CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS.

New Appointment Criticised.

Mr. Corbin's Qualifications.

The appointment of Mr. Edward Julius of Burnie, Tasmania, to the position of Conservator of Forests, has been much commented upon by members in the House of Assembly on Thursday, when at a question hour the member for Burnie (Mr. G. H. Bartlett) asked the Government in controlling the department (Hon. G. F. Kingham) to table the applications and credentials of all those who had been considered for the position.

Mr. Kingham said that section 20 of the Public Service Act set out that any recommendation from the Public Service Commissioner should be considered and acted on by the Governor, and that the Government did not approve of such recommendations, in the absence of the Governor, unless the Commissioner recommended it, and within specified time of the recommendation. He asked the Minister whether, after the recommendation had been submitted by the Commissioner and turned down by the Government, the matter was referred to the office again for reconsideration.

The Minister of Agriculture—No; and I would draw attention to a further proviso in section 20, which makes the Government power to make appointments without referring the matter to the Public Service Commissioner.

Mr. Anthony said that section 20, by which the Minister had evidently been guided, is a proviso to the effect, in a case of emergency, it appears expedient or desirable in the public interest that the Governor may, after considering the recommendation of the Commissioner, give the applicant a personal interview, or consult with him, or refer the matter back to the Commissioner. It appears that, in the Governor's opinion, there is a personnel available or permanently employed in the public service capable of filling the position to which it is proposed that the applicant shall be appointed, as he has been appointed to the position.

Mr. Kingham said that, after the recommendation was turned down by the Government, the applicant's name was referred back to the Commissioner, who would then make a third recommendation of some other suitable candidate.

The Minister—Such an involvement is sufficient to answer, Mr. Buttfield—The principle is very important.

Mr. Kingham—The Minister—Mr. Julius was appointed because, in the opinion of the Government, he was the most suitable man for the position. The Government and members are at liberty to prejudice the principle, but it is not for them to prejudice Mr. Corbin's appointment.

Mr. Price requested the member to answer 

Mr. Kingham—The Minister—Mr. Corbin is a man of long experience in the public service, and he is a man in whom the Government has confidence.

Mr. Price—But there are others Mr. Corbin is a man of long experience in the public service, and in whom the Government has confidence.

Mr. Kingham—The Minister—Mr. Corbin is a man of long experience in the public service, and in whom the Government has confidence.

Mr. Price—But there are others Mr. Corbin is a man of long experience in the public service, and in whom the Government has confidence.

Mr. Kingham—The Minister—Mr. Corbin is a man of long experience in the public service, and in whom the Government has confidence.

A prominent cleric, who has always taken an active interest in forestry, has praised the appointment as a most welcome development in the field of forestry in Queensland.