did not know the purport of the part printed in italics?—I did not know the full sense of it.
3910. If those gentlemen swear that it was read over to you, and subsequently a discussion ensued upon the terms of the heading will you contradict them?—It was not read over to my knowledge.
3911. Will you contradict them if they swear it was?—I will have to as far as my knowledge goes.
3912. Do you object to giving cash discounts?—I think we can do without them.
3913. Do you object to retailers who can afford to give cash discounts doing so?—That lies with themselves.
3914. If a rival retailer came next door to you and gave cash discounts would you think he was treating you unfairly?—Yes.
3915. Although he could afford to sell his goods at a less price than you could you would not consider it fair trading?—It would not be fair trading.
3916. If he did do so you would immediately do the same thing?—Yes.
3917. Do you agree with what another witness said, that he would give the man a bad month?—No, I would keep with him, but I would not undercut him.
3918. You would consider it perfectly legitimate on your part?—Yes.
3919. You reckon that the cutting of profits in the trade is simply for the purpose of attracting the patronage of the public?—Of course, they are bound to go where the low prices are.
3920. What is about the gross profit in your business?—I suppose about 10 per cent.
3921. What profit do you make upon your credit business?—Perhaps 12½ per cent.
3922. How much do you make upon your cash business?—About 7½ per cent.
3923. The credit business returns you 5 per cent. more gross profit than your cash business, so you sell to your cash customers on different terms to what you sell to your credit customers?—Yes, there is a little difference.
3924. You necessarily charge the customers 5 per cent. less increase upon the cost price of the goods?—Yes.
3925. That is practically 5 per cent. discount for cash?—Yes, in that way it is.
3926. You consider that perfectly fair?—Yes.
3927. You do that because you think it is a reasonable and proper thing to do?—There is a reason for it. I think a cash customer is entitled to a little advantage over a long-paying customer.

3928. If you sell £112 10s. worth of goods to a credit customer you charge him £112 10s., but if you sold the same goods to a cash customer you would allow him £5 off the price which the other man would have to pay?—Yes.

3929. It would not make any difference to the cash customer if you said—"I will charge you £112 10s. and allow you £5 off," or "I will charge you only £107 10s. in the first instance." As far as you and he are concerned the two transactions are identical?—Yes.

3930. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Is the difference in the profit you make on your cash business as compared with your credit business due to the fact that your cash customers are purchasers of lines on which there is a very small profit?—Yes, when they have got the cash they buy things cheaper in the leading lines on which there is a very small profit, whereas the credit customers buy the lines on which there is a bigger profit.

3931. When you were waited on with this petition there was a conversation; what was the nature of that conversation?—They asked me did I derive any benefit from the coupons; I said I did, and the reason I did so was because I got back trade I had lost. They asked me whether I would sign. I said—"I do not mind signing on those conditions." We were talking for a good while. For a long time I would have nothing to do with it.

3932. How did they persuade you to sign?—They asked me had the coupons been good to me; I said Yes, I thought they did me good, they brought back trade that I had lost.

3933. What arguments did they use to induce you to sign?—I said it had brought back trade and I would sign it on those conditions if they were satisfied.

3934. Did you not grasp the sense of what they said?—No, if they read that I did not grasp it. I thought I was signing that I had got back the trade that I had lost.

3935. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Where is that petition headed?—Melbourne.

3936. How many had signed it before you signed?—There might have been about ten or eleven.

3937. Was it to be advertised?—I did not know what was to be done with it.

3938. You wanted them to understand you had got no benefit from these coupons, except recovering your old business?—Yes.

3939. Has the money you have paid to this company been a loss or a gain?—I am at a loss.

3940. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—This was only in October last—you had then sustained a loss by taking the coupons, although you had got back your trade—how do you reconcile that with signing an approval of the system?—If I lost 50 customers I got them back by having the coupons—there was no other way of getting them back—that was a benefit to me.

3941. Not if you make a loss by it?—I can see that now.

3942. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—I understand that when you took up these coupons your business was half cash and half credit—did it remain the same all the time you had the coupons?—Yes; the people who used to pay weekly or fortnightly came back on the same system, so I did not derive any benefit from that.

3943. Did your credit customers leave you when you did not give coupons?—A lot of the fortnightly customers left.

3944. You say you do not care so much for cash customers, because they purchase leading lines—where do those people buy the lines on which there are profits?—They look at the different shops and take the things in each that are marked cheaply.

3945. Why do they leave you to buy the goods on which there is a good profit, and only purchase from you leading lines on which there is no profit?—Because they can get them cheaper elsewhere, I suppose.

3946. Does any grocer make leading lines of tea and coffee?—Certainly.

3947. One will make leading lines of sugar and kerosene, another of tea, and a third of coffee?—

Yes.

3948. And these people go round and pick the cheapest article out of each shop?—Yes.

3949. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—Your distribution of coupons has been increasing, and that must have brought you into contact with a lot of people who have realized on the coupons—have they expressed satisfaction with the articles they have received?—I have not heard any remarks on the subject.

The witness withdrew.

Walter Cornell, examined.

3950. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A chemist, in Ballarat.

3951. *By Mr. Deakin.*—How many years' experience have you had?—I have been 30 or 40 years in business.

3952. How long have you been acquainted with this coupon system?—Since it was started in Ballarat. I have been asked to represent my brethren in Ballarat. I have a paper signed by all the chemists, expressing their views on the coupon question. We view the operations of the Coupon Company with great disapproval; we think they embody in their working the elements of black-mailing and boycotting.

3953. Have you used the coupons yourself?—I did for a short time.

3954. Did they increase the volume of your business?—A few customers came in, evidently from other chemists—they were strangers to me.

3955. Did it increase your cash in relation to your credit business?—No, except as far as strangers coming in casually went.

3956. How long did you try them?—Three months. I was dissatisfied the moment I signed, and asked to be released. I sent down to the head office and said it would not suit my business, and begged that they would not accept my name, but they wrote up and said it was too late. I saw the manager in Ballarat, and he said—"If you are aggrieved we will endorse the agreement for three months instead of twelve months."

3957. How many coupons did you get through?—I think about 30s. worth. I gave them only to people who asked for them, and refused them where I was in a position to do so—that is, on patent medicines and a few lines like that.

3958. Are there any chemists in Ballarat taking the coupons now?—No.

3959. Do they all agree with you?—Yes, every chemist in Ballarat signed the paper.

3960. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Did you not tell Mr. Edwards that the reason you desired to give up the coupons was that your brother chemists had threatened to black-ball you?—No, I never used any remark of that kind.

3961. Was it an expression similar in meaning—that they were going to regard you as an outsider—that you were going to be ostracized?—No; I think I said that, as I was partly wholesale as well as retail, if I took the coupons it would prejudice my business among the other chemists.

3962. Did not you tell Mr. Edwards that your brother chemists would be likely to give up doing business with you as a wholesale man if you did business with the coupons?—I said it would prejudice my trade.

3963. Did you ever give cash discounts at all?—Not to retail customers. I cannot say I never gave a cash discount if I were asked for it, but it is quite the exception.

3964. You do not see any objection to giving cash discounts if the retailer considers he is in a position to do so?—I do not see any objection to cash discount, as it has existed for many years on wholesale purchases, or even in paying an account, if the customer asks for it.

3965. Suppose a retailer were to offer to every cash customer a cash discount, would you consider that objectionable?—Yes; it is an innovation in the trade, and undesirable.

3966. If the man who gives it thinks it is not prejudicial to him, you still think it is not right because it may prejudice other people?—That is an abstract question.

3967. Supposing a man opened a chemist's shop next door to you, and advertised 5 per cent. cash discounts, would you consider that was improper on his part?—I should not like it, but I should think he had a right to do as he liked. I would not look upon it with favour.

3968. What is your average gross profit?—Inclusive of patent medicines, it comes to between 8s. and 9s. in the pound profit. Out of that you have to pay all your expenses.

3969. There is not a large profit on patent medicines?—No; very small.

3970. What would it be on ordinary drugs?—I dare say you might get 100 per cent. on some lines, but perhaps on the next line you would only get 5 per cent.

3971. Would it be 100 per cent. all round on drugs?—No.

3972. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—In chemicals there is considerable depreciation that you have to provide for?—Sometimes.

3973. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—When you make up such things as pills you charge for the trouble and skill in making them?—Yes. One half-crown prescription might give 1s. 6d. profit, and another might only give 6d.

The witness withdrew.

Robert Harris, examined.

3974. *By Mr. Deakin.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business in Ballarat; I have had eight years' experience.

3975. Do you give coupons?—Yes. I took them on about twelve months ago, and ran them for three months. Then I moved my premises, and I have given them for the last two months.

3976. Have they increased the volume of your business?—No.

3977. Have they increased the cash trade as compared with the credit trade?—It is just about the same.

3978. Do you agree with the evidence that has been given about the class of purchaser who takes the coupons?—Yes.

3979. Have you taken the coupons because you approved of the system or because you were obliged to?—Because my neighbours took them.

3980. Have you heard any complaints as to the value of the goods given by the company?—Yes, one neighbour of mine has a pickle jar valued at about 7s., which cost half a book.

3981. *By Mr. Coldham.*—I believe you took 1,000 coupons about twelve months ago?—Yes.

3982. You used those up in ten months, at the rate of 100 per month?—Yes.

3983. You did not expect that to have a great effect on your business?—I did not believe in them from the commencement, and I did not force them.

3984. How far is your new place of business from the old place?—About a mile.

3985. You have to rely upon a new set of customers now?—Yes.

3986. Have you been trying to work up the business there?—The business was worked up before I got there; I took over another business.

3987. Has the business fallen off since you took it up?—No, it is just the same.

3988. You are not forcing the coupons, or endeavouring to improve your business?—I am not forcing them, but I am getting through quite enough of them.

3989. You have had 2,000 in two months?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven o'clock.

TUESDAY, 21st NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present:

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair;	
The Hon. T. Comrie, The Hon. J. M. Davies, The Hon. G. Godfrey, The Hon. D. Ham,	The Hon. W. Knox, The Hon. D. Melville, The Hon. A. O. Sachse.

Bernard Trahair, examined.

3990. *By Mr. Deakin.*—What are you?—A draper, carrying on business in Brunswick. I have had nine years' experience in Brunswick, and about nine years' in the old country.

3991. When did you first make the acquaintance of the coupon system?—About fifteen months ago the representative called and said he represented the Coupon Company, and asked me if I would like to take the thing up. I did not understand it at the time, so he explained it and said it was a good thing; that I would get a considerable amount more in cash customers, and that it would not cost very much. When I asked him he said what it would cost. I thought over the thing and said—"I think it is not worth taking up, as I do a cash trade; I do not do any booking whatever, and I do not think the system would be any benefit to me." I said—"What does it run into?" and he said it would cost about 25s. per 1,000, or something like that, for the coupons. I knew I would have to give one to every customer, so I told him there and then I did not think I would take them up, and he went away. About a couple of months afterwards he came in again and said—"Are you going to take up those coupons?" I said—"You were here some time ago about them; I will not take them; I think they cost too much." He said—"You will be sorry for it. If you do not take them I will get somebody else to take them, and when you want them you will not be able to get them." When I told him what it would cost me, and when I said—"Where am I going to get a return; how am I going to make up for what they cost me?" he said—"You will find you will get customers from other people; they will have the coupons, and, instead of going to where they have been usually going, they will come to you because you have got the coupons." I said—"No, thanks," so he went away. Some days after he called at our other shop, 500 or 600 yards higher up, and he pressed the coupons very much on my father, who manages that branch, and he was very strong about it. In the evening my father told me the agent had been up pressing the coupons very hard, but he would not take them. I find my business has gone back about $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. I am one of those barred by a man in Brunswick who gives the coupons; his business has gone up about 50 per cent., so the trade I have lost has gone to him, and I have no remedy. I get customers in, and they say—"Do you give coupons?" I say "No," and out they go; they do not wait to see if I give good value. The other day I was serving a customer that I have known for eight or nine years; after she bought a couple of things she said—"Do you give coupons?" I said "No." She said—"That will do, I will not buy anything more; I must go where I can get coupons."

3992. How far is this competitor, who gives the coupons, from you?—About eight shops away. They offered to confine the coupons to me if I would take them in the first place; no one in the district should have them—how far that district would extend I could not say. At that time they were pushing the coupons; they had not "caught on" as they have now. At present they give them to anybody, with the agreement of blocking so many.

3993. Have you applied for them since?—No; Mr. Wallis, who has them out there, blocked me; there are only three drapers left—Mr. Mankey, Mr. Straw, and Mr. Hutchinson—besides Mr. Wallis and myself. Mr. Mankey has the coupons; he is in the next block, a good way further down, and there are only three of us left, so Mr. Wallis must have blocked me.

3994. Is that the whole of your experience?—I have fourteen hands in the shop, and they tell me they are asked for coupons, and the customers say—"Well, I shall not come here again if you cannot give coupons"; one woman said—"Oh, bad luck to you that you do not keep coupons."

3995. Do you find any of the customers who have left you for coupons coming back?—No. At first we found a lot more ask than we do now; they know now, and they do not ask us. I know a good many people in Brunswick; I have been there for about eleven years, and customers that I am on fair terms with, say to me in a kindly sort of way—"I am sorry you do not give the coupons; I would have come to you if you had them." I say—"I have not got them."

3996. You are of opinion that your neighbours who do not have the coupons have suffered?—I have not asked them, but I should say that if one man's trade has gone up 50 per cent. the others must have suffered.

3997. Does he say so?—That is the evidence he gave here; that is Mr. Wallis.

3998. Will your business stand a levy like the cost of those coupons?—It would stand it, provided I got a fair return of extra business. If I gave coupons with the same amount of trade that I have now, I would have to stick the price on; it would have to come from somewhere. I reckon that the coupons would cost me £7 or £8 a week, and where am I to get that from? I must get it out of the public unless I can do about from 40 per cent. to 60 per cent. more business; it would not pay me unless I did that.

3999. You would have to do a sufficient amount of business, not only to pay for the coupons on the additional business, but to pay for the coupons on the old business?—Yes.

4000. *By Mr. Walker.*—You never tried those coupons?—No.

4001. How near to your place is the nearest draper with coupons?—About eight doors away; that is Mr. Wallis.

4002. According to the evidence, he has been taking coupons for about two months?—I think the first day he started coupons was about the beginning of September.

4003. What other draper near you has had coupons?—Mr. Mankey is the next one; he is about double as far away as Mr. Wallis, perhaps 150 yards away.

4004. How long has he been taking coupons?—I do not know. I told him when Mr. Wallis was getting the coupons, and he said—"I will have to have them." He took them not more than a week after Mr. Wallis.

4005. Was there any other draper taking them prior to Mr. Wallis?—I think some one called Adams was giving coupons in Brunswick and Coburg; he is a good way away—I would not look upon him as a rival in trade.
4006. According to your evidence there was no competition as far as the coupons are concerned, until the last two months?—I should say from two to three months.
4007. Since then you have lost $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of your business?—Yes.
4008. You, like other drapers, put goods in your window at a low price to catch the public?—I do not know that we do—we sell the stuff as cheaply as we can.
4009. Do you put articles in your window with the price marked upon them?—Yes, I do not know a draper that would not.
4010. Are not those bargains?—No. I never dress the windows myself; I have not time.
4011. Do you put bargains in the window?—No, I put ordinary things, that I think are wanted by the public, in the window and mark them a fair price.
4012. You do not cut down sufficient merely to pay your expenses?—Not in the window. I put a cut line occasionally at the door—we all do that.
4013. You do put things at the door at cut prices?—One or two lines now and again—I do not dress the door myself—my employés do it.
4014. You direct them to put some cut lines there?—I tell them occasionally what to put out.
4015. They are cut lines?—I would not say that—they are stuff that is very good value—I do not sell anything for less than it costs me.
4016. Suppose your next door neighbour gave 5 per cent. discount in cash for every £1 that was spent in his shop, would you object to that?—If a man liked to give 25 per cent. discount I could not object.
4017. Is it a fair thing?—I think if he took off 5 per cent. he would have to make it up in some way. If you are doing a good business you cannot take off 5 per cent.
4018. Suppose he found he could, and did do it, would it be fair?—If he could do it he must be making a very good profit, and if he could afford to do it he could please himself.
4019. Would there be any difference in giving cash or coupons?—The public want the coupons.
4020. Suppose he gave his own coupons?—They will not have the Cash Trading Discount Company's coupons, it must be these coupons. I have an acquaintance a few doors away from me who is a butcher; he was telling me that his trade was going down; I said—"Can you not get any other coupons?" he said—"I tried the Cash Trading Company's coupons, and they will not look at them at all—it must be those green ones, because they get them at the other shops where they deal, and they will not take others," so they left him altogether pretty well. The people will not have the Cash Trading Discount Company's. There are customers I have known for years; one came in the other Saturday night and bought a suit of clothes which came to about 17s. 6d., she said—"Do you keep coupons?" I said—"No"; she is a woman that I know well, and who has been dealing with me for years; I said—"I will knock 1s. off the suit for you, but I cannot give you coupons, because I cannot get them." That woman was not pleased with that amount of discount, she must have the coupons. It is an unfair competition that one man should have the coupons while I cannot get them even if I want to give them. I could get a few extra customers if I put a notice in the window "Coupons bought and coupons given," but I do not think I could get enough coupons to guarantee what I had put up, and then I should be in a worse hole than if I had not put it up at all.
4021. What company is this Cash Discount Trading Company?—I do not know who they are.
4022. Do they go out your way?—This butcher told me he tried their coupons, and the people would not look at them.
4023. How were they redeemed?—I cannot say—I do not understand their system at all.
4024. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—Have you been in business in America?—No.
4025. You do not know anything about the Cash Trading Discount Company?—No. The only reason I brought that up was when this butcher told me his trade had gone down so much, I said—"Why not get some other coupons?" and he said—"I have tried the Cash Trading coupons and they will not take them."
4026. Did he try to buy the Co-operative coupons?—I do not know, I never tried.
4027. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—You do simply a cash business?—Yes, only cash.
4028. Did you ever do a credit business?—It would not average 2s. 6d. a day.
4029. Do you give a discount for cash?—No.
4030. Why?—Nobody else does. If I gave a discount for cash I should have to charge a little more for the stuff—the thing would be just as broad as it is long. When a customer comes in and buys 3s. or 4s. worth of goods the discount would not be worth taking up.
4031. Could you not enter it to his credit, and at a certain time allow him so much discount?—No, I never give any discount whatever. If anybody saw a line that was 6d. a yard, and took a dozen yards, we would charge him perhaps 5s. 6d., but if he buys a single yard we would not give anything off that.
4032. Do you lay down the position that your profits are so small that you cannot afford a discount?—I will not say they are so small as that, but if I have to give so much for the coupons I shall have to put it on. I cannot afford to give them away for nothing—it must come out of something. If I give the value of £7 a week in coupons, where is it coming from if I only make a fair living now?
4033. You would say that the coupons come out of the profits?—I should say they must unless I can carry away some one else's trade.
4034. Then those people who give coupons must be making less profit than you?—I do not know what profit they make, but they must be carrying away the business unfairly.
4035. Are they making less profit than you?—I do not think so.
4036. Are they selling at a less price?—I cannot say. I do not go in and ask them what they are selling at. I know one or two lines they have marked goods at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or so more than we sell them at, but I do not know all the lines. I do not go round to see what my rivals sell their stuff for. I get stuff in from the old country, and I mark it what I reckon it is worth my while to do business in it at, and if I

have to give 5 per cent. discount in coupons I should put it on the stuff. I could do it easily without the public knowing it. If I am selling calico at 5s. a dozen I could put it up 6d., and nine people out of ten would not know the difference.

4037. Is it not the practice of your trade to put a certain percentage on the goods bought from the wholesale dealers?—Yes, I also get discount myself.

4038. You add on a certain fixed percentage on all goods alike?—When we get goods in we reckon we must make so much on them to pay, and the chances are that before the season is half over the public will not have the stuff; it is out of fashion. We might make three times as much on one article as on another, simply because we might not sell half of it before the season is over.

4039. You do not put an arbitrary profit on the goods?—No, we have an average amount to make.

4040. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—The Co-operative coupons are very popular?—It seems so.

4041. Your objection is that you cannot get them also?—Yes.

4042. You think it is a monopoly?—Most decidedly. I am in business here and I have a stock. I go to the Lane and buy the stock to sell; people come into me, and because I cannot give them a coupon they will not buy the stuff from me—that is what I call a monopoly, when the man next door has the coupons it is not legitimate trading, letting alone the middleman—it is the regular middleman business.

4043. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—The goods are marked in plain figures in your shop?—Yes.

4044. Have the employés a right to take 1s. or 6d. off an article if they think fit, instead of giving a discount?—Not exactly that—if a person buys a quantity we will always do it a little cheaper. If a person wanted a yard at 6d., 6d. is the price, but if he would buy three dozen yards we might charge him 5s. 6d. or 5s. 9d. a dozen; we have always done that in business, ever since I have been in business, both in the old country and out here.

4045. You mentioned a case where you sold a suit of clothes for 17s. 6d., did the party take the suit in that case?—She did, and I gave her 1s. off. I would not have done that to a customer I did not know, but knowing this customer so well I did not want to disappoint her as she had been coming for so many years, but I told her if she came again I should not be able to do it unless I put the 1s. on.

4046. That would be over 5 per cent.?—Yes, but they do not appreciate that in the slightest. What they want is the coupon—if you give them the coupon they do not seem to look at the value of the stuff.

The witness withdrew.

Christopher Costello, examined.

4047. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A grocer, carrying on business at 173 Brunswick-street, Fitzroy.

4048. *By Mr. Deakin.*—When did you first become acquainted with the coupons?—About thirteen or fourteen months ago.

4049. You took over a business in which the coupons were in use?—Yes, it was about that time.

4050. You continued to take the coupons?—Yes, I have continued to do so ever since.

4051. What benefit have you found from keeping the coupons?—I do not think we have derived any benefit at all from them, still we would hesitate about giving them up, fearing they would be given into some one else's hands near us, and we would not be able to retain the amount of trade we are doing at present. I believe if the coupons were abolished we would do as much business, and that there is room for more trade than we are doing at present, without the additional burden of the amount we pay the Coupon Company.

4052. What number of coupons do you get through in a week?—Latterly about 2,000 a week.

4053. Are those distributed over all your customers?—They are.

4054. Do all the customers ask for them?—Very nearly all of them.

4055. You do not give them unless they are asked for?—We do, because we imagine they expect them; we give them to all our customers.

4056. Do you do a credit business?—No, no credit business at all.

4057. You regard the coupons as a protection against others who are using them, more than as a benefit?—Yes, we do not consider them a benefit; we consider them a bargain. We consider we are under an obligation to take them for fear we would lose the trade we are doing at present.

4058. Do you give them on all lines?—Yes.

4059. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How far from you is the next grocer who gets coupons?—There are two grocers within 200 yards of me, I should say, who give coupons. One of those, I understand, buys them from the public and distributes them in that way; the other, I understand, is supplied by the company.

4060. I am instructed there are two grocers within about 50 yards of you who give coupons, is that correct?—Mr. Moore is the nearest one, and Mr. Muir is the furthest.

4061. I believe you complained that the company gave their coupons to a gentleman who is now getting them from the company?—That is so; that is Mr. Muir.

4062. How long ago is that?—It may be three months ago.

4063. Were you satisfied up to then?—No, I was not. I was not satisfied with the obligation at any time.

4064. You say that you are giving 2,000 coupons a week latterly; how many were you giving three months ago?—Something less, perhaps about 1,000 or 1,500 a week—I would not be certain, but at that time we were giving them on very few articles—we singled out several articles on which we gave no coupons.

4065. As long as there was no competition you did not give the public the full benefit of the coupon system?—That is so.

4066. And now under competition you have to give the public the full benefit of it—is that your cause of complaint?—I complain because I am forced to keep coupons.

4067. The cause of complaint that has arisen since Mr. Muir got them is, that you have to give coupons on all purchases, whereas you did not do so before?—I am not making any special complaint because I have to give them on every article. I complain because I had to give them on any at the commencement.

4068. You did complain when Mr. Muir got them?—We understood that no one else in the street was to have them but ourselves—that was the reason we complained.

4069. The company told you they had never made any such agreement with you?—That was so.

4070. You say this has not increased your business?—I do.

4071. You took the coupons up about twelve months ago?—A little over.

4072. You had a certain business then—how does your present cash business compare with that in percentage—if you were doing £100 then, how much are you doing now?—Since we took the business over it has not increased 10 per cent.

4073. How much had it increased up to the time Mr. Moore took the coupons?—It has remained about the same. We have noticed no shrinkage since he took them; it always fluctuates a little.

4074. You cannot give any indication except that you have had an increase of about 10 per cent. in your total cash turnover?—That is so. I would expect that 10 per cent. increase to have come without any coupons at all, from the business that I know has been done in the shop before my time. I know more business has been done in the shop before me than I have done since.

4075. You do not attribute the 10 per cent. increase to the coupon system?—No.

4076. You are getting no advantage from the coupon system?—That is so.

4077. You would not object to others who think they get a commensurate advantage adopting the system?—I would.

4078. You say that you think there would be more trade done if the coupons were abolished altogether?—I said I believed there was room for more.

4079. Would more money be spent by the public in the purchase of groceries if the coupons were done away with?—I mean in our shop, not the general volume of trade. I said there is room for more trade.

4080. What do you mean by room for more?—I mean that a greater trade than we are doing ought to be done, taking into consideration the population of the neighbourhood; but that does not come about in a day. In another neighbourhood I have been in we found that after five years' working in the shop the trade was very much increased, very much more so after four years' working than it was after one year's working.

4081. Do you mean to say there would be more general trade in the neighbourhood if the coupon system were done away with, or that you would get more trade yourself which your rivals are now getting?—Yes.

4082. If the Legislature compelled your rivals to give up using coupons you might get some of the trade that they now get; that is what it comes to?—Yes, that is about it.

4083. Therefore you are very desirous to have the coupons done away with?—I do not think it was intended in that light.

4084. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—I suppose you mean that you expect to get more business whether the coupons are done away with or not?—Yes, that is so.

4085. Is that on account of your own efforts that you will be able to satisfy the customers?—Yes.

4086. This shop was giving coupons before you went there?—Yes.

4087. You cannot tell how much business it had got through giving coupons at the time you started?—No, I cannot; the only thing I can tell is that it has increased about 10 per cent.

4088. You have been able to hold what you took over under the coupon system, and in addition have increased the business by 10 per cent.?—Yes.

4089. You think you would have increased it to that extent if there had been no coupons in existence at all?—Yes, I do.

4090. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Do you give coupons on all goods?—Yes.

4091. On kerosene and sugar?—Yes.

4092. Is it a fact that no profit is made on kerosene?—It all depends upon how you buy it.

4093. Do you charge the same price as other people for kerosene?—I charge the same price as my neighbours—it is sold at different prices in different parts of the city.

4094. We had evidence that no profit is made on kerosene, what do you say to that?—I should say that rests with the buyer. You will not find more than half-a-dozen men in Melbourne who pay the same price for kerosene.

4095. Is there any difference in the quality of the kerosene?—No, not at present. It is all 150-test. I believe there is no other in consumption at present.

4096. Where is the profit made if it is all bought in the open market?—It is not bought in the open market.

4097. Is it not quoted regularly in the papers?—Yes, but some men buy at different times and at different prices, and it is convenient for different men to make sales at different times—it is bought and kept. If a man orders kerosene he may pay possibly more than the man who has busied himself about the price and quotations.

4098. Can you sell kerosene and sugar, give coupons, and make a profit?—There is a fraction of profit on both articles at present.

4099. Even if you give coupons?—Yes, but not sufficient to live on.

4100. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Did your predecessor give any cash discount in the trade before he took the coupons?—No, it is not the usual thing. It is unknown in the retail trade to give cash discount; the public do not expect it. It is only when we put up a notice that we will give a certain thing that they look to us for it, and insist upon getting it.

4101. In fact you do not like the coupons?—No.

4102. You would like to be left to your own efforts to develop your business?—Yes.

4103. You are satisfied that if you had not these things you would be able to bring up your business to a good position?—Yes.

4104. If the Bill does not pass will you go on supplying coupons?—Yes.

4105. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—What agreement have you with the Coupon Company?—My predecessor made the agreement and I inherit it.

4106. How long does it last?—I am not sure. I have come to regard the agreement as being utterly useless.

4107. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—Why do you consider the coupons a burden?—Because I believe I would do as much trade without them as I am doing now, and I am compelled out of the profit I am earning at present to pay so much a week to the Coupon Company.

4108. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—Brunswick-street is looking up now?—Yes, it is about one of the best streets there is at present. My objection to the coupons is that it is a necessity to have them; if they were taken from me and given to some one else it would take me all my time to retain the trade I am doing now. It is the bondage of being compelled to have them that I complain of.

4109. Is yours a cutting shop?—No.

4110. Then you can afford to give 5 per cent. in coupons and still have a profit?—Yes, but it is a very difficult matter to live—it is a bare living, and you require to work very long hours and pay small wages.

4111. Do you have to sweat your employés?—We have to employ boys, where no doubt if the coupons were abolished we could employ men.

4112. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Do you know this gentleman, Mr. Pickersgill?—I think I have seen him before.

4113. Have you expressed yourself satisfied with the system to him half-a-dozen times—will you contradict him if he says you have?—I will.

The witness withdrew.

Daniel Buchanan, examined.

4114. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—Shop superintendent for the Exhibition Boot Company at 20 Brunswick-street, Fitzroy—that is the factory.

4115. *By Mr. Deakin.*—You have a number of shops, I believe?—Fifteen.

4116. Do you give coupons?—No.

4117. Do your competitors give coupons?—Some of them.

4118. Have you acquainted yourself with the working of the system?—Yes; in fact we were offered the coupons some fifteen months ago.

4119. And you did not accept them?—No.

4120. What were the inducements offered you to accept?—We were told our business would be increased if we gave the coupons.

4121. Were you to have a special area?—Yes.

4122. What area were you to have?—For all our shops if we desired it.

4123. It was represented that an increased volume of cash trade would result by taking these coupons?—Yes.

4124. Do you do any credit trade?—No, only cash; our shops are carried on by managers, and they are not allowed to give any credit whatever.

4125. You use these shops to dispose of the boots you make in your own factory?—That is so.

4126. What is your opinion of the Coupon Company?—We find that the system is interfering with our business; it has decreased our takings in several shops, and our managers complain because they are losers of commission; their commission is not so great when their takings go down.

4127. Do they attribute the decline in business to the use of the coupons by your competitors?—Yes.

4128. Does that decline result in every case where the coupons are issued in the neighbourhood?—Yes. In Ballarat we have no competition with the coupons. I think only two little shops take them, but in the suburban shops there is a difference.

4129. What is your objection to the system?—We do not think it is fair.

4130. What is the element of unfairness in it?—It gives one trader an advantage over another.

4131. If you want to get the coupons now you cannot do so?—We cannot, as far as I know.

4132. Have you ever proposed to take them?—No, we do not want them; we do not consider the margin of profit is large enough to enable us to use the coupons. We sell for cash and manufacture our own boots, and the margin of profit will not allow it.

4133. Do you allow any discount to your customers?—No.

4134. You cut your prices so fine that the extra $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or 5 per cent. could not be borne?—No, not at present.

4135. If every one else gave the coupons, would you not be obliged to give them?—We would have to try something if everybody else gave them.

4136. Is the decrease in your business in any particular class of goods, or is it general?—It is pretty general.

4137. Do you only sell the boots that you make yourselves?—No, we import a good many boots; infants' boots cannot be made here.

4138. But you only sell your own boots of the kind you can make?—That is right.

4139. *By Mr. Coldham.*—What is your position in connexion with this Exhibition Boot Company?—I am superintendent of shops; I travel round all the time, take the stocks, and look after the business.

4140. Then you hear the complaints and statements of the various managers?—I do.

4141. It is only from hearsay that you know the results or alleged results of the coupon system?—No, I have got experience myself; I serve in the shops pretty regularly when the managers are sick.

4142. How often do you serve in any particular shop on the average?—Once in a week, and sometimes oftener.

4143. How often do you make your round?—I take a certain number of shops every day.

4144. How long does it take you to go round the shops?—The country shops I only visit about once in three months, but some of the suburban shops I visit every day and the others three or four times a week.

4145. Then you are pretty busy looking into things?—Yes, pretty busy.

4146. Can you give the gross percentage of profits on your sales?—We reckon it at 25 per cent.

4147. And the net profit?—I do not think I am called upon to answer that.

4148. The boot trade is one that suffers greatly from over-production?—Yes, I believe it does—I do not know for a fact.

4149. Do you believe in giving cash discounts at all?—Not in connexion with our business; that is, in our particular shops.

4150. You have no objection to people who think they can afford to give cash discounts doing so?—We cannot object if they think proper to do it.

4151. You would object if you could?—We are trying to now.

4152. You recognise that these coupons are simply another form of cash discounts?—We do not consider it a fair system.

4153. But you recognise that it is merely another form of cash discounts?—No, I do not think so. I would try to stop the coupons; but cash discount is another thing.

4154. Do you object to your rivals in trade giving cash discounts?—No, we cannot object.

4155. Would you do so if you could?—No.

4156. If a person made such profits that he considered he could afford to give his customers 5 per cent. cash discount, you would consider that fair and legitimate?—It would be fair to the customers.

4157. Would you consider it fair trading towards you?—No.

4158. You would like to have other men prevented from giving cash discounts because it would cut into your business?—If a man gave cash discounts he would require to charge more for his goods.

4159. If a man gave 5 per cent. discount near one of your shops it would cut into your business?—Very likely.

4160. Then you would have a cause of complaint against him for cutting into your business?—No, I do not think so.

4161. Would it not give one trader an advantage over another?—Yes, it would. This coupon system does do that.

4162. You admit that cash discounts give the trader who gives them an advantage over another who does not give them?—Certainly.

4163. By attracting the business to himself?—Yes.

4164. Supposing the man who gave these coupons redeemed them at their face value if they were brought back to his shop, would you still object to them?—I do not know that I would.

4165. Your real objection then is that the public, when they get 12s. 6d. worth of coupons, are not able to obtain the full face value for them?—I know they are not.

4166. Is that your only objection?—It is not the principal one, it is one of the objections.

4167. You would have no objection to the system if the public could get the face value for the coupons in silver or gold?—No.

4168. What do you mean by saying you have an objection to giving cash discounts if you have no objection to giving coupons redeemable in cash?—The people cannot afford to give it.

4169. It is only from the public point of view that you object to it?—Yes, I object to it, both on behalf of the traders and the buyers.

4170. Do you mean that you did not know what you were saying when you reiterated that it was only from a public point of view that you objected?—Yes.

4171. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—I understood you to say that the fact that these coupons were not redeemable in cash was one of your objections, but not the principal objection?—That is right.

4172. What is the principal objection?—The principal objection is that it interferes with our business.

4173. You mean your own personal business?—Yes, and the company I represent.

4174. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—Have you any idea how many customers you have altogether?—I could not say; our turnover is about £40,000 per annum.

4175. Do you come in touch with your customers?—Yes, all of them.

4176. From your knowledge you consider there is a difference between the coupons and a cash discount?—Yes.

4177. The servants and children may receive and use the coupons, but they would have to account for a cash discount?—Yes.

4178. Practically there would appear to be less moral responsibility with the coupons than with the cash—if a servant came to you and bought an article, she might feel that she might retain the coupons, whereas she would feel bound to account to her master or mistress for the cash?—That is so.

4179. It has a bad moral effect?—Yes, that is one of our objections. It is a great temptation to little boys; they collect coupons and sell them to the grocers, and buy cigarettes; their mothers do not know anything about it.

The witness withdrew.

Frederick William McDonald, examined.

4180. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A master baker, and secretary of the Master Bakers' Association of Melbourne and suburbs. I carry on business in Hawthorn.

4181. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Are you a baker yourself?—Yes.

4182. And you occupy a representative position in connexion with the association?—Yes.

4183. Has this coupon system ever been brought under your personal attention as a baker working in your own interests?—No.

4184. How did you first become acquainted with the system?—At first only from outside hearsay, and afterwards (I think it was about last September) it was brought under the notice of our association by a communication from the Ballarat Grocers' Association. The matter was thoroughly discussed by our association, and a resolution was carried that the association should support Mr. McGregor's Bill, as we considered it was detrimental to the business; we understood he was going to bring in a Bill for the abolition of the coupons.

4185. Are you in a position to give the number of bakers in the metropolis who are issuing coupons?—I could not say from my own knowledge, I only know of two who issue them, and they are both members of our association; one is in favour of the system, and the other is against it; the one against it only issues a few to those who ask for them.

4186. When the question was discussed by your association was the case on behalf of the coupon system supported by any of your members?—Yes, by the one who was in favour of it; and well he might be. At that time bread was selling in the shops over the counter for 4d.; customers could not get a coupon unless they made a purchase to the value of 6d., and to make up the 6d. they would get a 4d. loaf and two buns—buns are usually sold in the trade at 6d. a dozen, so a loaf of bread and the two buns would be virtually 5d. worth for the 6d. and the coupon—that was very profitable for the baker, but not for the public.

4187. Was that the argument urged in support of the proposal?—Yes. I may also say that this baker had neighbours who lived alongside of him for years, and before he gave coupons his bread was not considered good enough to eat, but after he gave coupons it was.

4188. What was the decision of the association?—To use every means in its power to support Mr. McGregor's Bill.

4189. That is that they did not think the coupon system was advantageous to bakers?—Most decidedly.

4190. Did they consider it was any advantage to the public?—I do not think it was considered much from that point of view.

4191. Was the paying of 6d. for a loaf and two buns advantageous to the public?—No, but it was advantageous to the baker.

4192. Are the profits in the baking trade such as to admit of an extra impost of from 3½ per cent. to 5 per cent.?—Most emphatically—No. If the bakers were to give that they might just as well put up the shutters at once, unless they resort to illegal or sharp practices.

4193. Or unless they raise their prices?—I mean on their present prices.

4194. Is the baking trade a trade of long credit?—It is a credit trade as a rule.

4195. For what length of time is credit given?—It varies. It is mostly weekly and monthly. Of course you get some long credit customers.

4196. Do any large proportion of the customers go beyond the month?—A very small proportion, perhaps 10 per cent., roughly speaking; it differs in different localities. In the poorer neighbourhoods they do not get the chance. There it is mostly cash.

4197. And mostly a counter trade also?—Yes.

4198. Where it is weekly or monthly it is a delivery trade?—Always.

4199. Is competition keen in the trade?—It was never so keen as it is now, and I have had 25 years' experience in the trade.

4200. You have not a great variety of goods to sell in your business?—Many, like myself, only bake bread, but some make small goods.

4201. Even then only a small proportion of their goods consists of small goods?—Yes, bread is their stand-by.

4202. How are the prices of bread ruled—do the same prices obtain throughout the whole of the metropolis?—No, you can get bread from 3½d. to 6d.

4203. What causes that variation?—Various things.

4204. Is the bread of the same quality?—No, it could not be expected. Then there is the dodging of the Factory Act.

4205. Those who do not comply with the provisions of the Factory Act are able to sell more cheaply than those who do?—Yes, they are the greatest cutters.

4206. They do not pay 1s. an hour?—No.

4207. Do they dodge the sanitary part of the Act?—That does not make much difference.

4208. Where the 1s. an hour can be defeated the bread can be sold more cheaply?—Yes.

4209. That is a larger element in the low price of bread than anything else?—Yes.

4210. Is your association fairly representative of the whole of the trade?—I cannot say the whole of the trade, but the bulk of the trade; the largest portion of the trade is represented in our association—not numerically.

4211. You do not represent the prosperous bakers only?—No, we have all sorts.

4212. You have bakers from the artisan suburbs as well as from the wealthy suburbs?—Yes.

4213. And practically the condemnation is unanimous?—Yes.

4214. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How many members are there in your association?—About 40 or 50.

4215. And how many members of the council are there?—There are eight members of the committee.

4216. How many were present at this meeting when you passed this resolution?—About twenty.

4217. It was not a committee meeting?—No, a general meeting.

4218. Out of 40 or 50 members only twenty of the bakers of Melbourne turned up and passed this resolution?—It was only an ordinary meeting.

4219. Out of those who were present how many used the system?—Two said they did.

4220. Were they both present?—Yes.

4221. What was the name of the man who used the system, and said he found it useful because people bought a couple of buns that they did not want, at twice their value in order to get a coupon?—Mr. A. Crichton, of Kensington.

4222. He said that he liked the system because people bought stuff they did not want, to increase their purchases to the extent of 50 per cent. in order to obtain coupons?—No, you are putting words in my mouth.

4223. You said a person who bought a 4d. loaf would buy two buns in order to make the purchases up to 6d.?—Yes, but I did not say 50 per cent.

4224. He made that statement in public meeting?—Yes.

4225. From whom was that communication you got from Ballarat?—From Mr. Long, of the Ballarat Grocers' Association.

4226. How long after you received that communication did you pass the resolution?—I think it was passed at the same meeting at which the communication was read. The members had got the information outside previous to that.

4227. What was the date of the letter and the date of the resolution?—I could not give that now.
4228. How long prior to that had the communication been received by the person to whom it was addressed?—About a fortnight.
4229. Was it after the second reading of the Bill in the House?—No, previous to that; I think I attended at the House to see Mr. McGregor before the Bill was presented. I am almost sure of that.
4230. You are aware that there are two Bills, one in the Assembly and one in the Council?—Yes, but I believe Sir Frederick Sargood's Bill was brought in since I saw Mr. McGregor. I believe Mr. McGregor was to bring the Bill on on a Wednesday.
4231. Was it a fortnight or a month ago?—I think it is more than that. I think it must have been some time in September, as far as I can recollect.
4232. Have you had any communications since then from Ballarat?—No, none whatever.
4233. Where does the association meet?—In Parer's Café, in Bourke-street.
4234. Where are the records kept?—At my house.
4235. You say there is keen competition in the baking trade; has that been brought about by the coupon trade?—No, it existed previously.
4236. Do you object to cash discounts?—Most decidedly.
4237. Would you attempt to stop a baker who gave cash discounts?—If I could I would.
4238. Have you threatened to boycott men who desired to give discounts?—No.
4239. Has the association not threatened to boycott bakers who offered discount to their customers?—Not to my knowledge.
4240. How long have you been connected with the association?—About ten years. I have been secretary for six years.
4241. And you have never heard that threat made?—No.
4242. What is your objection to discounts?—There are several; the main objection is that when people give discounts they have to put the value on before they take it off, and a second objection is that it is virtually a fraud on account of their having to put the value on before they take it off. Those are the main reasons.
4243. That is—that a man who gives discount is fooling the public?—Yes, virtually so; that is my opinion.
4244. Do you get discounts on goods that you purchase?—No.
4245. Not on flour?—No, it is not worth troubling about.
4246. Suppose a man honestly says—"I can afford to give a discount"—do you object to his giving it?—Yes, most decidedly, for the reason I have stated already.
4247. I am speaking of a man who can honestly afford to give a discount to cash customers; do you object to his giving it?—Most decidedly.
4248. Do you make bad debts under the credit system?—Everybody does who gives credit.
4249. What is the percentage of bad debts?—I have never gone into it.
4250. In a cash bakery business the principal part of the business is done over the counter?—Yes, most of it.
4251. If the whole of a man's business was cash he would practically do away with bad debts, the cost of collecting, the interest on money, and the cost of delivery?—Yes; but that is where the "if" comes in.
4252. If a business is transferred from a credit into a cash business, those items would be matters of saving to the retailer?—Yes.
4253. If the retailer thought that by the use of the coupons he gained those advantages, would you say he did not understand his business, or that he was not stating the truth?—No, I would not; he would be bound to reduce his expenses if he could do that.
4254. You have no personal experience at all of the system?—No.
4255. The way it is at present carried on does not affect your business in any way?—Not at present.
4256. Are there no bakers in Hawthorn who give coupons?—Not to my knowledge.
4257. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Do you know whether it is the practice with some suburban bakers to charge the customers who pay cash less than the customers who book their accounts?—Sometimes they do.
4258. Is that practice pretty general?—Not general; they do not do it all round.
4259. Is it not the practice with many suburban bakers to charge different prices even to their credit customers?—Yes.
4260. When flour rises in price, even though a baker has a stock of flour on hand, he charges an increased price for bread?—Yes, if he can get it.
4261. If flour goes down and he has a large stock on hand, does he reduce his price to his customers unless he is asked?—He is compelled to do so.
4262. As a matter of fact, do not a great many bakers keep on the old price until the customers ask them to reduce it?—Yes.
4263. They will keep it up until they have worked out their stock?—Yes, if they can.
4264. Seeing that bakers do charge a less price for cash than when they give credit, would it not pay them to give coupons instead of charging a less price?—Not on the whole of the trade.
4265. Not even for a cash trade?—Not even on the whole of the cash trade.
4266. Is not the discount they give for cash much greater than 5 per cent; is it not $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on a 4-lb. loaf?—Yes, of course it is, but even then it is infinitesimal.
4267. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—You get no discount as a purchaser?—No, I am not in a position to get discount.
4268. It is usual in the trade, is it not. Do you not get 1 per cent. if you pay within 30 days?—No, it is less than 1 per cent.; it is about 2s. per ton whether flour is £14 per ton or £6.

Percy M. Scott, further examined.

4269. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What is the total number of coupons you have issued since the commencement of the company here?—[*The witness handed in a statement*].

4270. The coupons issued from August, 1898, to 31st October, 1899, number 19,516,616, of a total value of £23,542 17s. 8d.; is that at 25s. per 1,000?—Yes, less 4 per cent. discount.

4271. A portion of those coupons were sold for cash, and a portion on credit?—Yes.

4272. Is that the actual amount of cash received by you?—No, it is the actual amount of cash and credit.

4273. It is the amount of money you have received or will receive?—Yes, providing we make no bad debts.

4274. During the same time you have redeemed 8,183,850 coupons, the value of which, calculated in the same way at 25s. per 1,000, represents £10,231 17s. 4d.?—That is correct.

4275. Leaving you indebted to the public through the traders to the extent of £13,311 0s. 4d.?—That is so at the face value.

4276. You say you have redeemed £10,231 worth, was that amount redeemed in goods?—Yes.

4277. What was the cost value of the goods that you gave for these coupons?—I can only give the cost value of the goods redeemed up to June 30th, and that has already been submitted to the Committee privately.

4278. Do you object to give that information in public?—Yes. Had you said you were not prepared to accept the information in private it might have been a question for us to consider whether we would give the Committee any information at all, and I must insist that your original decision be adhered to, otherwise we will refuse to supply the information for the benefit of the public.

4279. I stated that the documents should be considered private pending the production of the balance-sheet which you would have to fill in in accordance with the Companies Statute. That has been strictly observed, but in the balance-sheet you have to file the information the Committee now seek would necessarily be disclosed?—The information you ask me to supply would not appear in the balance-sheet; the balance-sheet would not, under ordinary circumstances, give either the number of coupons issued or redeemed. A balance-sheet made out for our company would be confined to the cash received and the amount of business done, summarising generally the assets and liabilities of the company, and possibly the profit and loss account, but the number of coupons would not appear at all.

4280. In that balance-sheet you would commence with your stock in hand, and put down the amount of goods you have bought; and on the other side you would have to put down your sales in redeeming coupons?—Yes. The other day I said I would do what I could, and I wrote to Sydney about this balance-sheet. I have had certain replies, some of which have been produced here. The balance-sheet is in course of preparation, and will be produced for the information of this Committee, and be filed in the proper department in Victoria within a reasonable time; that is, as soon as the matter can be settled. It is simply a question between two departments in Sydney as to what basis is to be adopted as to the value of the coupons for the filing of this balance-sheet. This company is peculiarly situated, inasmuch as the system is entirely new. In ordinary balance-sheets the question has not arisen whether you would put in your liabilities at a certain amount or at another amount, but with the coupon system you must understand that when the coupons are sold the goods are practically sold.

4281. But you are prepared to submit either one of the balance-sheets?—I am.

4282. Then you can have no objection to submit both here?—No, and that will be done in private.

4283. But it is a public balance-sheet?—No, the public balance-sheet is the only one that has to be filed here. We are prepared to give the Committee all the information they desire.

4284. I am speaking of the balance-sheet that has to be filed here—you have prepared two balance-sheets, either of which you are prepared to have adopted, and the one that is adopted would have to be filed here, and would become public property?—I believe that would be the case.

4285. Then what is the harm in submitting both balance-sheets?—The harm is that if we file one balance-sheet I do not want another published.

4286. But you say you do not care which it is?—No, but I only want one balance-sheet published.

4287. In the meantime that balance-sheet is not forthcoming, and you refuse to supply the Committee with the information?—I do not refuse to give the Committee any information in private.

4288. A discussion took place as to what balance-sheet you had to file; you have handed in these papers which you considered as private, and they have been considered as private?—Yes, I had two balance-sheets sent on to me from Sydney, which are being submitted to the proper authorities in Sydney. The representatives of the company go to the Registrar-General, explain the system, and say—"When our coupons are sold the goods are practically sold, but we do not know what it will cost us to redeem the outstanding liability. Which balance-sheet will you have?"

4289. Are you in a position to state the number of coupons issued and redeemed in South Australia?—No, I can hand in the balance-sheets for the information of the Committee only, which will give the information about all the colonies.

4290. I cannot accept it as private information. I ask, are you in a position to give the number of coupons issued and redeemed in South Australia?—No.

4291. You have not got it in these balance-sheets?—Not the number of coupons—the balance-sheet I have already in my possession is for the three colonies combined, without distinguishing one colony from another—it is a summary of the whole three businesses.

4292. Can you give the total of the coupons issued in the three colonies?—Not without reference to the books.

4293. You do not know of your own knowledge that the number of coupons you have quoted has been issued in Victoria?—These figures are compiled from statements made by accountants—personally I do not guarantee them, but as manager of the company I say they are correct.

4294. Are you in a position to give the coupon issue in South Australia or New South Wales?—No.

4295. Are you able to give the profits on the goods sold by you in redemption of those coupons?—Only up to June 30th—that private statement you have before you is the only information I can give you up to that date.

4296. Are you prepared to have that information treated as public?—No.

4297. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—I understand the difference between these two balance-sheets to be that one treats the outstanding coupons as a liability of 25s. per 1,000, and the other treats the liability at 16s. per 1,000?—Yes, that is the only difference.

4298. Then what possible objection can there be to showing both, if there is no objection to showing either one when it has been accepted?—The only objection is that I cannot tell you which is the proper balance-sheet.

4299. Which balance-sheet do you consider the most favorable to the company?—The one treating the coupons as worth 16s. per 1,000.

4300. Then why not produce it; what harm can it do the company?—If I produce the balance-sheet treating the liability at 16s. per 1,000, that will be published, and in a week or a fortnight's time the balance-sheet showing the liability at 25s. per 1,000 may be published, and I do not wish to place the company in that position.

4301. What difference does it make when one on the face of it shows that you are treating the outstanding liability at 16s., which you say is the real liability, and the other shows the liability at 25s., which you say is the nominal liability?—It is not the difference it actually means to the company, it is what may be construed.

4302. Whether you treat the liabilities at 25s. or 16s. per 1,000, you must show what percentage of profit you have made on the goods that you have actually redeemed?—Up to June 30th, that has been submitted to the Committee.

4303. That will be public property in this balance-sheet will it not, whether you take the A or B balance-sheet; any one would be able to get from that what profits you have made in proportion to the number of coupons you have redeemed?—No, the balance-sheet will not give those particulars, inasmuch as the number of coupons issued and redeemed will not be stated. The number of coupons issued will be debited at a certain amount, and the value of the redemptions will also be shown at a certain amount, but the number of coupons will not be shown.

4304. *By Mr. Deakin.*—The liabilities will be shown?—Yes.

4305. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—That is, you will not tell in that balance-sheet how many coupons you have sold and redeemed, so that the public will not be able to judge how much profit you have made on the coupons you have sold and actually redeemed?—The public will be able to see what the result of our business for twelve months has been by the credit or debit balance, as the case may be.

4306. They can see how much profit you have made, but they will not see in respect of how much redemption that profit has been made?—No, they will see our position at the end of twelve months—that is what every balance-sheet shows. I do not know of any balance-sheet that shows the exact profit got on any goods throughout the year.

4307. These private balance-sheets do show that?—That is for the information of the Committee—we do not wish to keep back anything from the Committee.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow, at half-past Eleven o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present:

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair;

The Hon. J. M. Davies,
The Hon. T. Comrie,
The Hon. D. Melville,
The Hon. D. Ham,

The Hon. W. Knox,
The Hon. G. Godfrey,
The Hon. A. O. Sachse.

Charles Bethune, examined.

4308. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A draper, carrying on business in Johnston-street, Collingwood. I trade as the Don Cash Trading Company.

4309. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Is yours a cash trading company?—Yes.

4310. How many years' business experience have you had?—On my own account, nine years'.

4311. How long have you carried on business at your present place?—Nine years'.

4312. When did you first become aware of the coupon system?—I can only speak from memory, but I should say about two years ago, though I am not certain on the point.

4313. Was that before the present company was formed, when Mr. Thomas was alone in the business?—I think so.

4314. How did you become acquainted with the system?—I was waited upon by a gentleman representing the company, who put the scheme before me, and explained the advantages he thought would accrue to me if I took up the system. As I was doing an entirely cash trade I failed to see what advantages would come to me. He pointed out that if I took up the system he would give me the sole right within a certain radius of my place in our trade, and that the company would issue books advertising us as giving out these coupons, which would cause people to come to us in preference to others who did not keep them. The advantages from a cash point of view were nothing to me, as I already did a cash trade.

4315. Did he say what it would cost you to keep these coupons?—Yes; 25s. per 1,000. I worked it out at 5 per cent., but he explained to me it would not be anything like that, as we need only give coupons to those who asked for them. I thought that would create friction between myself and the customers; and I said if I did give them at all I would have to give them to everybody, and it would mean paying the company 5 per cent. of my takings, so I wanted to know what advantage I would get for that 5 per cent. He said there would be a large accession of business, it would really be the same as paying for advertising, but I thought I could advertise much more effectively for a great deal less money than it would cost me in that way, so I rejected them.

4316. Have you ever taken them?—Never.
4317. How are you affected by them?—As far as I know, I have not been affected at all, but I attribute that mainly to the fact that no representative draper in Collingwood has taken them up; there are several people in the neighbourhood who have taken them, small traders, notably the butter shop next door.
4318. Do you approve of the system?—I disapprove of it most strongly.
4319. On what grounds?—Because in the first place it is unfair competition; they have no right to limit those coupons to anybody. If the thing spreads it simply means that the whole of the people doing a cash trade will have to pay away 5 per cent. of their takings, and there will be no advantage to anybody; we would be paying away 5 per cent. for nothing.
4320. Is there pretty keen competition in your business?—Very.
4321. Can you see your way to pay 5 per cent. to your customers on your present prices?—Certainly not. I could not live if I allowed a discount of 5 per cent. on my present prices. My business could not exist. We do a cash trade, and sell as low as we possibly can, commensurate with paying our way.
4322. You do not allow any discounts?—No discounts of any kind, nor have we ever done so. We mark the goods at the lowest possible cash price. I do not clear anything like 5 per cent. net out of my business, and if I give 5 per cent. discount I must raise the price of my goods.
4323. You are taking the goods all round; some you make more than 5 per cent. on and others less?—Yes.
4324. If your business were ever so much increased, unless it happened to be increased only on the goods carrying the higher profit, even an increase in business would not be profitable to you?—Certainly not.
4325. There is no warrant that your new customers would buy only the goods carrying a higher profit than the average?—No, the argument is that we would be able to get higher prices, but that cuts in a way in which the public do not want it to cut. Some people say they are glad to shut their eyes to the actual prices of a good many articles for the sake of getting the coupons. A few customers whom I have interviewed in reference to these coupons seem to have an exaggerated idea of their value. One lady understood she was getting a discount through the coupons equal to 3s. in the pound.
4326. You think that generally the value of the coupons appears to be over-estimated by the customers?—Certainly.
4327. How far is the nearest draper from you who gives coupons?—About a quarter of a mile in the same street—it is a very small place, it is Mrs. Doherty's.
4328. She is not within practical competing distance?—She is in the same street, about five minutes' walk higher up, but we do not reckon her as a competitor—it is a smaller class of business.
4329. None of your other competitors have taken them?—No one of any note in our trade in Collingwood.
4330. If your other competitors did take these coupons what would you do?—If it were affecting my business I should be forced to do so too, and try and get the cost of them out of my customers in some way or other.
4331. Do you see any gain to the public by this system?—I cannot see how they can possibly gain—whatever discount we give or whatever concession they get they must pay for in some shape or form.
4332. It is merely returning them what they pay for?—Quite so.
4333. *By Mr. Coldham.*—How far is the City Drapery Establishment from you?—That is Mrs. Doherty's, it is within five minutes' walk.
4334. You say the value of the coupons seems to be over-estimated by customers, but you know nothing about it except from inquiries you have made for the purpose of giving evidence here?—I have never made any inquiries for the purpose of giving evidence here. I did not know until this morning I would be called.
4335. It is only from inquiries you have made, you know nothing about it from your own knowledge?—No.
4336. Why is it that you have reduced your prices to the lowest possible paying limits—is it with the object of attracting the custom of the public?—Certainly.
4337. You recognise that the public are keen judges of value?—Yes.
4338. In this instance of the coupons you think they have failed to get at their true value?—Yes.
4339. I suppose that is a matter that the public will quickly learn?—I could not say that; I would not like to answer for the public.
4340. You cater for the public?—Yes.
4341. And you cut lines to attract trade?—I sell as cheaply as I can, with the object of doing a large business.
4342. You endeavour, consistently with making a profit for yourself, to undersell your rivals?—I try to work my business as cheaply as possible, and to sell as cheaply as possible.
4343. With the object of attracting custom to yourself?—Yes.
4344. Attracting custom to yourself must necessarily attract custom from somebody else?—Yes.
4345. How many shops have the Don Company got?—Only one.
4346. You adopted the cash system because you recognised it had certain great advantages?—Yes.
4347. What are those advantages from your point of view?—In a cash business you know exactly what you are doing, you know when goods are sold that they are paid for; then you can work a cash business very much cheaper, because there are certain office expenses you are not put to; in running a credit business you have clerical assistance to pay for, and stationery and other expenses which do not come in under the cash system, so that you can afford to work on a smaller percentage.
4348. Have you had actual experience of credit business, either on your own account or acting on behalf of others?—No, most of my experience has been with cash business.
4349. You cannot say what would be the extra percentage of cost in a credit business?—No.
4350. Do you give anything in the way of discounts or inducements to anybody in your business?—No.

4351. You do not give your employés premiums or commissions?—We give the employés “spiffs” or commissions—an employé making the inquiry, “Is such a line tinged?” would mean “Is it premiumed?”

4352. Certain lines are flat, stale, and unprofitable, and you pay your employés to get rid of them if possible?—Yes, we premium goods that we wish to push.

4353. In the majority of cases is it not dead stock?—No, it may be that it is a little more profitable than other stuff, and on that account we wish it pushed.

4354. As far as your pocket is concerned there is no difference between your paying a premium to your employé and your paying it to the public?—There is this great difference, that we can regulate it.

4355. You pay it of your own free will to your employés?—Yes.

4356. And you would pay it of your own free will to the public?—Yes, unless it was in the nature of coupons, when we might feel we were forced to do it.

4357. It stands practically in relation to your pocket as a cash discount?—There is a great difference.

4358. But as far as your pocket is concerned it is the same?—No, because this premium is given only on a few articles in each department, whereas if you give a cash discount you have to give it on everything purchased for cash.

4359. But upon the articles on which you give it it is exactly the same as a cash discount as far as your pocket is concerned?—Yes.

4360. You do that so that the public may be induced not to take so much what they want as what you want to give them?—No, not altogether; it is to give special prominence to those goods—there are many good lines that would sell freely, and the public want; but simply because they are not pushed as they should be by certain salesmen, they do not see them and therefore do not get an opportunity of buying them.

4361. When the public want a special line do they not get a chance from the salesman of getting it; do you keep a man who will not supply the public with the things they are clamouring for?—No.

4362. The goods you premium are goods the public are not excited about, but which they ought to be excited about?—No; but there are plenty of good saleable lines which people will buy if they are shown to them.

4363. They are good saleable lines which will not sell without special efforts on the part of your employés?—There are many reasons for which we may “spiff” goods.

4364. Those are cash discounts as far as they go?—I do not look upon them in that light at all.

4365. What is your gross profit?—Something under 20 per cent.; it is nearly 20 per cent.

4366. What do you spend in advertising?—About $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as nearly as I can tell.

4367. Supposing that keeping the coupons was to take the place of advertising, that would take off $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of your expenses at once?—I do not think I could do with advertising by coupons only.

4368. Supposing people come here and say that since they have taken coupons they have given up other advertising—that would mean in your case a saving of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.?—If I could do without any other advertising and do with the coupons only it would be so, but I do not think that is possible.

4369. It has been said here that if you give coupons you must raise the price of the goods to a proportionate extent to the public; that would mean that when a person raised his prices the public, who are so keen in the matter of prices, would straightway discover that the man who gave coupons was charging more for his goods than the man who did not?—I would not like to say that. I think that in many cases by giving coupons it might be possible to squeeze a little extra price out of the public.

4370. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—Are the “spiffs” of equal value on each article?—No, if there is a line you want to clear out you may put a penny or a halfpenny a yard on it, according to how anxious you are to have it pushed, or to the rate of profit it is showing. In my case the “spiffs” amount to very little. I do not suppose they come to 50s. a week.

4371. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—When you say you do not clear 5 per cent. net profit is that after deducting an allowance for yourself?—Yes.

4372. Would it be 5 per cent. if you did not deduct that amount?—On my last balance-sheet, taking the money I drew on my own behalf, it would not amount to 5 per cent.

4373. Did any one representing the Coupon Company tell you that you might charge extra prices safely if you used these coupons?—No.

The witness withdrew.

John Hardie, examined.

4374. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A draper, carrying on business in Burwood-road, Hawthorn.

4375. *By Mr. Deakin.*—How many years’ experience have you had in business?—Eighteen years’ for myself—before that I was an assistant.

4376. How long have you been in your present shop?—Ten years.

4377. When did you first become acquainted with the coupon system?—A man called upon me about six or nine months ago on behalf of the company—that was about the first I had heard of it.

4378. What did he represent to you?—The advantages of the system from their point of view.

4379. The principal advantages were a cash trade, and an increase in the volume of trade?—So he said.

4380. Did he dwell on the saving in advertisements?—He may have done so, I cannot remember just now.

4381. What did he represent the cost of these advantages as likely to be to you?—I think he represented it as about $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or 3 per cent.

4382. Is yours a cash or a credit business?—Nearly wholly cash.

4383. How did he contend that those coupons would only cost you $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or 3 per cent.—what was to reduce them from the 5 per cent. which is their nominal cost?—I could not give you his arguments now, any further than that he did his best to induce me to take them, but I could not see the advantage of it—it was very early in the coupon question, and I did not take so much interest in it as I do at present.

4384. You have not taken them since?—Certainly not.

4385. What has led you to take more interest in them now?—The discussion in the newspapers, the talk I hear among other traders, and the fact that my neighbours have them.

4386. What neighbours in your own neighbourhood are distributing coupons?—There was a man named Daniel almost exactly opposite me who took them, but he is not there now—I am told he barred me from getting them.

4387. The system was not a success with him?—No. I believe three other drapers in Hawthorn are giving them—Messrs. Garnham, Heley, and Holder. Holder is pretty near to me, about 200 yards away.

4388. Has the distribution of coupons by those traders affected your business?—Not that I am aware of.

4389. Do you expect to feel the pinch in the future?—I do not think I will feel it much in Hawthorn; they are not the class of people there who go in for coupons.

4390. You are not in a position to say from your own knowledge what coupons are distributed by your neighbours?—I have not the slightest idea.

4391. Are there any men in your own business still closer to you than those who are now giving coupons?—No, they have come as close to me as they can.

4392. What is the ground of your objection to the system?—I decidedly object to the system. It is an unfair competition; it is another phase of sweating. If my neighbour can get an advantage over me that I cannot get that is unfair; it is not fair competition or equal competition.

4393. Do you give discount in your business?—No, not at all.

4394. Do you think the profits of your business would stand a discount of from 3 per cent. to 5 per cent.?—Certainly not.

4395. You would have to increase your prices?—We would have to get the money back in some way.

4396. Did any of your neighbours who now have the coupons give cash discounts before they took the coupons?—Not so far as I am aware.

4397. If they had given cash discounts would you have taken any objection to it?—I could not object to what they do.

4398. Then why do you object to their giving coupons if you do not object to their giving cash discounts?—A cash discount is a different thing; any one can give a cash discount; I can give it if I choose, but I cannot give coupons because I am barred, so I cannot meet my rival on the same terms.

4399. If your neighbour undercuts, you can also undercut?—Yes.

4400. If your neighbour advertises, you can do the same?—Yes.

4401. In the present competition you can meet your opponents with their own weapons, except as to the coupons?—Yes.

4402. Did you ever apply for the coupons?—No, I would not take them; I have never applied for them.

4403. If you found your trade was suffering from the coupons, what would you do?—I would do something else, and that is where the evil comes in, because I would have to give some other equivalent.

4404. Would you give the coupons?—Not exactly that, though I have no doubt, if the thing is a success, plenty of other societies will start, and those who want them will get them, so that the thing will be levelled down, and it will mean that the public will have to pay for them; the money will come from the public, not from the traders.

4405. The prices are cut as fine as they can be already?—Exactly.

4406. You heard what the previous witness said about his percentage of profit—that he did not reckon he made 5 per cent. profit?—No man makes more than that; he must do remarkably well if he does more than that.

4407. Your experience in Hawthorn does not differ much from his in Collingwood?—No, it ranges from 3 per cent. to 5 per cent.

4408. Does the same remark apply to “spiff”?—I do not give “spiffs.”

4409. Have you any other objection to the coupon system?—I say it is unfair, it is a boycott and another phase of sweating. If one man takes up coupons we have to do something to compete with him, and that is sweating us unless we take it out of the public.

4410. If you do not take it out of the public you must take it out of yourselves or out of your employés?—We cannot take it out of the employés, we have to stand the brunt of it ourselves; we can reduce expenses and do without hands perhaps, but you cannot always do that, and the trader would suffer, generally speaking. I do not say I have suffered yet, in fact, I am sure I have not.

4411. But the trader will pass his loss on to the public?—He will endeavour to do so, but it is a difficult matter to do that under the present competitive system.

4412. That is, if you give the coupons you are faced with the problem of having to get from 3 per cent. to 5 per cent. more out of your customers?—Yes, or else lose that amount.

4413. It would be got from the public in as unostentatious a way as possible?—Yes, in fact, I am sure it is taken out of the public from what I have heard. Men now go into the warehouse and endeavour to get a line of calico that they used to give 4½d. for, at a lower price, or else get an article of a shade less value, say ¼d. lower, and sell that to the public at 6d.

4414. One way or another the public must pay for it?—Yes, a cash discount is a very fair thing; but a discount where the trader gives 4½ per cent. or 5 per cent. while the public only gets 1 per cent. is a very different thing.

4415. The Coupon Company gets the large percentage?—Yes; they get 3 per cent. and the public get 1 per cent., and the trade pays the 4 per cent. The tradesman's difficulty then is to get that back; he endeavours to do the best he can, and to the best of his ability he will put it on the shoulders of the public. The Government are making strenuous exertions to suppress sweating, and this is simply another phase of it, and I think they are perfectly justified in taking action in the matter.

4416. You are a supporter of the Bill which proposes to abolish the system?—Certainly.

4417. Do you see any gain in the system to the public or the traders?—There may be a little gain at the start; one man in a locality may have these things while the others have not, so he may have a

temporary advantage, but the others are not going to stand by like a lot of sheep and see him scoop the pool; they will take other measures and endeavour to get the trade back.

4418. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You say if the cost to the trader is 4 per cent., the company gets 3 per cent. of that?—I think so.

4419. That would mean that in every £100 the company make a profit of £75?—Yes.

4420. Suppose for every £100 that they get into their coffers, they furnish goods that cost them £55?—I do not believe that they do.

4421. If they start by giving £55 worth of goods for coupons, for which they have got £96, that would not be consistent with your view?—No.

4422. Supposing in addition to that they advertise freely throughout the suburbs, that would be an additional expense which you have not allowed for at all?—That is their business; I do not know what it costs them.

4423. You say their business means a profit of £75 upon every £100—what basis have you for making that assertion?—What it costs them in advertising has to come out of the percentage—it may all go in advertising, or it may go into the promoters' pockets, but it goes—the public do not get it.

4424. The public get £55 worth of goods for the face value of their coupons?—So they say.

4425. You are not in a position to contradict them?—I have seen instances where I could contradict them.

4426. Supplied to you by whom?—By the public; some of them were my customers.

4427. Did they bring you the articles?—No.

4428. Have you ever seen any of the articles, and known what price was actually paid in coupons?—I have seen them in the windows.

4429. Do the company sell drapery?—I think not.

4430. Are you a judge of electro-plated ware by seeing it through the window?—I can tell "Brummy" stuff pretty well.

4431. Can you tell its value?—Yes.

4432. Have you purchased much of it?—I have seen a good deal of it.

4433. And you can judge its value through a shop window?—Yes, quite well enough.

4434. If you were purchasing the goods you would not form your opinion of their value by looking at them through the shop window?—Yes, you can tell pretty well, you cannot tell to a 6d.

4435. If you were going to spend your own money, would you form an estimate of the value of the goods by looking through the shop window—you are content to attempt to ruin the fortunes of this company by judging in that way?—Yes, I am quite content.

4436. You are quite prepared to give that evidence?—The company is prepared to snuff me out.

4437. They do not care for you—they have never done you any harm?—They have not yet, but they are prepared to do it.

4438. You do not anticipate that they ever will?—I do not say that, you cannot tell what is before you.

4439. You say you do not anticipate you will have any difficulty in keeping your business together?—I do not think I will.

4440. Your closest competitors in the street have taken advantage of the system?—Yes.

4441. How far is Bishop from you?—Holder is the nearest to me, I do not know whether Bishop takes them.

4442. Is Morrison near you?—Half-a-mile away in Lower Hawthorn.

4443. All those evils you speak of are the result of your imagination, and not of your experience?—It is the result of my reading the newspapers, and my general conversation with other people.

4444. As a matter of fact you know nothing of these matters yourself?—I cannot speak personally, because I have not got the coupons.

4445. If a man gives 5 per cent. discount you say that is perfectly legitimate?—Perfectly, if the man who is supposed to get it, does get it; he can give 10 per cent. if he chooses.

4446. That will not bring about sweating?—That is his own business.

4447. Do you say that, in your opinion, giving 5 per cent. cash discount would not bring about sweating?—That is an irrelevant question, the discount is a fair thing.

4448. Would you consider that giving 5 per cent. cash discount would bring about sweating?—It would in my case.

4449. Would you consider that a fair thing?—No.

4450. Then it would be unfair if you were to give 5 per cent. cash discount?—I would not think of doing it. You are speaking of improbabilities.

4451. Supposing the man next to you gave 5 per cent. cash discount, that would be perfectly fair on his part?—Yes, if he gave it in that way.

4452. Even though it might bring about those evils you have indicated?—If he gave 5 per cent. he would have to do something also; that is where the effect would come in.

4453. If the man next door gives 5 per cent. you consider that is perfectly fair?—Yes, if he gives the discount to the customer—that is, it is a fair thing if the giver of the discount gives it direct to the individual.

4454. Would it cause sweating if he gave 5 per cent. cash discount, and, if so, in what way?—If he gave 5 per cent. discount it would very likely induce people to go to him in preference to going to his neighbours who did not give it. His neighbour then would require either to do the same thing or lose the trade, and he would be sweated.

4455. The inducement offered to the public to go to the shop of the man who gave 5 per cent. would bring about sweating?—Something akin to it.

4456. And the giving of coupons would have the same effect?—Yes.

4457. As far as sweating is concerned, there is no difference between the coupon system and the cash discount?—Yes, the difference is this, that whereas 4 per cent. in a cash discount would go into the hands of the purchaser, in the case of the coupons the 4 per cent. is divided; the Coupon Company get 3 per cent. and the customer only gets 1 per cent.

4458. But as far as sweating is concerned there is no difference between the coupon system and the cash discount system?—No, and if the 4 per cent. or the 5 per cent. all went into the purse of the public it would be right enough, but these coupon people step in as middlemen and snap up the best part of it, so I think it is an unfair thing.

4459. The coupon people say—"We give the people something, and we give the trader something, whereas under the cash discount system the trader gets nothing for his expenditure"; do you appreciate the fact of that difference?—I do not see it.

4460. You say that if some people give coupons you must give an equivalent in order to keep the trade?—Yes, I would do so if my trade were going from me.

4461. I suppose there is no distinction from the retailer's point of view between a neighbour attracting custom by means of the coupons, or by means of a cash discount?—I should think the public would discern the difference.

4462. I am speaking of you, not of the public. The whole of your objection practically boils down to your public position as a guardian of the interests of the purchasers?—Hardly.

4463. You say this is a boycott or a monopoly?—Yes.

4464. There is nothing to prevent your issuing coupons if you want to?—Nothing at all.

4465. You say even if other companies were formed you would not give the coupons, because you cut prices so fine?—Not unless I was compelled to.

4466. That compulsion would be equally upon you whether coupons were given or a cash discount?—Yes.

4467. What is your gross profit?—Something under 20 per cent.; nearly 20 per cent.

4468. Is it necessary for you to keep a staff of bookkeepers?—No.

4469. Do you book any goods?—Very little.

4470. Do you have to collect accounts?—I do not collect much; they come and pay; they are good payers.

4471. Your net profit is about 5 per cent.?—Something like that; it is not over that.

4472. Can you give an idea of how much per cent. you spend in advertising?—Not more than 2 per cent.

4473. Do you sell for the same price to cash and credit customers?—Exactly the same.

4474. Do you make any allowance for bad debts?—I make very few bad debts; I make no allowance for them.

4475. In arriving at your net profit you make an allowance for your own services?—Yes.

4476. Do you make any allowance for the support of your wife and family?—Yes.

4477. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—I suppose your customers pay for the advertising?—I presume they do.

4478. They get nothing for it?—No, that is part of the expense of running the business.

4479. I understand that you are a judge of the value of the goods sold by the company?—Generally.

4480. What would be the cost of that article—[*handing a jam dish to the witness*] ?—I would not like to say.

4481. You have given evidence that the company sells goods at 300 per cent. profit; you gave that evidence from your own judgment of the value of the articles you saw in the shop windows?—Yes, but I decline to be trapped into putting a price on that article.

4482. What is your opinion?—I decline to give an opinion; I have no opinion about it.

4483. Then why did you say you could tell the value of the goods sold by this company?—I have explained that I know sufficiently for my own information.

4484. I want to know what, in your own mind, you would value the cost to the company of that jam dish at?—I would not value it at very much, but I decline to put a price upon it.

4485. Are you unable to answer?—Yes.

4486. Then you are not a judge of the value?—Perhaps I am not a keen judge.

4487. Are you a judge at all?—I am not able to value that as a valuer.

4488. Are you able to value it at all?—If I were buying it I would value it.

4489. What would you consider a fair retail price if you were buying it?—A couple of shillings; the wholesale price might be one shilling.

The witness withdrew.

Arthur L. Crichton, examined.

4490. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A baker, carrying on business in Rankin-road and Racecourse-road, Kensington.

4491. *By Mr. Coldham.*—I believe you are a councillor of the Flemington and Kensington Council?—Yes.

4492. You are also a member of the Bakers' Association?—Yes.

4493. What is that body?—It is a very old organization, it has been handed down for the last 40 years. It has developed lately owing to the Victorian Master Bakers' City and Suburban Association being defunct, previous to that it was more a convivial organization for the enjoyment of good fellowship. We are an association that does not legislate for the trade, that is, we do not dictate the price of bread.

4494. How many members are in the association?—At the outside we do not number 50.

4495. How many master bakers are there round Melbourne?—When I was president of the defunct association it numbered between 450 and 470 members.

4496. We have been told that at a certain meeting of the association a resolution was passed condemning the coupon system?—I believe it was; I was not present at the meeting, but at a subsequent meeting, when the minutes came up for confirmation, I objected to the procedure as it was irregular, because no notice had been given to the trade that such important business was to be discussed, and a resolution was carried that night that in future any business of importance to the trade in general should be placed on the notice-paper, and not discussed without the members being acquainted with it. When I was nominated at a meeting to attend as a delegate, I said that I could not consistently go, as I was a strong

advocate of the coupon system; I found it beneficial both to the seller and the purchaser. I cited one instance where it encouraged a pastry trade along with the bread trade, which is a trade which nearly all bakers covet, as there is considerably more profit in the pastry than in bread. The case I instanced was where a lady was in the habit of coming irregularly for goods, but when I adopted the coupon system, she came and asked what I would serve her for, for cash. I said my price was $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per loaf; she said—"I will take two buns, and that will bring it up to 6d." I gave her the two buns for $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., which made up the 6d. and entitled her to a coupon.

4497. What is the price for two buns?—A penny halfpenny.

4498. Did she give you any reason why she took the buns?—She said—"This will please my old man, because he likes a Scotch bun." That is all I said on that subject.

4499. You approve of the system?—I do, and I think if the trade in general were to adopt it, they would be pounds in pocket at the end of the year.

4500. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Can they all adopt it?—I think they can—perhaps those in the hands of the miller cannot, but the man who has a free hand can buy where he likes, and he can adopt the system with profit.

4501. Do you mean that all the confectioners can get the coupons if they like?—There was no bar in my case; a gentleman came into my shop and showed me the advantages to be gained by adopting a cash trade. I saw the advantages and I adopted the system, and I have never had occasion to regret it.

4502. Are you aware that there is a bar in some cases?—No, I never bothered my head whether there was or there was not, it was offered to me and I readily accepted it.

4503. *By Mr. Deakin.*—You say this system is beneficial to the seller and the purchaser—how does it benefit the seller?—By the increase of cash trade.

4504. Is yours altogether a cash trade?—Up till lately I have had too much credit, now it is both cash and credit.

4505. It increases the cash trade?—Remarkably so.

4506. Does it increase the cash trade with the old customers who were formerly credit customers, or does it bring in new customers?—Both. I have made arrangements with a number of my old customers to let them pay me 10s. or £1 per month of their old account, and for the future to pay me cash.

4507. You have gained a certain amount of cash trade?—My trade on a Saturday over the counter has just doubled itself.

4508. What proportion of that trade is from your old customers, and what proportion from new people who have been attracted to your shop?—I consider more than half of that is my old trade now paying cash, the rest is new trade.

4509. Where does the new trade come from?—I do not know; the grocers in our district were selling inferior bread lately, and I give a real good loaf of bread, and it is commanding the attention of the public more.

4510. Then the increased trade is due to the bread and not to the coupons?—I think it is both.

4511. When did you commence giving this superior bread?—My loaf has always been a good loaf, but the millers are giving us an extraordinarily good flour at present.

4512. Since when?—I think the millers are buying a better quality of wheat in order to entrap us into next season's buying—the bread during the last three months has been a marked improvement on the previous three months.

4513. Is not the grocers' bread made out of the same quality of flour?—No, I think they buy inferior flour.

4514. Are you prepared to say how far the improved flour is responsible for the improved trade?—My neighbours are selling a very inferior loaf just now, and my trade has increased rapidly during the last three months.

4515. How much of that is due to the improved quality of the flour?—I would say one-quarter, but that is only a guess.

4516. The new trade that you do was formerly supplied by the grocers?—That is my opinion.

4517. What you have gained they have lost?—Yes.

4518. What is the gain of the purchaser?—They have had to pay me 5d. for their bread, when it was booked and delivered. I have three prices for my bread—for cash over the counter it is 4d.; if I deliver it by the cart, and get paid on delivery, it is $4\frac{1}{2}$ d.; if I book it by the week I charge 5d. I have had those prices ever since I have had the management of my business, and I stick to them as close as I can.

4519. If your old 5d. customers had bought their bread over the counter they would have saved 1d. a loaf?—Yes, if they had given me ready cash—that was always open to them.

4520. That did not attract them so much as the coupons?—No, it would pay me better to give them the bread for 4d. over the counter than to charge 5d., and pay for the wear and tear of horses and carts, and run the risk of their getting into debt, and never getting out of it—I am pleased to give that concession in order to get a cash trade.

4521. You sell now for 4d., and give coupons, so you really sell for less than 4d.?—Yes, but I can afford to do it. I have got on the right side of the millers.

4522. It is due to exceptional circumstances in your buying?—Yes, perhaps it is.

4523. If you had bought your flour this year at as high a price as last year, would you have been able to give that discount?—No, I suppose not; but I make it a practice never to sell a loaf of bread unless I can get a profit out of it.

4524. If you had been charged more for your flour you would have raised the price of the bread and given a coupon?—Yes, but whether I gave a coupon or not, I would have had to raise the price of the bread, and say—"I cannot afford at the present price of flour to sell for less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ d."

4525. Can you afford to take from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 5 per cent. out of your profits?—I am satisfied to do it at the present time.

4526. Supposing the neighbouring grocers and bakers gave coupons too?—The grocers are doing so, and selling bread at $3\frac{1}{2}$ d., but I rely upon the quality of my loaf.

4527. Do the neighbouring bakers give coupons?—Yes, my greatest opponent gives them on a larger scale than I do. He has three carts delivering bread in my neighbourhood every day.

4528. As regards his business, your coupons have not affected the trade?—No, because we both give them.
4529. Where do the purchasers gain?—They go to the Coupon Company and get for their coupons what I consider the equivalent for a cash purchase.
4530. The price of bread fluctuates from year to year?—Yes.
4531. Bread is your main business?—Not now, but I rely upon the bread.
4532. You are bound to sell your bread at a profit, you cannot afford to sell it at a loss and rely upon the other business to make up for it?—No, I would not sell bread at a loss.
4533. You have to see a margin, after buying the flour and making the bread, that will allow you to pay the cost of the coupons. What do they cost?—If I reckon upon my gross takings they do not cost me 2 per cent., because I sell so much bread at 4d. upon which the public never ask for coupons, and they could not get them if they did ask, because they only buy a loaf at a time. When they purchase 6d. worth it pays me to give a coupon, because I have an increase in the pastry trade which I am covetous to get hold of, because there is a bigger profit in it; they take the odd 2d. in pastry.
4534. You do not calculate to give this 2 per cent. or 3 per cent. out of your own profits?—I sell the bread at 4d. to those who do not receive coupons, and those who do get coupons I give the benefit of a cash transaction.
4535. You get something to balance that?—I maintain that every man who pays cash is entitled to discount.
4536. You get the benefit in the increased trade?—Yes.
4537. If you all give the same advantages what will be the result?—I think the public will be educated into paying cash rather than this booking system.
4538. Supposing every tradesman gives coupons, the public has not an unlimited amount of cash?—There is no artisan to-day who could not pay cash if he lives within his means.
4539. The ordinary artisan has only a certain amount of cash, and if all the shops at which he deals give coupons how is he to go on?—He will have more money at the end of the year than if he had got credit. He has to pay for that credit.
4540. Does he pay anything for the coupons?—I am satisfied that he does not.
4541. You do not give coupons unless you can afford to give them?—I think there is an advantage on both sides. The man who creates a cash business is able to away with a lot of bookkeeping. In a credit business there are books to be bought and bills to be prepared and collected, and it all runs into money.
4542. What do the grocers near you sell bread at?—3½d. There is Mr. Kennedy, Mr. McCall, and Mr. Coles—I think two of them, Mr. Coles and Mr. McCall, give coupons.
4543. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—You said certain bakers were in the hands of millers—does that mean that they have to pay a bigger price than if they were not in the hands of the millers?—It is just the same as with a man who owes me £3 or £4—I charge him 5d. or 5½d. for his bread, whereas the man who pays cash gets his bread for 4½d. If a man is dealing with a miller and owes him a big sum of money the miller charges him the maximum price for his flour.
4544. Do you know that that is so?—I do.
4545. You charge 4d. for cash and 5d. for credit, apart from the coupons; with coupons you still charge the 4d. cash and give a coupon if they make the purchase up to the value of 6d.?—Yes.
4546. Is your profit sufficiently big to allow you to give that discount in addition to the discount for cash, because you allow practically ½d. a loaf for cash?—Not necessarily so—the extra cost of delivery has to be considered. I have the man's wages to pay, the horse to keep, and the cart to maintain. When they pay cash over the counter I charge 4d., because I have only the shop girl or myself to pay.
4547. You charge 4½d. for cash on delivery, and you charge 5d. when credit is given, so you practically allow ½d. for cash under the same circumstances?—Yes.
4548. And your profits are sufficiently large to allow you to give a further discount in the shape of a coupon?—Yes.
4549. Do you give coupons when you deliver by the cart if they pay cash on delivery?—No, I only give coupons for cash over the counter.
4550. Although you make 1d. difference between that and credit, your profit is sufficient to allow a further discount of a coupon?—Yes.
4551. Does not the flour get good every year at this time?—Yes, the bakers are always able to manufacture a good loaf of bread at this time of the year.
4552. There is no difference between this time of the year this year and this time of the year last year?—Last year the flour was not up to the standard of this year.
4553. Do you sell through grocers?—Yes, but they are all high priced grocers—4d. is the lowest they charge.
4554. It is only a certain class of grocers that sell this inferior bread?—Yes, the bakers who serve those grocers do not covet, as a rule, a private trade; they serve grocers exclusively.
4555. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—What do you mean by being on the right side of the millers?—Booking beforehand when the market is low. I booked this year in January, at a price at which I am now able to sell at a profit.
4556. Another year the miller might hit you?—Yes, but I run that risk.
4557. Is not the fact of one man paying more for his flour than another a matter of discount—if you have good credit you may buy as well as another man, only you do not get discount?—Perhaps not, but the day the traveller comes round might be the day before the market rises.
4558. Supposing the market remains stationary, would it not be the difference in discount?—I am not prepared to say. I think the millers have to resort to various tactics in order to get the custom of a certain class of bakers.
4559. Supposing one man is a good man, but is not able to pay cash, while another man can pay cash, would not the one who can pay cash get the advantage?—Yes.
4560. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Why do you approve of the system of coupons?—Because it creates a cash trade, which puts us in a position to pay cash. A gentleman who has been a customer of mine for a long time had his bread delivered by cart. He said—“If I send to the shop for my bread will

I get the advantage of the coupons?" I said—"Certainly." He said—"You might let me have them off the cart." I said—"No, I am not going to start it; I am going to deliver coupons over the counter, and over the counter only." He said—"Then I will send to the shop." That man used to run up an account with me for £2 or £3, but now I get his cash every day. It amounts to fully 1s. every day, and in that respect I reckon it is beneficial to trade.

4561. Has he credit elsewhere?—He could get credit anywhere; his account is a good one.

4562. Is there any difference between his cash and his credit in the matter of credit?—Yes, you might have to wait for his money perhaps for two or three months.

4563. How much would that amount to?—It might be 24s. or 25s. for the three months.

4564. Supposing you had to wait three months for that 24s., what difference would it make?—If I had 100 customers like that it would mean that I was lying out of my money for three months.

4565. Would that amount to 5 per cent.?—It might amount to more than 5 per cent. If I can go to a miller and say—"I can pay cash," it makes a difference.

4566. Does the miller give you coupons?—No, but I would get more discount from him.

4567. Suppose a miller gave you coupons, would you go to him?—If his flour was good enough for me I would give him the preference.

4568. Irrespective of the price?—No.

4569. If the price was the same, and one miller gave you coupons and another did not, you would go to the one that gave you coupons?—Yes.

4570. If this system increases the cash business, do you not think it would also increase the volume of credit business?—No; I do not think so, because the public have been educated by this system to know that they have been paying through the nose under the credit system.

4571. Suppose the whole business were a credit business, would it not increase the volume of trade if the person giving credit were to start giving coupons?—I think a man would be an ass who gave coupons for a credit account.

4572. Can you imagine a case where two men are struggling for existence in the one centre, and one gives coupons and the other does not?—If I were the one who did not give coupons I would institute a cash discount for all cash purchases of 6d. and over; I would not allow him to beat me.

4573. How can you give cash discounts on a credit account?—I could not do it on a credit account.

4574. Suppose you and another baker were close to one another and both gave credit; if the other man adopted the coupon system, would not that attract customers to him?—He could do that if he liked, but he would soon come to the wall if he gave coupons on a credit account.

4575. Would not that extra 5 per cent. smash him?—I dare say it would.

4576. But it would not do so if he were doing a cash business?—No; because he would have the advantage of the ready money.

4577. Are not the profits the same for credit as for cash?—No, because you have such a risk in giving credit; the odds are 99 to 1 against you, when you give long credit, that you will ever get the money back.

4578. You anticipate when you give credit that you are going to get paid?—Yes, but this land boom has got people so deeply into the books that I am afraid a good many will never come out.

4579. Your chief reason for approving of this system is that it has increased your business?—It has increased my cash trade; that is why I approve of it. I have more ready money at the end of the week than I had before I adopted the coupons.

4580. Suppose all the bakers in the colony were giving the coupons of the company to their customers, would it be of any material benefit?—Yes, because it would encourage a cash trade, which is greatly lacking in Victoria. I think the Coupon Company is to be commended for advertising the system.

4581. Have you estimated what your bad debts would come to?—During the years 1895 and 1896 they amounted to over 15 per cent. on the credit turnover.

4582. Do you sell the best quality of bread?—I do.

4583. It is possible that other bakers who are competing with you are selling bread of not quite so good a quality?—No, I think the bakers in our district retail a very creditable loaf of bread.

4584. The second quality of bread that you refer to is being sold by grocers?—Yes.

4585. Do those grocers give coupons?—My neighbour does not give coupons. I do not know what the quality of the bread is that Mr. Coles gives—he gives the coupons very largely—I think he is retailing a very fair average loaf of bread. I will not say it is the best bread, but it is a very fair average.

4586. Do you think the public can discriminate between bread which is the best and bread which is not the best?—I do. I think they are the best judges of the bread, and they will soon let you know if your bread is off in any way.

4587. What is the difference between a good loaf and a bad loaf, is it whiter, or a better flour?—The marked difference between the two loaves is that the inferior loaf eats very clammy and close.

4588. Is that not an accident in the baking?—Atmospheric changes will come into the baking sometimes, and will upset a batch of bread made from the best flour, but we have no control over that.

4589. *By the Hon. G. Godfrey.*—You approve of this system because it encourages a cash trade?—I do.

4590. Are your customers principally of the artisan class?—They are.

4591. Does the coupon system, in addition to benefiting you by encouraging a cash trade, benefit the purchasers by encouraging them to save the small coupons?—Yes.

4592. Would they save small sums in cash discount as they do with the coupons?—I think so, either with cash or coupons they would be able to buy cheaper—the man who sells for cash can sell cheaper than the man who sells for credit.

4593. Do you think the coupons encourage thrift as against the actual cash?—I do not know that they do, but I know instances where people have beautified their homes, and they would not have got those necessaries or luxuries if it had not been for the coupon system.

4594. They have been able to purchase things to beautify their houses that otherwise they would not have been able to buy?—Yes.

4595. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—These luxuries come from the baker?—Yes, but he gets a corresponding benefit in cash.

4596. Is there any benefit in a working man filling his house with that sort of thing?—Every man likes to have things about his home as beautiful as possible, and these things have a tendency to create a better feeling in the home.
4597. *By the Hon. W. Knox.*—How many coupons do you distribute?—About 120 per week.
4598. The bakers are in an exceptional position in the small amounts of their accounts?—Yes.
4599. That makes you an exceptional witness in favour of cash as against credit?—Yes.
4600. Can you say what the cash price of flour is at present?—According to the *Argus* to-day it is £7.
4601. What did you pay?—I am not prepared to give that information.
4602. How many loaves are there in a ton of flour?—The man who gives the public an honest 4-lb. loaf of bread (and in many cases the baker retails the bread at 4lbs. 1oz. to be on the safe side) will get 65½ loaves out of a 200-lb. bag of flour.
4603. You allow a considerable margin between cash over the counter and credit?—Yes, but for many of my customers who pay me monthly I have to deliver the bread for 4½d.—the 5d. customers are long standing credit.
4604. You give it for 4d. over the counter, and you also give a coupon, so it is 4d. less 5 per cent.?—No, I maintain it is not more than 2½ per cent. at the outside, because a number of people take bread who do not ask for a coupon.
4605. You admit that the bakers' trade is exceptional in that particular, it is a great advantage to your trade to get cash over the counter?—Yes, the wear and tear is so great with the carts.
4606. *By the Hon. D. Ham.*—The lowest price that you give your bread out for is 4d.?—Yes.
4607. You pay cash for the coupons?—I do.
4608. Is there any other baker in your district who is selling bread for less than 4d.?—Not to my knowledge; the grocers do.
4609. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Do you only distribute about 6s. worth of coupons in the week?—From 6s. to 8s. worth, but it has wonderfully increased in the last two months.
4610. How much did you start with?—I was four months getting rid of 200 coupons. The grocers and the butchers in my locality adopted them then, and my coupon distribution gradually increased, and it is now daily increasing.
4611. All this new business that you have got came out of this 6s. worth of coupons per week?—Yes; in the last three months it has gone up fully 15 per cent. to 20 per cent.
4612. *By the Hon. D. Ham.*—The inducement to you to take up this system is the cash trade you get?—Yes, that is my consideration.
4613. You consider it pays you?—Yes; it does.
4614. It pays you in enabling you to pay the miller cash instead of taking credit?—Yes; but I have never been in the hands of the miller; I have always paid cash, or got my discount at the end of the month. This system ought to be an inducement to every tradesman to encourage a cash connexion. The system of giving credit for such small amounts, and extending that credit over such long periods, is the cause of many good men going wrong in the baking trade. I consider the baking trade gives more credit than any other trade.
4615. What do you pay for your coupons?—2s. 6d. per 100.
4616. Those coupons return to the company from whom you got them?—Yes.
4617. Instead of paying the parties who have the coupons cash, they give them articles?—One of my customers showed me a pair of field-glasses that she had got from the company for a full book, worth 25s. She took it into a Bourke-street shop—I think it was Gaunt's; she happened to see a pair that she thought was about the same in the shop, and they told her the price was 25s. I cannot say whether it was of the same quality or not.
4618. You think through the distribution of these coupons you get a benefit in your trade?—Yes, I would not adopt the system if I did not think I was getting a corresponding benefit, and I know in three instances at least the parties were more than satisfied with the return they got.
4619. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—A cash buyer can buy better than one who buys on credit?—I think that is accepted all over the world.
4620. Do you not think if the people received a cash discount instead of the coupons it would be better?—Perhaps so, but the Coupon Company must exist, and it must receive a great deal of credit for bringing about a revolution in the small traders' history, that is to say, creating more of a cash trade.
4621. *By Mr. Coldham.*—You say that you consider in your purchases this year you hit the miller. Assuming that the miller had hit you would you still maintain the difference between your cash prices and your credit prices?—I would never sell a loaf unless I could make a profit.
4622. Suppose the miller had struck you, would you still maintain the difference between your cash and your credit prices?—Certainly, I would recognise that the sooner I got out of the difficulty the better, and I would get out of it better by getting cash than by giving credit.
4623. Do you know any way by which the public could get a cash discount upon a sixpenny purchase?—It would cause a great deal of confusion.
4624. Suppose a person bought sixpence worth over your counter, how could you give him a cash discount?—It would be impracticable at the present time, I think.
4625. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Could not cash coupons be issued?—It would entail a great deal of labour which is done away with by the Coupon Company taking the responsibility.
4626. Could not coupons be issued to be paid in cash?—Then you would have to keep a record, and there would be the sorting them out and the counting them back again. If I proposed to give a cash discount on every sixpenny purchase, I would have to give a ticket, and, when they amounted to £1, the people would have to bring them back to me in order to get the equivalent, and it would entail all that extra labour on the tradesman to count them, hand them out, and keep an account of the coupons he had given out.
4627. *By Mr. Deakin.*—You have to keep an account of the other coupons?—No, they are all on a sheet; you have simply to tear them out and have done with them.

Richard Edwards, examined.

4628. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—What are you?—A canvasser for the Co-operative Coupon Company.
4629. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Did you make purchases of articles in Ballarat under instructions from Mr. Shattock, the manager of the company?—Yes.
4630. Is that pickle jar, marked “No. 23,” one of the articles you purchased?—Yes.
4631. This is the receipt for it from Cohen and Company of Ballarat—[*producing the same*]?—Yes.
4632. Are they a leading firm in Ballarat?—Yes; the price is 10s. 6d.
4633. Did you also purchase this cruet in Ballarat?—Yes, from Mr. McKee, one of the leading men in Ballarat.
4634. What did you pay for that?—12s. 6d.
4635. Did you also buy this six-bottle cruet from him, marked “No. 22?”—Yes.
4636. What did you pay for it?—15s.
4637. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Why did you go to Mr. McKee for one article and Mr. Cohen for the other?—I was asked to get as near a fac-simile of the articles we were selling in the shop as possible, and these were the nearest I could get.
4638. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Which of these two butter dishes did you purchase?—The one marked “No. 21.” I purchased it from Harry Davies and Co.; he is a leading man in Ballarat. I paid 12s. 6d. for it.
4639. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—You went to purchase an article similar to the cruet on the table, did you go to more than one shop?—I went to four shops.
4640. Did you see a similar article in any shop except the one from which you purchased it?—No, that was the nearest I could see to it; the others were more expensive, ranging from 15s. to 25s.
4641. Did you go and pick out the first shop where you could get a similar article?—No, I saw it marked 12s. 6d., and I went in and bought it. I got it in the third shop that I went to.
4642. Did that apply to all your purchases?—That applied all round.
4643. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—Did the people get coupons at the shops where you bought these articles?—No.
4644. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Did you pay cash?—I did.
4645. Did you ask for any discount?—I did not.
4646. *By the Hon. D. Ham.*—Did you try to beat them down?—No, he said that was the lowest price.
4647. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Were these dents in it when you bought it?—It is just as I bought it. He said that was the lowest price, and I took it.
4648. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Did he know who you were?—No.
4649. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—Do I understand that, in your opinion, these two cruets are identical?—As near as I could get; I do not think that they are exactly alike. I could not say which is the best. I do not pretend to be an expert.
4650. What did you do with the article when you bought it?—I brought it to the office of the company, in Sturt-street, Ballarat.
4651. How long did it remain there?—One day.
4652. Was it cleaned?—I do not think so; I did not clean it.
4653. Have you examined these articles at all to see what is the difference?—No, I had no time to examine them.

The witness withdrew.

Joseph D. Bailey, further examined.

4654. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—You are the buyer for the Coupon Company?—Yes.
4655. Have you had any experience in the old country?—Not in E.P.-ware. My only experience has been in the colony. I should say I have had five or six years' experience in the colony.
4656. Have you bought for six years?—I have both bought and sold.
4657. When you sold did you know the wholesale price of the goods?—Yes.
4658. What experience had you in the old country?—I have been in earthenware and china since I was eight years of age.
4659. Prior to the Coupon Company, whom were you with?—In the old country I was with Ralph Hammersley and Sons.
4660. Did you serve your apprenticeship?—With the crockeryware.
4661. Whom were you with here?—Alfred Fenton and Sons.
4662. You were not their buyer?—No, Mr. Fenton was his own buyer. I did all the local purchasing—that is the colonial-made goods.
4663. Have you any opportunity of seeing the English invoices of the goods?—Yes, I have every opportunity.
4664. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Have you compared these two pickle jars?—Yes.
4665. Are they identical as to make and value?—They are the same make and the same value; there is a slight difference, but they are by the same makers.
4666. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Is there no difference in the tongs?—Yes, but that makes no difference; it does not cost any more.
4667. *By Mr. Coldham.*—The price is the same?—Yes.
4668. Do you know the wholesale price of your own article?—Yes, the wholesale price to us is 6s. 6d.
4669. *By Mr. Deakin.*—What discount is there?—None for local purchase.
4670. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—It is bought in the colony?—Yes, from one of the Melbourne merchants, less the usual $2\frac{1}{2}$ discount for monthly payment.
4671. What would it have cost you to get it into your shop if you had indented it yourself?—I should say about 15 per cent. less, but I should have to indent a quantity to do that, at least twelve dozen.

4672. On the E.P.-ware there is no trade discount in the colony?—No, not outside the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for cash, there is no trade discount outside that in the colony; sometimes the goods are net, it depends upon what the line is, and how the goods are bought. I do not believe that we ever get more than 3 per cent.

4673. *By the Hon. T. Comrie.*—Is it not usual to get a trade discount in the colony?—No.

4674. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Are these two jam dishes of the same make and value?—I should say they are.

4675. What does this jam dish cost you?—I cannot trace the line, but I should say it is worth 6s. 6d. wholesale. We have redeemed that for 395 coupons or about 10s., and the pickle jar.

4676. Do you redeem the same article at a different price in Melbourne and Ballarat?—We have to put the freight on.

4677. Three hundred and ninety-five coupons is the redeeming price in Melbourne; what would it be in Ballarat?—Half a book.

4678. What would be the redeeming price of this jam dish in Melbourne?—350 coupons.

4679. Comparing the two four-bottle cruets, is the Ballarat article of equal value with your article?—Not in its present condition.

4680. Is it the same class of ware?—No, the Ballarat article is triple, and ours is quadruple.

4681. What difference in price does that imply?—Very little difference, they are by the same makers.

4682. What is the wholesale price of this article to you?—It stands us in 6s., and we retail it for 395 coupons in Melbourne. I do not think Ballarat has had any of these articles.

4683. Have you got dockets in regard to past transactions, showing the prices?—Yes; these are the documents—[*producing the same*].

4684. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Will there be any objection to producing the invoices from the warehouses?—No, not the slightest.

4685. *By Mr. Coldham.*—From your invoices do you put private marks upon your goods?—Yes.

4686. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—The cost mark means the actual cost to you without any charges added?—Yes; the cost to us less $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; it is the exact price from the merchant to us; we charge nothing for storage, carriage, or anything else.

4687. *By Mr. Coldham.*—Is that information to be found upon all the goods in your store-rooms to-day?—Yes.

4688. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—What is the cost price of that cruet?—7s. 6d.

4689. What do you sell it for?—12s. 6d.; and I will defy any one to do better. That is No. 4489.

4690. *By Mr. Coldham.*—We have had it from Mr. Edwards that he paid W. McKee 15s. for this article, No. 22; looking at your own article marked "No. 2," what is the difference in value between them?—The cost value is identical.

4691. What do you retail yours for?—445 coupons in Melbourne, that is 11s.; in Ballarat it would be half a book.

4692. It has been said that these coupons are collected by children and servants; do you see the people who come in there day after day to redeem coupons?—Yes; I am always there in the afternoon when the goods are being redeemed.

4693. What class of people come in to redeem them; are they children and servant-maids or heads of houses?—They are all married women from what I can see. Everybody signs the book, and nine-tenths sign themselves "Mrs."

4694. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—You do not charge the same proportion of profit on goods disposed of in Ballarat all the way through?—Not in all cases.

4695. In one case there is the difference between 350 and 395 coupons, and in another between 395 and 495 coupons; is that fair to the Ballarat people?—Yes, I consider it is a fair charge to make, from my knowledge of Ballarat. I simply go from what I have seen at Ballarat at different times.

4696. Assuming they pay 20 per cent. more in Ballarat than in Melbourne, that does not account for the variation of your excess?—Many of the goods that we send to Ballarat are charged exactly what they cost us in Melbourne, but there are some cases where an article will stand in my estimation perhaps 50 coupons, and another may stand 100 coupons.

4697. Can you account for the difference between your jam jar that you sold for 395 coupons in Ballarat, and the one that was bought for 7s. 6d.?—I was above the price there; I presume I was out of my estimate.

4698. Have you the article that you gave in addition to the pickle jar for the 12s. 6d.?—No, the lady has got that.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven o'clock.

TUESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

Members present:

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sir F. T. SARGOOD, in the Chair;	
The Hon. J. M. Davies,	The Hon. A. O. Sachse,
The Hon. T. C. Harwood,	The Hon. D. Ham,
The Hon. T. Comrie,	The Hon. G. Godfrey,
The Hon. W. Knox,	The Hon. D. Melville.

Percy M. Scott, further examined.

4699. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Do you produce a balance-sheet signed by Mr. Thomas?—I produce a balance-sheet as the correct balance-sheet of the company up to June the 30th from the date of the company starting operations in the various colonies. In Victoria, I believe, they started in August, 1898; in South Australia, November, 1898; and in New South Wales in about January of this year.

4700. In each case this gives the result up to June of this year?—Yes.

4701. Has it been filed?—It is being filed to-day.

4702. The telegram that was sent to Sydney included also a list of shareholders, the number of shares held by each, and the amount paid thereon; do you produce that information?—I can do so; I will send for it.

4703. In this balance-sheet, under the head of liabilities, you have "Coupons outstanding," which you rate at 16s. per 1,000—these you sell at 25s. per 1,000?—That is correct.

4704. And you have received 25s. per 1,000?—Yes, we estimate the liability at 16s. per 1,000 in goods.

4705. But, as a matter of fact, you have had the extra 9s. in cash?—We have.

4706. What has become of that asset?—That asset is fully accounted for in the balance-sheet.

4707. You only take them as a liability of 16s., although you have sold them at 25s.?—Yes. When I was in Sydney we had proper advice upon the question, and everything has been dealt with in a business way. I myself saw the manager of the Co-operative Coupon Company in Sydney. We waited on the Income Tax Commissioner and produced two balance-sheets, one showing a liability of 25s. per 1,000, and the other a liability of 16s. per 1,000, and after some discussion, with the full information before him, he said that the correct balance-sheet to submit and file with his Department was our estimate of what it would cost us to redeem that liability. Mr. Spiller is the gentleman I refer to.

4708. You have an item down here, "Advances by shareholders, £607," what are we to understand by that?—That is repayable; it is a loan.

4709. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—I notice that you have got under the assets, "Goodwill, contracts, leases, £7,500." You were asked if the whole of that £7,500 was expended, and you said you did not think the whole sum was expended, so I understood a portion of it was tangible assets at that time—was a portion of that £7,500 tangible assets, or was it all for goodwill?—A portion of it was for tangible assets at that time.

4710. Where are those tangible assets now?—In the goods account, I assume.

4711. You have written up the goodwill?—No, we have not.

4712. If you paid £7,500 for goodwill, goods, and fixtures, or anything else, and you now put down goodwill alone for £7,500, you must have written up the goodwill?—That is the original amount of goodwill.

4713. I understood you to say you paid £7,500 for goodwill and some assets. Now you put down £7,500 for goodwill alone. If that be so, you must have written up the goodwill?—The goodwill in this particular case was principally the value of this particular system when it was introduced.

4714. Now you put down £7,500 entirely for goodwill?—Entirely so.

4715. Did you pay £7,500 entirely for the goodwill, or did you pay it for goodwill, plus assets?—Plus whatever assets there were.

4716. Then, if you now put down £7,500 for goodwill alone, you must have written up the goodwill, because you have no assets to represent the £7,500?—On that I cannot give you any further information than there is in the balance-sheet.

4717. Did you get anything else besides goodwill, contracts, and leases originally for the £7,500?—I believe we did.

4718. In the balance-sheet you put down £7,500 for goodwill, contracts, and leases only; therefore, if you got something else at the time you bought, you must have written up this item?—Yes. What you say is correct.

4719. The other assets would be put down in this balance-sheet either under fixtures, goods, or book debts?—The assets of a tangible kind were not worth much; but the information we got in regard to this system and its working was worth a considerable amount.

4720. You either paid £7,500 for goodwill, contracts, and leases only, or else you have written up that item?—Yes, but only to a very small amount. I do not say the tangible assets were very much.

4721. You put coupons outstanding at 16s. per 1,000; does that mean that when you redeem those coupons you will make a profit of 9s. per 1,000?—That is what we estimate.

4722. In making that estimate have you allowed anything for the cost of redeeming them, such as the rent of premises and the actual distribution?—No.

4723. That is the difference between the cost price of the goods to you, and the price which the coupon holders will pay to you for those goods?—That is so; but out of that 9s. we have to pay all expenses, such as advertising and conducting the business.

4724. You have allowed nothing for that?—It comes out of the gross profits.

4725. You put them down at 16s. per 1,000, assuming that you paid that 9s. to-day?—Yes.

4726. You have allowed nothing for the cost of counting over the coupons, and delivering over the articles?—Nothing whatever.

4727. There is an item "Book debts, £3,101 1s.;" does that mean that you sold coupons on credit, and that amount is owing to you by the purchasers of those coupons?—Yes; it means also that a great portion of that £3,101 book debts is for coupons held at the present time in the hands of the tradesmen, which may ultimately be returned. I draw your attention to that point, because with the figures I have given you you may estimate that the total amount of coupons outstanding, so far as the company is concerned, is in the hands of the public, but I say that a large amount of that £3,101 is represented by coupons in the hands of tradesmen, who, in the event of their not distributing them, will return them to the company, and their accounts will be credited with the amount they return.

4728. You take them on the one side at 16s. a 1,000, and if they are returned to you you will have to write off 25s. per 1,000?—That is so.

4729. So until these coupons are disposed of by your customers you have not made the profit between 16s. and 25s.?—No, our profit is only an estimate, and it is shown on our balance-sheet as an estimate. We estimate that £3,101 worth of coupons will be distributed to the public, so I consider that estimate is correct.

4730. What is "Bonus on lease, £100"?—That is the purchase of the lease.

4731. Since you formed the company?—Yes; it refers to premises in Swanston-street, of which we bought the lease.

4732. "Deposit account, rent, £110"—what is that?—The same thing.

4733. "Fixtures, £980"—are those new fixtures since you formed the company?—They are all new.

4734. "Goods, £8,035 9s. 1d."—is that actual cost price to the company?—Yes.

4735. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—The trade discount would be taken off?—Decidedly; it is the actual cost to us.

4736. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—"Salaries, £3,610"—how many employes does that represent?—It covers a good number of employes from time to time. Included in that amount is the cost of canvassing, employing a number of outside men in addition to the regular canvassers in the first place.

4737. Does that include the directors' fees?—Yes; it includes everything.

4738. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Those extra men that you required in the initiation of the company will not be required in the future?—No, they are not at present in our employ; the initial expenses in a company of this kind are exceedingly heavy, and in this balance-sheet the whole of the initial expenses are debited to the first year's expenses, which does not therefore show a very good result; but we consider it satisfactory because we expected to make a loss on the first year's trading. We are working up a connexion, and now we can go on on a satisfactory basis.

4739. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—The result of this balance-sheet is that, even allowing that you have made a profit on the unredeemed coupons, you have lost £2,265?—That is so.

4740. That is in establishing the business?—Yes; in Victoria we have been established for fifteen months, and the initiation expenses were exceedingly heavy; subsequently to that we had to incur initiation expenses in Ballarat, where it has only been running for eight months up to June 30th; in Geelong, where it has only been running for eight months; in Adelaide, where it has been running for seven months; and in Sydney, where it has been running for six months. The whole of the initiation expenses have been debited to the first year's business, and seeing that we have only conducted our business in several of our branches for six months we are quite satisfied with the results that are shown, viz., that we have lost £2,265, which we consider very satisfactory.

4741. I notice that this company was registered in New South Wales, and yet you say you have only been doing business in New South Wales for six months, while you have been doing business in Victoria for nearly fifteen months?—That is so.

4742. What was the object of registering in New South Wales?—We were going to conduct our business in New South Wales at once, but there was an opposition company there that had already started, and we considered it better to come to Victoria where we would be first in the field, and where we might push on the first of our operations to a more successful issue than by opening in a place where there was competition.

4743. Do you know whether the Victorian Companies Act of 1896 had anything to do with your deciding to register in New South Wales?—No, I know nothing of the registration either here or in New South Wales.

4744. Here is an item, "Advertising, £2,462"—is that advertising in the newspapers?—It is advertising in several forms—advertising, stationery, and printing should be taken together. I think that in one or two branches certain amounts that have been charged to stationery, advertising, and printing should be transposed, if you take these amounts together, making a total of something over £3,000, you would get a more correct statement. That particular item refers to printing and publishing directory books, advertising in newspapers, show cards, posters, advertising on hand-bills, programmes, and that sort of thing.

4745. "Discounts, £510"—are those 4 per cent. discounts?—Yes, for coupon purchases.

4746. "Purchase of goodwill of the Trading Stamp Company, £215 2s. 6d."—what was that?—The purchase of another company that we absorbed. It was a rival company that was running in Sydney and Adelaide at that time. They were not doing a very good business, and we bought them out. We said—"We will take over the whole of your liabilities and take over the stock." That is the debit balance on that account; we redeemed all their coupons. We did not carry on their business, we simply absorbed it into our own.

4747. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—I assume that a certain number of those coupons never come back to you at all?—I do not assume that. I said when I gave my evidence before that I estimated that 95 per cent. of the coupons would be redeemed. Having regard to the number of coupons outstanding at the present time, that may seem a very big quantity, but you must understand that in a business like this, as we only redeem in quantities of 500 and upwards, coupons issued to-day we do not expect to redeem for from four to six months. The coupons that were issued when we first began business in Victoria did not begin to come back for redemption until about four months afterwards, therefore we really expect always to have a certain liability in the hands of the public, and that accounts for there being such a large quantity unredeemed. I may say the number of coupons being redeemed now is quite equal to the output of coupons four months ago.

4748. Can you identify the coupons?—No.

4749. Are the coupons numbered?—Yes.

4750. Do they come back in a uniform manner or a consecutive manner?—No; they are issued to certain traders, and they are collected by various people, so they are sure to be mixed up. We provide them with a book in which to paste the coupons, so as to keep them in order.

4751. Where do you get the consecutive numbers from?—That is a private mark.

4752. I gather that you do not estimate anything to your profit from the number of coupons that are taken by children and others who do not complete the book?—I said that 95 per cent. of the whole of the coupons we issue will be redeemed.

4753. How do you form that estimate?—I do not form an opinion by actual results, I merely say I believe it.

4754. Can you give any reason for supposing so?—Only that the coupons are collected so very carefully, and, seeing that the public are provided with books to paste them in at once, I assume that not more than 5 per cent. will be lost—it is merely a rough estimate, and I cannot give any data for arriving at that conclusion.

4755. If a person said only 70 per cent. or 80 per cent. would be redeemed, would you contradict him?—I cannot consider it as a question worth discussing. I believe that 95 per cent. will be redeemed. We run our business on business lines, and we do not look to any such loss for our profits.

4756. Have you any hidden suspense account?—No.

4757. Do you not estimate the 5 per cent. as a suspense account?—No; it is a matter that it will be impossible to get any information upon until we have carried on business for a very much longer period. We cannot say how many are lost, but we think the number will be very small.

4758. *By the Hon. T. C. Harwood.*—Have you any idea how many coupons issued in the first three months are still outstanding?—No, we do not keep any check.

4759. But you numbered them?—Yes, they have what we call series numbers; a series of so many thousand coupons would have a particular number.

4760. You begin with No. 1?—The series numbers run consecutively, but the coupons are not numbered exactly consecutively.

4761. When a coupon comes in for redemption you do not know whether it was issued a week ago or fourteen months ago?—No.

4762. Is there anything in your books to show that?—Yes, each of our directory books is issued in a particular edition, and the first edition coming in leads us to suppose that the coupons collected in that edition were issued at the time that edition was in circulation.

4763. Does that lead you to the conclusion that those coupons issued first are coming in first?—Yes, it is information on that point; we are satisfied of that.

4764. *By the Hon. A. O. Sachse.*—How many would you issue to an ordinary firm?—One firm would not have more than 10,000 in their possession at one time, as a rule.

4765. Supposing a fire occurred at a store, and all your coupons were burnt, what would happen?—As a matter of fact we have had fires occur at coupon stores, and the tradesmen have come to us and said a certain number of coupons were burnt, and we have replaced them. That really should be covered by the insurance policy; but when they have come to us and said certain coupons were burnt, we have replaced them. They never would be presented, and therefore it should be our liability.

4766. Suppose they were insured with the general stock?—That is a matter for the insurance company; if a tradesman says certain coupons were burnt, we know those coupons will not be presented, so we replace them.

4767. Has that occurred with you?—Yes, to a small extent.

4768. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—You run the risk of their not having been burnt?—Yes.

4769. *By the Hon. D. Melville.*—Do you say that £9,476 is the total outstanding liability for coupons?—That was the liability on June 30th; that was the number that had not been presented for redemption.

4770. Is that the total number in circulation?—Yes, less those in the hands of the traders.

4771. Do you mean that you had less than £10,000 worth of coupons out altogether on the 30th of June last?—That is all.

4772. Taking this entry on the other side of profit and loss, "Estimated profit on outstanding coupons, £5,331 11s. 6d."—is that the profit you estimate on this entry?—Yes.

4773. Is that estimated on the difference between 16s. and 25s. per 1,000, or how is it made?—The estimated profit on outstanding coupons is based on their being redeemed at 16s.

4774. £9,476 is the total outstanding on the 30th June, is that £5,331 11s. 6d. the estimated profit on that amount?—It is the estimated profit upon outstanding coupons.

4775. Is that first entry for outstanding coupons correctly put in?—Yes, it is correctly put in that first entry as a liability.

4776. You have estimated on the 30th June of this year that out of that sum you are to make or have made a profit of £5,331 11s. 6d.?—Not out of that sum. The coupon liabilities are estimated at 16s. per 1,000, but if you estimate the coupon liability at 25s. per 1,000, you will find it comes out a very much larger amount, and on that larger amount we estimate to make a profit on outstanding coupons of £5,331 11s. 6d.

4777. You have an outstanding liability of £9,476 according to your estimate; you then put the company down as having made £5,331 11s. 6d., although you have not actually made it?—Yes, but there is a slight error made in bracketing together the statement of liabilities and assets with the profit and loss account. Of necessity, being £9,476 at 16s.—at 25s. it would be 9s. per 1,000 more, and it would be something like £14,000.

4778. Why have you not put it in the ordinary way—you sell at 25s., that is the debit, and the credit would be the estimated profit on that debit; why is that put in that peculiar way—if you sell at 25s. why do you not put the figure at 25s. and calculate your estimated profit on that?—I believe it is correct to put it as it is.

4779. Why do you put it at anything else than what you sell it at; if you have sold coupons at 25s. per 1,000, why do you not say straight out what you have sold them at, and on the other side put your estimated profit; that balance-sheet is not correct according to my reading of it?—The balance-sheet is correct.

4780. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—£9,476 and £5,331 would comprise the outstanding coupons at 25s.?—That is so.

4781. You put down 16s. of that as a liability, and the other 9s. as a profit?—Yes.

4782. The two together make up the 25s.?—Yes, that is so, less 4 per cent. discount. The statement as shown in this balance-sheet is perfectly correct.

4783. It is incorrect, inasmuch as you sell at 25s., and you put it down in your balance-sheet at 16s.?—We put it under the liabilities at 16s.

4784. Is it not a fact that you sell at 25s., and put it down in this balance-sheet at 16s.?—Yes, that is a fact; it is a mere matter of bookkeeping, but that balance-sheet is perfectly correct, and is properly drawn up, inasmuch as the liability in the hands of the public will only cost us 16s., and I do not think we should put that liability down at the issue value.

4785. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—You put down £3,101 for coupons still in the hands of your buyers; how do you arrive at that; do you get a return from them on the 30th of June?—We have a

regular system of bookkeeping, and when coupons are issued on credit they are charged up to the people; we then have collectors going round every week, and they collect certain sums of money for the coupons that have been distributed during the past week, and leave more coupons.

4786. That is the balance unpaid; it does not follow it is the balance unissued?—No; if you ask me to give you an exact estimate as to that £3,100, I should say not more than £2,000 worth are in the hands of the traders; the others are in the hands of the public.

4787. From the returns you have made of the total number of coupons issued and redeemed, it appears that up to the 31st of October, 1899, you issued for Victoria 19½ millions of coupons, representing £23,542, and you redeemed 8,183,000, representing £10,000, so there is still £13,000 owing by you to the public. In South Australia you issued 4,000,000, and redeemed 1,000,000, leaving a balance of £3,632. In New South Wales you issued 2,600,000, and redeemed 698,000, leaving due to the public £2,381, or, taking the whole of the colonies, you owe to the public £19,325 on a paid-up capital of £2,500?—That may be so, but on the 30th June the liabilities of this company were summed up in the total of £12,604 5s. 7d., and we had assets representing goods, £8,035, which were equal in their redemption value to £12,052 13s. 7d.

4788. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—You have taken the coupons at cost, and you must keep the goods at cost?—Then take goods, at £8,035; fixtures, £980; book debts, £3,101; cash, £511; and deposits, £210. Our assets on the 30th of June exceeded our liabilities. Therefore, I say, the company was in a perfectly solvent condition on the 30th of June. That first year had borne all the initiation expenses, and on October 31st the company was in a very much better position, and probably by this time next year we will be in a better position still. We estimate on next year's business to earn a little profit, which we have not been able to do up to the present, because we have had to bear all the initiation expenses, and we have only conducted the business for twelve months in one of the colonies.

4789. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Have you taken any steps to acquaint yourself with the history of the movement in America or Great Britain?—No, I have not; but I can say that Sperry and Hutchinson were really the inventors of the scheme, and they have been running it in the United States for a considerable period. I think in about 30 states they are running their business to-day, and have been running it for years past. I think in three states they started to run the business, and were not allowed to do so—why, I do not know.

4790. In how many states has legislation been passed prohibiting them or any one else from carrying on the business?—In one.

4791. Have you acquainted yourself at all with the figures as to the percentage of unrepresented coupons in any of those states?—No.

4792. Have you acquainted yourselves with the figures of the unrepresented coupons in the English experience?—No.

4793. If the United States experience is, that in many states not more than 50 per cent. of the coupons are presented, will that affect your estimate of 95 per cent.?—Not one iota.

4794. How do circumstances in Australia differ from circumstances in the States?—We run our business in such a way that the public consider it worth their while to collect and present the coupons. I know nothing about the States; but our company started their business with the intention of giving the public good value, and it is on that account that there is such a demand for their coupons to-day.

4795. That is all theory on your part. You say you have taken no steps to make yourself acquainted with the experience elsewhere. It is merely a theoretical opinion?—I say we are not governed by anything they do in America.

4796. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Do you say that the information that has been published here is old?—I say that certain of the publications that are being quoted against us are antiquated.

4797. This *Bulletin of Pharmacy* is dated October, 1899, and it states—“In the 1897–8 sessions of the Legislatures, State laws absolutely prohibiting their use were passed in Virginia, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Vermont. During the last year similar laws were passed in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Maine, and possibly also in two or three other states, before whose Legislatures Bills were pending at one time.” Do you know anything of that?—No. I know that legislation in one particular state did occur sometime ago.

4798. You are not in a position to deny the accuracy of the statement?—No.

4799. It goes on to say—“In Philadelphia and several other large cities local ordinances have effectually rid the merchants of the nuisance”?—I was only aware of one. I did see in the *Age* the other day a paragraph, but I know nothing about it myself.

4800. *By the Hon. D. Ham.*—Where was that company carried on that failed to carry on its liabilities?—In Manchester, England.

4801. Have you known of your own knowledge that any of the American companies have failed to meet their coupons?—I have no knowledge of any company failing in America. There was an extract from some newspaper published in Manchester, which was published here in the *Grocers' Association Gazette of Ballarat*. The *Grocers' Association* are our opponents, and they made a point of taking this cutting out of a Manchester paper of some eighteen months ago, and publishing it as fresh matter in their journal—of course with the object of injuring our company. Dealing with the matter of outstanding liabilities, we do not expect to redeem the coupons for a considerable time after they are issued, and that accounts to a great extent for the number in the hands of the public at the present time, but the coupons being redeemed at the present time are quite equal to the number that were issued about four months ago, and from past experience we estimate that it takes about that time for the coupons to be returned to us in complete books, or half-books containing 495 coupons. A great deal has been said about the company's position in regard to monopolies, and the word boycott has been used, and several other expressions. It has been said that we boycott one man as against another, but the Committee must take this fact into consideration, that it costs a man a considerable amount of money to create a demand for the coupons, and immediately that demand is created the man's neighbour comes to us, and expects to share in the profits of the trade or the increase of trade which has been brought about in that way. Our members spend their money in making the demand for the coupons, and they say to us in the first place—“We will give out your coupons, and accept your services, providing you do not supply our next door neighbour with the coupons; you understand we employ you, and pay you for your services on those conditions.” We

accept those conditions, but there is nothing to prevent the man next door, who does not get our coupons, giving a cash discount or some other company's coupons. It is not fair, however, after the demand has been established that that man should come in and reap the benefits of the trade that his neighbour has spent money in establishing. That man has put that money out of his own pocket as an advertising scheme, and he expects to reap any benefits that may accrue from spending that money. A great deal has been said to the Committee by witnesses who have been brought forward by the opposition in regard to the value that we give in exchange for the coupons. But as against that our own members who are in constant touch with their customers, the collectors of coupons, have given in evidence the fact that their customers always express themselves satisfied with the value we give. I, as manager of the company, have always given instructions in the show-rooms that our goods must be marked at coupon values quite as low as the same goods would be offered for at retail prices outside. Going outside the evidence altogether, I may say that the Committee did, I have no doubt, stop our evidence from being called from want of time, but we had intended to produce to the Committee witnesses to give evidence as to the value of goods they have actually received. The public are the people who redeem the coupons, the tradesmen only give them out, and we have not produced one witness from the public.

4802. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—How can the public know anything about the value of these articles?—Just as much as if they go down the street and buy these articles.

4803. We know the public are no judges?—They may be no judges of the intrinsic value of the particular article, but they know the prices that are charged. It will be generally admitted that the proper way to judge values is by comparing them with the ordinary values of things that are offered outside. In the matter of kerosene, sugar, and the cut lines of groceries, there is an understanding between the grocers and ourselves that we do not ask them to give coupons on goods which do not give a profit. In the majority of cases they do not give coupons on sugar, kerosene, bread, or other cut lines.

4804. The evidence does not support that statement fully?—We did not try to get it in the evidence.

4805. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—Is it not part of your agreement that they are to give coupons in every case, and, if they do not do so, the customer is to ask for them?—Yes, but it is not customary to give them on sugar, kerosene, and lines of that description which do not carry a profit. There is evidence both ways; some people give them with those goods, because they think it is throwing a sprat to catch a mackerel.

The witness withdrew.

Joseph D. Bailey, further examined.

4806. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—You were to produce the invoices in connexion with the goods on exhibit?—Yes. Taking the pickle jars, which were valued by one witness at 60s. a dozen, this is the invoice for them—[*handing in the same*].

4807. Is there a trade discount?—Only the cash discount of 2½ per cent.

4808. The invoice is 6s. 6d. What do you sell that pickle jar for?—In Melbourne we redeem it for 395 coupons, and in Ballarat for half a book.

4809. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—What bowl did you give with the pickle jar?—That would be a glass bowl of some kind. We produce this other pickle jar as being purchased in Ballarat last week for 10s. 6d. This ruby sweet I cannot find an invoice for; it has not been purchased for nine or ten months.

4810. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—Did you buy it?—Yes.

4811. And you do not know what you gave for it?—I can only form an estimate. I valued it last week at 6s.; the other one was bought in Ballarat for 12s. 6d.

4812. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—At the time it was stated that that was redeemed by the Coupon Company at 12s. 6d. in Ballarat there was a doubt thrown upon it by the cross-examination, as to whether it had not been redeemed for a less sum—do you know whether that was so?—I cannot say; but I should say it was redeemed for less than half a book certainly. The next is exhibit No. 26 (stock number, 5961), a double ruby sweet; we redeemed that for half a book, the invoice value is 7s. The next is a ruby butter dish, the invoice price is 6s. 3d., it is redeemed for 395 coupons. The next is exhibit No. 1, a cruet; it is redeemed for 395 coupons—the other was bought for 12s. 6d. in Ballarat. The next is a cruet invoiced at 78s. per dozen, and it is redeemed for 445 coupons. This fac-simile of it was bought in Ballarat for 15s., this other cruet was invoiced at 7s. 6d. and redeemed for half a book.

The witness withdrew.

Percy M. Scott, further examined.

4813. *By the Hon. the Chairman.*—I do not see Mr. Thomas's name in this list of shareholders that you have produced?—He has signed it.

4814. *By Mr. Deakin.*—Do you know any of these gentlemen in this list?—I know them slightly.

4815. Are they employés of the company?—None of them.

4816. Have they no connexion with the company?—Only as shareholders.

4817. Who is the solicitor for the company in Sydney?—Mr. G. W. Ashe.

4818. He has some connexion with the company?—Only a very small share.

4819. Who is Mr. Goddard?—He is an accountant.

4820. In whose employment?—Not in any one's as far as I know; he is not practising now.

4821. Do you know Mr. or Miss Stewart?—No.

4822. Are the shares all fully paid up?—Yes.

4823. *By the Hon. J. M. Davies.*—All the 7,500 shares issued in payment of goodwill have found their way to Mr. Goddard?—Yes.

4824. You do not know whether he purchased them or holds them as trustee for the vendor?—No, I do not know anything about it.

4825. They are evidently the same shares?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow, at half-past Two o'clock.

1899-1900.

VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS COMPANY'S ACT
1883 FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

PETITION.

"A Bill to further amend 'The Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company's Act 1883.'"

TO THE HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF VICTORIA
IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Petition of The Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company Limited,

HUMBLY SHEWETH :

1. That your Petitioner is a Company which was duly incorporated and registered under *The Companies Act 1864*, on the eleventh day of September, One thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, and which carries on its business in the city of Melbourne and the suburbs thereof.

2. That your Petitioner is the lessee of the tramways which have been constructed in the said city and suburbs by the Melbourne Tramway Trust, pursuant to Act No. 765 and Acts extending and amending the same, and upwards of sixteen years of the term of lease have still to run.

3. That the Act No. 765 was introduced into and carried through Parliament as a private measure by, and at the expense of, your Petitioner.

4. That while the said Act was as a Bill before a Select Committee of Parliament the same was opposed by the municipal councils of the said city and suburbs, and by persons in the interests of the employés of your Petitioner, with the result that an agreement between your Petitioner and such municipalities and persons was come to, and was approved by Parliament, which is set out in the Fourth Schedule to the said Act, and in section 62 thereof.

5. That your Petitioner entered into such agreement and into the leases referred to therein believing that the provisions thereof would not be altered during the term of the said leases, and has spent very large sums of money on the faith of such agreement not being altered to its disadvantage.

6. That a Bill has been introduced into your honorable House to amend the said Act No. 765 by repealing section 62 thereof and substituting provisions of a nature which, if passed into law, will entail on your Petitioner an additional annual expenditure of upwards of Twenty-seven thousand pounds, or Four hundred and thirty-two thousand pounds for the remainder of the leases, and will seriously interfere with the proper working of your Petitioner's business.

7. That under the agreement set out in Act No. 765 your Petitioner has to bear the whole cost of constructing and maintaining the tramway lines, and to hand over the same to the Tramway Trust at the end of the leases in good working order. Your Petitioner has also to pay the interest on the construction capital, amounting to Seventy-four thousand two hundred and fifty pounds a year, as well as to provide a sinking fund to repay the moneys borrowed for the construction of the tramways, amounting to One million six hundred and fifty thousand pounds.

8. That your Petitioner is informed that the said Bill is sought to be justified on the ground that it is only declaratory of the actual agreement which Parliament intended to pass, but your Petitioner respectfully protests and asserts not only that the facts are quite otherwise, but that the Bill is an unwarrantable interference with its statutory agreement, and seeks to impose on it heavy obligations without giving compensation or equivalent of any kind therefor.

9. That for fourteen years your Petitioner has carried on its business in accordance with section 62 of the Act No. 765 without any allegation having been made prior to 1899 that that Act did not truly express the intention of Parliament.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that your honorable House will not pass the said Bill, and will at least refer the same to a Select Committee to take the evidence which your Petitioner can adduce in opposition thereto.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

The Common Seal of the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company }
Limited was hereunto affixed this first day of February, One }
thousand nine hundred, in the presence of—

(SEAL)

F. B. CLAPP, } Directors.
J. M. PRATT, }
W. G. SPRIGG, Secretary.

Ordered to be printed, 1st February, 1900.

VICTORIA



MINUTES
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL.

SESSION

1899-1900

COMMITTEE
ROOM