

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 12th September, 1923.

The Premier: A group of individuals can get it.

Mr. MONEY: That is not generally known. I shall certainly make it more widely known in my district.

Mr. WILSON: I understand it is necessary to give a guarantee that any books lost will be replaced.

The Premier: Quite so.

Mr. WILSON: Cases are sent out containing 60 to 80 books.

The Premier: The cases vary in size.

Mr. WILSON: It is advisable to arrange for someone to take charge.

Mr. PICKERING: Are these books being made available to group settlers?

The PREMIER: The books are available to any group of people anywhere in the State.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Is it proposed to send "Hansard" out to the groups?

The PREMIER: No, we cannot afford it.

Item, *Acclimatisation of fish, birds, and animals*, £75:

Mr. CHESSEON: This is a very small amount in proportion to the good work done. As a result of Mr. Kingsmill's work, the dams from one end of the Murchison to the other are stocked with fish that have come on well.

The Premier: I agree it is a very small vote.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I would like some information about the £100 for the Law Library.

The CHAIRMAN: We have passed that item.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Lands and Surveys*, £96,446:

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 10.55 p.m.

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

PAPERS—INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, ADVANCES.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. J. Ewing—South-West) [4.35]: I now lay on the Table of the House the papers giving the names of the firms and persons to whom advances have been made from the Industrial Development Vote, in accordance with the motion moved yesterday by Mr. Lovekin.

QUESTION—WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN asked the Minister for Education: Will he lay upon the Table the agreement with Messrs. Speed, Thomson & Co., relating to the sale of Wyndham meat and the file connected therewith?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: Yes. I now lay the papers on the Table.

QUESTION—DWARDA-NARROGIN AND OTHER RAILWAYS.

Hon. J. A. GREIG asked the Minister for Education: 1, Will he lay on the Table of the House all Advisory Boards' reports, or other reports of responsible officers concerning the Dwarda-Narrogin railway? 2, All Advisory Boards' reports or other responsible officers' reports concerning a railway from Dwarda to Codjatinine? 3, All reports as to the proposed railway from Brookton westward?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: Yes. I now lay the papers on the Table.

QUESTION—WATER SUPPLIES, MT. MONGER DAM.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS asked the Minister for Education: Will the Public Works De-

partment advance any reason why the three-million gallon Government constructed dam, situated at Mt. Monger, remains dry, whilst a dam of equal capacity privately constructed a few miles distant from it holds a good supply of water?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: The departmental dam since its construction has not been favoured with a rainfall sufficient to fill it. The private dam has been in use for many years and has a better catchment. It still has in it water left over from previous seasons.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Hon. T. Moore, leave of absence for six consecutive sittings granted to Hon. J. W. Hickey (Central) on the ground of urgent private business.

BILL—PROPERTY.

Leave to Introduce.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. J. Ewing—South-West) [4.37]: I move—

For leave to introduce a Bill for "An Act to amend the Law of Property and to simplify and improve the practice of conveyancing, and for such purposes to repeal and amend certain Acts relating thereto."

Hon. A. LOVEKIN (Metropolitan) [4.38]: I am not going to oppose this motion, though I have a few words to say with regard to the Bill. A Bill of a similar nature was introduced last session, and a promise was made by the then Leader of the House that it would be referred to the Barristers' Board and to the lawyers, because the subject was highly technical, and scarcely fit for discussion by lay members. We were promised that after the Barristers' Board and other legal gentlemen had gone through it, and suggested amendments, if any, it would be circulated amongst members during the ensuing recess so that we might have an opportunity of studying it. I understand this Bill has not been before the Barristers' Board. Nothing, in fact, has been done, and the Bill has not been circulated amongst members as promised. It is now proposed to introduce it. I call the attention of the Minister to these facts. He may now see fit not to go on with it at present.

Hon. J. CORNELL (South) [4.40]: Whilst it is not desirable to oppose a motion for leave to introduce a Bill, I certainly concur in all that Mr. Lovekin has said in respect to this Bill. I had an opportunity of glancing through the proposed Bill when it was here last session, and I must admit I know nothing about the subject. Only men who are steeped in the law are competent to give a proper opinion concerning it. I understood that during the recess it would be submitted to legal gentlemen in the city.

Nothing, however, has been done, and we are to-day in the same position as we were in six months ago. If leave is given to introduce this Bill I hope the belated promise will be given effect to, and the opinions of people who understand the law relating to property will be summarised and made available to members.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. J. Ewing—South-West—in reply) [4.41]: The Bill is somewhat technical, but it is not one that is outside the range of any member. It will require close study. It is not the Bill that was introduced last session. This Bill has been much simplified, and I think it might well be passed. I promise members they will be given ample time in which to consider it.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Has the Barristers' Board had it?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I think not. My predecessor did make the promise indicated by Mr. Lovekin. It is early in the session, and the Bill will not be rushed through. There is no reason why it should not be introduced and read a second time. Members will be given ample opportunity of going through it before we proceed with it.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

BILL—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT.

Introduced by the Minister for Education and read a first time.

MOTION—CANCER, TREATMENT AT PERTH HOSPITAL.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW (Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.44]: I move—

That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that the Perth Hospital should be equipped with the modern X-ray apparatus necessary for the treatment of cancer by the method known as "deep therapy."

May I first be permitted to welcome our two new colleagues, Mr. Carroll and Mr. Gray. I am sure they will worthily follow the traditions of the House, whereby such good fellowship and tolerance of each other's views is the predominant characteristic of this House. In adopting the course of bringing forward this somewhat technical subject, I have been obliged to do so because my efforts to obtain means of treating those unfortunate people who are stricken with cancer in this State have up to the present been baulked. I trust that if the House concurs in the motion it will be a step forward in persuading the Government to take these necessary steps for the alleviation of this class of sufferer. In speaking on the Address-in-reply last year I made some reference to this matter. I crave

the indulgence of the House if I speak at some length on this question, because it is not much use bringing a matter of this nature before members unless I put fully before them reasons and facts in support of my contentions. When I was speaking on the Address-in-reply last year I referred to the Perth Public Hospital and said:

Neither is there yet an adequate X-ray plant. I daresay hon. members know that in Germany, on account of the improvements in X-ray plants, they have been able to cure many cases of cancer by means of what is known as deep therapy. This work has gone long beyond the experimental stage, and the results attained in Germany have been verified in other countries, and have proved of tremendous advantage. It is the bounden duty of the Government to see that such an X-ray apparatus is installed in the Perth Hospital.

After I made that speech, the then Leader of the House, Mr. Colebatch, sent for me and discussed the question with me. He asked me to draft a memorandum dealing with the question, so that he could submit it to Cabinet. I did so and shortly after, the senior surgical staff of the Perth Public Hospital, and also the Council of the British Medical Association, drew up a memorandum requesting the Government to take steps to have the plant installed in the Perth Hospital. That was in July of last year. I waited until November, and not having heard anything from the Government, and my friends of the British Medical Association and on the hospital staff not having heard either, I asked some questions in this Chamber. I asked—

Have the Government received memorials from the council of the British Medical Association and from the honorary senior surgical staff of the Perth Hospital, urging them to provide a deep therapy X-ray apparatus for the treatment of cancer at the hospital?

The answer to that was: "Yes." I then asked—

Are the Government aware that an American surgeon, Dr. Storn, reports ("American Journal of Roentgenology," December 21, 1921): In most of the German clinics I visited they have practically discontinued operating on all cases of cancer of the breast and uterus. They claim that the results with radiation alone, are far superior (85 per cent. of cures in this class of case).

The answer to that was—

No. The journal mentioned has not been available, but it is known that the German claim of success in 85 per cent. of cases has not been corroborated by British operators. That rather begs the question, because the 85 per cent. referred to only affects two classes of cancer, namely, cancer of the breast and cancer of the uterus. I then asked—

In view of the foregoing report, and other favourable reports from British experts who are using this treatment, will the Government favourably consider the ques-

tion of making this method of treatment available in Western Australia?

The answer was—

Yes. The Government do not intend to allow the matter to drop, but propose to make further inquiries from both British and American authorities in regard to this method of treatment, which they consider has not yet passed the experimental stage. It is considered that, until the value of the treatment is established beyond question and many points such as dosage and method of application have been definitely standardised, the great expenditure involved is not justified whilst equally important equipment in other directions is not available.

I took the opportunity in January of this year, when speaking on the Hospitals Bill, to again allude to the subject. Referring to the Principal Medical Officer, I said:—

Of course, the Government referred the matter to their principal medical adviser, and I was very grieved to hear, as the result of a question I asked in the House six weeks ago, that on the advice of the P.M.O. the Government had turned down the proposition, at any rate for the present, on the ground that the treatment was still in the experimental stage. It has been installed in many hospitals in England and Scotland and in America, and also in various other countries, and extremely satisfactory results are being obtained. But it was considered here that as this matter was in the experimental stage, the Medical Department were not justified in advising the installation of the plant at the Perth Hospital, although, as I said, the treatment of certain forms of internal cancer in Germany by means of this method had been very successful. I had hoped that we in Western Australia would have been the first in Australia to instal this method of treatment.

I finished by saying—

Candidly, I think, the medical advisers of the Government lost a great opportunity when they turned down this proposal which had the support of the senior staff of the hospital and the Council of the British Medical Association.

Soon after making that speech I received a communication from the honorary staff of the Perth Hospital. I will take the House into my confidence when I say that the communication set out that, at one of their monthly meetings, a resolution had been passed in which they stated they did not agree with my proposal, but agreed with the attitude the Principal Medical Officer had taken up. Naturally, I would have been considerably aggrieved by that letter had I not heard that the motion was moved without notice, and that a good many senior members of the hospital staff were not present. I do not quite know why that resolution was passed and sent to me, because if the members of the hospital staff who passed that resolution had done me the honour of

reading the speech I made on the subject, they would have seen that I started off by saying that for any remarks I made, I alone was responsible; I was not the spokesman of the medical profession, nor of the British Medical Association. Consequently, I think their resolution might have been more justly forwarded to the Council of the British Medical Association, who backed up my efforts with the Government, or to the honorary members of the surgical staff who saw fit to agree with me. However, they sent the communication to me. If any of them do me the honour of reading this speech, may I point out to them and to anyone else interested, that when I speak in this Chamber I do not speak as a representative of the medical profession; I speak as one of the representatives of the Metropolitan-Suburban Province, and on behalf of my constituents. Although I may more often address myself to education and medical matters, I do so because of my training, and I know this House is always willing and anxious to hear members speaking on subjects to which they have given close study. I do not speak on this particular question on behalf of the medical profession. May I say something with reference to the necessity for the step I propose for the treatment of cancer. We all know that cancer is said, on very good authority too, to be on the increase all over the world. Over 30 years ago, when I was a student of medicine at Cambridge, I remember my old professor in surgery saying that if one went to a public meeting, which would possibly be attended by adults, it could be said that one in every 10 of the people present would die of cancer. To bring it further home, here we have 30 members, and on the law of averages, at least three of us will die of cancer.

Hon. H. Stewart: Is that peculiar to people who attend public meetings?

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: No. I will deal with the death-rate presently.

Hon. J. Cornell: Does it apply to Parliamentarians?

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: There is no question but that cancer is increasing. At the present time cancer constitutes 8 per cent. of the existing death-rate in Australia. In 1920 while 3,000 people died of tuberculosis of the lungs, 4,500 died of cancer. A little while ago the Ministry of Public Health in Great Britain issued a memorandum in which it was stated that the mortality rate of cancer had trebled itself in two generations. I am not going to say that this increase represents the real increase in the incidence of cancer, because several other factors have to be taken into account. There is the question of the expectation of life which has been prolonged, so that more people reach the cancer age. There has also been a diminution in the mortality rate for other diseases, so that naturally would cause an apparent increase. A third factor, and a very considerable factor too, is that there has been a very decided increase

in the powers of diagnosis of cancer during that period.

Hon. H. Stewart: If there has been any increase in smoking during that period, will that be any indication as to the cause?

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: I will not be drawn off my subject by these remarks, because if I were to reply to all these points, I would take a long time. I have enough matter at the present to deal with.

Hon. J. Cornell: From smoking you would have to go on to drinking, and so on.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: Making allowance for these factors, there is no doubt there has been a distinct increase in the prevalence of cancer in our midst. Many people regard cancer merely as occurring in people of middle or old age. I remember when the "Daily News" some time ago embarked on a campaign with reference to the desirability of installing this plant at the Perth Public Hospital, someone wrote to the paper and said he did not think it mattered very much because cancer generally attacked the very old. The conclusion the writer apparently intended to be drawn was that it did not matter much if the old were shuffled off the earth. If that was meant I can inform the writer of that letter, if he has any regard for his own skin, that such a state of affairs is not altogether true. In Australia in 1920, for instance, 44 deaths occurred from cancer of persons under the age of 15 years. Cancer really begins to seriously affect the mortality rate at the age of about 35 years. From this onwards is a distinct advance in the mortality rate. Cancer not only inflicts a great deal of suffering, as many of us know who have witnessed some of these unfortunate victims, but it is not a respecter of persons. Environment has little effect so far as we can ascertain. The words of Rupert Brooke with reference to Death, may well be applied to cancer—

Comes Death on shadowy and relentless feet,

Death, unappeasable by prayer or gold,

Death is the end—the end.

These words are very applicable to cancer, which so often is the precursor of death. All over the world much attention is being paid to cancer research and for many years the most acute intellects in the world have been trying to discover the cause of cancer. In the Old Country at present an appeal is being launched to assist cancer research. The promoters are appealing for a sum of not less than £1,000,000, and they are meeting with a considerable response. As to cancer research, the experimenter is in very much the same position as the agriculturist who embarks on virgin forest to make a home for himself with a view to cultivating the soil. He has to do the pioneering work of clearing, fencing, and getting the soil ready; and so has the experimentalist in any new field of science on which he may embark. A great deal of work has already been done in cancer

research, but it may be said to be merely the preliminary work of clearing the field. A few facts have been discovered, but an immense amount of mis-conception has been cleared away. Two important factors have been discovered. The first is that chronic irritation, either mechanical or chemical—I am sorry Mr. Stewart is not listening because he may now get a reply to his question about smoking—is undoubtedly one of the greatest predisposing factors in cancer. During the last few years an investigator at Copenhagen, Johannes Filiger, has made a most important discovery, that rats fed on cockroaches that are the seat of the ova of a certain worm—a worm of a species hitherto unknown until discovered in the bodies of the cockroaches and to which the name of *Spiroptera neoplastica* has been given—have developed cancer of the stomach. The ova from this worm has been injected into rats and has produced cancer. That is the most important factor we have at present in regard to the causation of cancer. The larvae of another worm has been found to have a close relationship to sarcomata, which are allied to cancer, and which also occur in the liver of rats. If research has not yet taught us very much how to avoid cancer, there still devolves upon us the obligation to find a cure. Undoubtedly wide removal by the surgeon's knife does give the best cancer cure, but that is no reason why we should neglect other means of treatment. Certain cases of cancer are not amenable to the surgeon's knife and not infrequently the surgeon's knife fails to give relief. We have in X-rays and in radium two important factors in the further cure of cancer. The X-rays have been used for the cure of cancer for over 20 years with a certain degree of success, but the rays that were used were the soft rays that had not a high penetrative power, and so were chiefly of use for cancer on the surface. About 1916 two German doctors, Drs. Seitz and Wintz, at Erlangen, made a very important improvement in X-ray technique. By using a very high voltage—over 200,000 volts—with a spark of 16in., they produced a stream of hard rays, which have a high penetrative power. Then began the new treatment known as deep therapy. It was taken up in Germany and undoubtedly resulted in a great deal of good. The quotations I have already made show that. These investigations have been carried out in other countries. Last September I came across a report that had been submitted to the British Medical Congress in Glasgow in July, 1922. It was a report of his work by Dr. Riddell, who is the radiologist at the great infirmary of Glasgow and also lecturer in radiology at the University of Glasgow. He gave an account of his treatment of cases for the period from June 1921 to May 1922. He treated 60 cases of whom 52 suffered from carcinoma and eight from sarcoma. The parts affected were the breast, bladder, vulva, uterus, mouth, prostate, rectum, abdomen, larynx, neck and tonsil. The immediate effects

are very striking indeed, and he was of opinion that with greater experience even greater benefit would be obtained. The report continues—

The results here reported are not so favourable as those reported from Germany. This is to be accounted for—at least in part—by the fact that in Germany patients are subjected to the treatment at a much earlier stage of the disease than in this country, and owing to the longer time for which the method has been in use there, the operators are more experienced in the technique. In the 16 cases of diseases of the breast, whose histories I give below, the results are: in three the treatment failed entirely. In three there was great improvement (two have since died). In nine the evidence of the disease have disappeared—that is, in 56 per cent. all sign of the disease is gone at present; these were all severe cases. In two only there had not been a previous operation; the rest were recurrences and all were inoperable. Of the 16, three should perhaps not have been treated; they were apparently hopeless from the beginning. Excluding these, the evidences of disease disappeared in 69 per cent.

He summarises his results by saying—

- (1) In 30 per cent. of all cases, all evidences of the disease have disappeared.
- (2) If one excludes the cases that were apparently hopeless from the beginning, the figure is raised to 41 per cent.
- (3) In 52 per cent. the benefits secured were very great in the way of relief from pain or discomfort and of the patient being enabled to return to a more or less ordinary mode of life.
- (4) Excluding from the breast cases those that were hopelessly ill, 69 have shown complete disappearance of all evidences of the disease.

This method is being used in Melbourne and Sydney where at least two radiologists have their own private apparatus. I have been in communication for some time with two of these gentlemen. Recently I wrote to one in Sydney and one in Melbourne, and I quote the following letter from the gentleman practising in Sydney:—

17th August, 1922. The results obtained by deep X-ray therapy are extremely encouraging, so much so that we are now moving to obtain a public organisation for its performance. We do not, however, think that individual hospitals should perform the work, but propose to centralise and economise effort and expense by forming a central institution to do all this work for all hospitals and the general public.

Then he mentioned half-a-dozen of the leading surgeons of Sydney and added:—

All these men avail themselves regularly of the treatment, either as supplementary to operation or to replace operations in cases beyond the reach of surgery.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Is that from Dr. Harrison?

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: No, but I will inform the hon. member privately if he wishes. Then I have a letter from a doctor who is doing this work in Melbourne. Under date 13th August, 1923, he says—

In reply to your letter regarding deep therapy, I can certainly confirm what I said to you before.

That was six or nine months ago.

The results I am obtaining are most encouraging. What I complain of most is the unsuitability of the cases. They are sent along as a last resource when they have often generalised metastasis, as well as local recurrence, after surgery has proved unsuccessful. The local condition is checked and often disappears, and then the patient dies of secondaries in the liver or other organs, and one feels that if he could only get these cases in the early stages, and preferably before operation a very great amount of good could be done.

In the Australian Medical Journal of the 28th July, 1923, there is a report of half-a-dozen cases that were shown to the Medical Society of Victoria. In three of them there had been most extensive cancer that was quite inoperable and had disappeared under this treatment. Another doctor showed three of his patients who were suffering from cancer of the throat and he said—

Great relief of symptoms and striking improvement in general health and the disease had almost entirely cleared up.

With these results being obtained it is high time that our hospital was supplied with this method of treatment.

Hon. G. W. Miles: What would it cost?

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: I shall mention that presently. The other day I read in the "West Australian" a London cablegram headed "Cancer, some official hints." It stated—

The Ministry for Health issued to-day for the guidance of local authorities a memorandum summarising the present knowledge of the source of cancer and the steps which the local authorities might take usefully in connection with the disease . . . The local authorities might improve facilities for clinical consultations and pathological examinations, and for the treatment of cancer in hospitals by means of X-ray and radium apparatus.

When one considers the official mind in England and elsewhere, such a statement issued by the British Ministry of Health to the local bodies speaks volumes. The cost of the apparatus depends upon the type obtained, and the types vary from £800 to £2,000.

Hon. R. J. Lynn: The best is not too good.

Hon. J. Duffell: Hear, hear!

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: The best may not be the most expensive. I shall not say which is the best; perhaps we may set down the range of cost from £1,200 to £2,000. The cost of maintenance will depend largely on whether we have a whole-time doctor to carry out this treatment. If we have a whole-time

doctor with a nurse and a laboratory attendant, I suppose the annual upkeep would amount to £2,000, or a little over.

Hon. A. Lovekin: The cost is reckoned at £2 per hour.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: I am speaking of the whole lot. One would be safe in saying that a capital cost of £3,000, and an annual cost of £3,000 or perhaps £2,500, would be well within the mark. Private doctors are already installing this apparatus. Indeed, I have received a circular from a gentleman in Perth who is carrying out this particular form of work. In the circular he states that he proposes to instal a private apparatus. It appears, therefore, that a private radiologist in this town is getting ahead of the Government. On the question of cost, when I discussed the matter with Mr. Colebatch and gave him the very same figures as I have given here to-day, he replied, "If the advantages are such as claimed in these reports then the cost would not be too great even if it amounted to £30,000."

Hon. J. Cornell: Could this apparatus be extended to apply to pulmonary cases?

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: This is a very expensive apparatus, and would no doubt have to be kept for this particular work. My only excuse for bringing the matter before the House and inflicting on hon. members a technical discourse is that the subject, in my opinion, is one of the most vital importance for the welfare and health of the community. I trust that I shall have the support of hon. members for my motion, and that the effect will be to stir up those who are responsible for seeing that this apparatus should be installed.

Hon. J. CORNELL (South) [5.18]: I support the motion, and shall not need to speak at length as I have already obtained from Dr. Saw practically what I want. The hon. member says that there is available in this State to-day an X-ray apparatus sufficient for the diagnosing of pulmonary diseases. From Dr. Mitchell, however, I understand that that is not so. Further, I understand that in a day or so we shall have in our midst, even if only for few hours, the man who is probably best qualified in the British Empire on the subject of phthisis. I refer to the chairman of the bureau of Phthisis Research in Johannesburg. While supporting the motion, as I said, I still claim that there is another section of the community equally entitled to the best and most up-to-date X-ray apparatus that can be installed. I hope that the authority whom I have mentioned will be requested to give an opinion, even though his stay here will be so short. In any case, I shall make it my business to interview him.

The Minister for Education: When will the gentleman be here?

Hon. J. CORNELL: On Wednesday next. There are on an average 12,000 or 13,000 miners submitted to X-ray examination in

Johannesburg twice a year. The gentleman I refer to does that work, and therefore should be in a position to give an opinion of value. With Dr. Saw I hope that the Government will wake up to the absolute need for adequate provision in this respect, and without cost to the patient. For the past 12 or 14 years the physician in charge at Woorlooloo has consistently declared, in season and out of season, that he ought to have X-ray apparatus in order to diagnose phthisis properly.

On motion by the Minister for Education, debate adjourned.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, Electric Light and Power Agreement Amendment.

2, Industries Assistance Act Continuance.

[Received from the Assembly.]

BILL—AMENDMENTS INCORPORATION.

In Committee.

Resumed from the previous day; Hon. J. W. Kirwan in the Chair, the Minister for Education in charge of the Bill.

Clause 2—Incorporation of amendments in reprints of Acts (partly considered):

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Since the last sitting I have made inquiry into the position stated by Mr. Nicholson. I am advised that there is really no necessity for the insertion of any words, but that the Clerk of Parliaments is the proper person to attend to matters of this kind. The Joint Standing Orders provide that all Bills passed shall be checked by the Clerk of Parliaments, and that his signature must be put to these Bills before being submitted to the Governor for his assent. If, however, Mr. Nicholson thinks it necessary to safeguard the position still further, I have no objection to the adding of words directed towards that end. I am advised that the following words might be added to Subclause 1: "and the law officers of the Crown."

Hon. A. Lovekin: Then we would have to define "law officers."

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: In the opinion of the Crown Law Department, the amendment is unnecessary. Moreover, Bills before their submission to the Governor are perused by that department, who, if they find anything wrong in them, draw the attention of the Clerk of Parliaments to the matter.

Hon. A. Lovekin: This Bill merely makes the Clerk of Parliaments a proof reader, really.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Yes.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I am obliged to the Leader of the House for his explanation and suggestion. It is important that the Clerk of Parliaments should be assisted by

some other officer of the Crown in his responsibilities attaching to this matter. At present our Parliamentary Draftsman is a gentleman of legal training, which is of great benefit in dealing with Acts and Bills and their amendment. A time may arrive when the office will be held by someone without the advantage of a legal training. Certain meanings may be attached to certain words, and it is important that the entire responsibility should not be left on the shoulders of the Clerk of Parliaments. Indeed, I do not think that would be fair. In the Statutes Compilation Act, to which I referred yesterday, there is a provision that any Bill prepared under it shall be certified by the Attorney General and then passed on to the Clerk of Parliaments. There the Clerk of Parliaments has the guarantee of the head of the Crown Law Department.

The Minister for Education: That is a different matter altogether.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I know that, but the Act has a considerable bearing on this Bill. I have no objection to the suggestion made by the Minister that it should be done by the Clerk of Parliaments, under the supervision of, say, the Solicitor General. I merely want the position safeguarded. If a mistake be made in an Act of Parliament, someone has to shoulder the blame.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: The hon. member is labouring this point rather too far. The Compilation of Statutes Act is very different from the Bill. If, under the Bill, the Clerk of Parliaments had to make in a consolidation a number of consequential amendments, or had to take sections from one Act and put them into another, it would be different; but under the Bill the Clerk merely becomes a proof reader, and he has the assistance of the Government Printer's proof readers. That is all that is intended by the Bill. There is no need for the Solicitor General to assist the Clerk in a matter of this kind. Surely the Clerk can put the few words of an amending Act into the parent Act when that Act is reprinted.

Hon. J. CORNELL: The more I look at the clause, the denser becomes the fog. When an amending Bill becomes an Act, generally only the amending Bill is printed, at all events at that time. It is the function of the Clerk of Parliaments to advise His Excellency that the amending Act has been printed in accordance with the directions of Parliament. On those grounds His Excellency assents to the Act as a separate measure. Later on, when it is decided that a reprint of the parent Act is necessary, the amendments are consolidated in the reprint. I cannot see why the Clerk of Parliaments should then be brought into it at all.

The Minister for Education: Someone must look after it.

Hon. J. CORNELL: He has looked after it in the first instance; why cannot the

Crown Law Department look after it at the subsequent stage? Sometimes, very rarely, it is decided to reprint the parent Act forthwith. In such circumstances it might be advisable that the Clerk of Parliaments should look after the work.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The officer of the House is the proper person to supervise everything of the kind. In a sense this is consolidating work, because, if the parent Act has to be reprinted, it is very necessary to see that all the amendments are properly put into that reprint. That class of work is, not for the Crown Law Department, but for the officer of this House, who is responsible for the printing of all Bills.

Hon. J. CORNELL: If the printing be faulty, whom would you blame, the Clerk or the Crown Law Department?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The officer of this House is responsible for the compilation of the reprint, and the responsibility should be placed on him. If it be the wish of the House that his work should be supervised, it will be easy to so amend the clause. But I consider that quite unnecessary. I should be sorry to think we cannot trust our own officer. He has far more important duties to attend to than this of looking after reprints. The Clerk of Parliaments is the right person for the work.

Hon. H. STEWART: At present, apparently, it is nobody's responsibility.

The Minister for Education: Yes, it is the duty of the Clerk.

Hon. H. STEWART: There is no provision for the work being done, else we should not have the Bill.

The Minister for Education: Oh yes. You will find the authority on page 90 of the Joint Standing Orders.

Hon. H. STEWART: It is the duty of the Clerk to see that what occurs in the House is properly recorded. Does his responsibility go any further?

Hon. J. CORNELL: Or should it?

Hon. H. STEWART: At present it is nobody's duty to see that in the reprint of an Act subsequent amendments are included. Now we are asked to say whose duty it shall be. Mr. Nicholson holds that the Attorney General should be responsible.

The Minister for Education: But that is for quite a different purpose.

Hon. H. STEWART: The reprinting of an Act with amendments is similar to a compilation. To put this on to the Clerk is to add to his duties. Actually it is only routine work, although work of considerable importance. In many instances such work may extend back over amendments covering a considerable number of years. In such a case who would be most conversant with the position? It would be an easier matter to let it go through the Attorney General's Department than to give the work to the Clerk of Parliaments, who already has his ordinary duties to perform. Moreover, the Crown Law De-

partment are dealing with matters of this kind every day.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: The hon. member does not differentiate between the consolidation of an Act and the reprint of an Act. All that the Bill seeks to do is to make general for all time what we have been putting into Acts of Parliament for years past. This will be found in the Licensing Act, which sets out—

All copies of the principal Act to be hereafter printed by the Government Printer shall be printed as amended by this Act, under the superintendence of the Clerk of Parliaments, and all necessary references to the amending Acts shall be made in the margin.

So it is with many other Acts. The work has been done for the sake of convenience by the Clerk of Parliaments. All the Bill before us seeks to do is to save putting a similar clause into future amending Bills. The consolidation of an Act is quite a different proposition.

Hon. J. CORNELL: This Bill will make the Clerk of Parliaments a proof reader in perpetuity.

The Minister for Education: It is his duty.

Hon. J. CORNELL: That is the point. Should it be his duty, or should it be the duty of the Crown Law Department, which is dealing with these matters every day?

Hon. T. Moore: As it has been in the past so it shall be in the future.

Hon. J. CORNELL: The Standing Orders set out that unless we do this by a specific clause in the Bill, the Clerk's function ceases when he has certified that the Bill is as it was passed by the House. The question is who is charged with the administration of the law? The Crown Law Department. I am of opinion that the Crown Law Department should do this work and not the Clerk of Parliaments.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3, Preamble—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

BILL—REGISTRATION OF DEEDS AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. J. Ewing—South) [5.55] in moving the second reading said: This is a very short Bill, but it is nevertheless important. Under the Transfer of Land Act it is very easy for people to get a transfer by going before a Justice of the Peace or some other authorised person, who signs the transfer or even a mortgage, if it be such, or any other instrument, which is thereupon deposited in the office of the Registrar of Deeds in Perth. In order to get a title to a transfer of property, not under the Transfer of Land Act, but under Ordinance No. 14 of 1856,

it is necessary to appear before the Registrar in Perth so that the document may be signed. A solicitor who may be acting for anyone in this country, can appear, and sign that document, but it is necessary in such an event, that he shall be paid. That creates unnecessary expense to the man in the country who may desire to transfer his property under that Ordinance. It is that expenditure that we desire to avoid. We wish to overcome this and make it possible for a document to be signed by a person authorised to affix his signature to such document under the Transfer of Land Act. The Bill is a very simple one, but hon. members will realise its value, especially so far as anyone living in the country is concerned.

Hon. T. Moore: You do away with the middle man.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The object is to make these transfers as cheap as possible, the desire being to avoid the employment of solicitors to appear before the Registrar. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN (Metropolitan) [6.0]: It is necessary, before the Registrar accepts a memorial from an ordinary individual, that the signature to it should be attested by a witness. In the case of a legal practitioner, however, no attestation is required. I do not know why that is so, because, if a signature has to be attested in one case, it should be attested in another. If someone took to the Registrar a memorial with Mr. Nicholson's name upon it, which memorial Mr. Nicholson had not seen, the Registrar might accept it without the signature having been witnessed.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan in the Chair; the Minister for Education in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Amendment of Section 6:

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: I move an amendment—

That in the proviso all the words after "that" be struck out and the following be inserted in lieu: "The signatures to such memorial must be attested by a witness qualified to attest the execution of instruments under the Transfer of Land Act, 1893."

This will give the Registrar a double security before he acts.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I take it the object of the Bill is to facilitate dealing in land under the old system. Under the Transfer of Land Act, a transfer can be witnessed by certain classes of persons, such as solicitors, justices of the peace, notaries public, etc., these being persons selected under the Act as being fitted for this duty. There should be

no harm in extending the same facilities in the case of deeds under the old system. I see no need for the amendment.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: If the amendment is agreed to it will complicate matters, and render it more difficult for a person wishing to transfer his land.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: We are now dealing with a different condition of affairs. Heretofore people have had a legal practitioner acting for them. The signature should be attested. I will not, however, press the amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Clause put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

BILL—RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF MAINTENANCE ORDERS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: (Hon. J. Ewing—South-West) [8.6] in moving the second reading said: This Bill will extend the provisions of the original Act to the Eastern States. In order that this may be done it is necessary to strike out, wherever they appear in the parent Act, the words "outside the Commonwealth." This is provided for in Clause 2. When the words are struck out the Act will have application to all portions of the Commonwealth. It is proposed to add a proviso to Section 7 of the Act, which grants power to make certain regulations. These regulations, as provided for in the parent Act, are somewhat restricted. It is thought advisable to add a subclause which will give greater power for the making of the necessary regulations. Section 14 of the principal Act is amended by inserting after "Kingdom" in line 2 the words, "and the States of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania." That, of course, is a consequential amendment. If we strike out the words, "outside the Commonwealth," it is necessary to add these words in this particular section to make the parent Act read as commonsense. The repeal of Subsection 3 of Section 14 is somewhat important. The extent of the Act will now be for the whole of the Australian States as well as the United Kingdom. The Act in the Old Country is not so far-reaching as the Bill now before us. In the Old Country there is provision only for maintenance, but our Act provides for affiliation as well as maintenance orders. It is necessary to insert a clause which will overcome that difficulty, and allow us to have reciprocity with any particular country which is perhaps not as fully advanced in legislation as we are. That will apply to the English Act. If the Bill is passed we shall be able to reciprocate with the Old Country as

well as the whole of Australia. At present we are only able to deal with matters within the Commonwealth under the Interstate Destitute Persons Relief Act—a complicated and difficult procedure. It will not be necessary that the legislation shall be on all-fours with that of the rest of Australia or the United Kingdom, but it will be of such a nature that the Governor may consider it right and proper to extend the provisions of the parent Act as they will be affected by the Bill before us. It is a very important measure, for it enables people to be found and punished for desertion. That is very much required in this State. Mr. Lovekin has had considerable experience of this question. Perhaps we have very often been thwarted against making people pay the penalty for their misdoings. The Bill will remove anything that interferes with the proper procedure of the law. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. J. DUFFELL (Metropolitan-Suburban) [6.9]: I second the motion. I would remind the Leader of the House that on former occasions when amendments to Acts have been brought before the House, he has been a firm supporter of the principle that the sections of a particular Act that a Bill seeks to amend should appear on the Bill in interleaved form. This would be of great assistance to members. I am sure the Leader of the House only requires to have his attention called to this to see that Bills are drawn up in this way for the future. It is imperative that we should know the full text as well as the context of the Act which a Bill purports to amend. When the Bill of 1921 was before us we were told it would be a panacea for all the ills and woes that were covered by the cases referred to by the Leader of the House. After two years we find that this is not so. I hope my suggestion will be carried out. It is essential that the Bill now before us should be passed.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN (Metropolitan) [6.12]: I support the seconding reading, but would ask the Minister to defer the final stages until Tuesday next. This Bill somewhat concerns the Children's Court in which I am interested. There is one matter which ought to be included in the Bill but is omitted from it. Under this Bill we deal with affiliation cases, and the pursuit of a man who clears out to the Eastern States and neglects to keep his children. There is nothing of this in the English Act. Difficulties arise in the pursuit of such gentlemen, because the procedure in the different States is not uniform. At meetings of members of the Children's Court we have discussed this matter, and decided at the first opportunity to get the procedure for the enforcement of orders made uniform by Statute. In our Act we can only levy distress upon a man if he has anything, which, as a rule, is not the case. In the Eastern States a man can be imprisoned if he has nothing upon which to

levy. They do imprison a man over there for not complying with an order that is made here. Governments in the Eastern States complain that we do not reciprocate with them. When a man comes here and there is a "nulla bona" return that is the end of it, but in the Eastern States a man is imprisoned if he will not pay. They collect more for us over there than we collect for them here. We might bring our legislation more into line with that of the Eastern States. At all events I trust the Minister will give us time in which to consider this Bill.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. J. Ewing—South-West—in reply) [7.30]: Referring to Mr. Duffell's remarks, I realise that members are placed at somewhat of a disadvantage at times when amendments are not shown clearly in the Bill itself. I shall endeavour to see, as far as possible, that amendments are placed in Bills so that hon. members may know exactly what we are amending. It may be difficult in connection with big Bills where there are many amendments to be considered.

Hon. J. Duffell: There may be instances when it cannot be done.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I shall endeavour to see whether something can be done in future, so that hon. members will have opportunities of knowing what they are dealing with. I shall not take the Bill into Committee to-night.

The PRESIDENT: You have not got the second reading through yet.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: That is quite so. I am simply replying to a statement made by Mr. Lovekin.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BILL—PINJARRA-DWARDA RAILWAY EXTENSION ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. J. Ewing—South) [7.31] in moving the second reading said: I hope the Bill will not be regarded as of a controversial nature, and that it will be accepted by members as carrying out the policy laid down eight or nine years ago in connection with this particular railway line. Mr. Greig gave notice of his intention to ask for production of certain papers. I have gone to some trouble to-day to oblige him in this matter. All the papers and reports which the Government have were laid on the Table this afternoon. It will be of advantage if hon. members will go into this question, which is a matter of importance to many people and to the State itself, so that they know exactly what the papers contain, what the reports are, and thus come to an unbiased and fair judgment on the questions at issue. As to the papers and plans which I shall place on the Table when I finish my

speech this evening, they show clearly the Government's intention. A Bill to authorise the construction of the railway line was introduced in 1914 by the Hon. W. C. Angwin, who was then a member of the Seaddan Government. The Bill was finally passed in 1915. The route of the line as proposed under that Bill, is shown in the plans. At that time the deviation provided was one of only two miles. The object of the amending Bill is to increase that deviation to meet certain contingencies which have arisen during the period which has elapsed since the line was authorised. At that time it was considered in the best interests of the people settled in the district that the deviation of two miles should be provided. When the Bill was introduced by the Labour Government in 1914 full consideration was given to it regarding its bearing on railway management and the best means of working the railway system as a whole. With that end in view, they considered the desirability of having the terminus at Narrogin, Pingelly or Popanyinning. If hon. members will read the reports they will see that the surveyors and also the engineers of the Railway Department came to a thorough and complete understanding. They said that the terminus should be at Narrogin, if the working of the system were to be considered. Full consideration was given to the various aspects of the question, and a direct line from Narrogin to Brookton was regarded—it applies to a limited extent now too—as one that would be over heavy grades, very difficult to negotiate. Since the passing of the line, with the necessary authorisations, each succeeding Government have promised to honour the legislative decision. There is a suggestion now that the line originally proposed does not traverse the best route, and that its construction will not be in the best interests of the State. I am here to combat that contention on behalf of the Government. I shall point out to hon. members that while it is the duty of the Government to see that public funds are spent in the best interests of the State, it is also their duty, if a mistake has been made in the past, to endeavour to overcome that difficulty and adjust it where possible. If a Government are not prepared to do that, I can only say that the Ministry would not be a Government at all. The question that has arisen is not one that refers to railway administration, but to the settlement of certain areas to the north of the line. Some time ago the Government's attention was drawn to the position of returned soldier settlers who had taken up holdings on the Noombling estate, which had been purchased by the Government. The settlers were situated some distance from the proposed line. The Government caused full investigation to be made and came to the conclusion that the best interests of the State, and of those in the Hotham Valley to the north, would be served by making the deviation suggested

in the Bill. Originally that deviation was one of two miles. To overcome that difficulty the Government, having given full consideration to the position of these settlers are asking Parliament to agree to a deviation of five miles. The proposed deviation is set out on the plan and has been agreed to in another place. The railway line has been surveyed along the proposed deviation, which runs to from four to four and a-half miles north of Dwarda, and gradually inclines back to a point along the existing railway line sixteen miles from Narrogin. If hon. members look at the plan they will see that the Noombling settlers are well catered for, and that they will be within a reasonable distance of the railway as deviated.

Hon. J. Duffell: What do you regard as reasonable?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: From three to four miles. I have a circular in my possession which reached me to-day. It shows clearly that no great disabilities will be suffered by the settlers in the district affected. One suggestion is that the line shall go north to Codjototine. If hon. members look at the plan they will see that the settlers at that centre are within a maximum distance, according to their own statement, of 18 miles of the railway. We are supposed to build railway lines to meet the requirements of settlers situate 12½ miles on either side of the route. If the line is agreed to as proposed in the Bill, each settler will be within 12 or 14 miles of the line. It will thus be seen that no great disabilities will be suffered by these particular settlers. Even if the proposed deviation is wrong, and the Government go back to the original line as already authorised, and cut the present proposal out altogether, I cannot possibly agree that such a course will be right. The Noombling settlers are to be catered for. They are deserving men and from my knowledge of the country—it is 25 years since I was there—I know that the land they are working is excellent. It was formerly owned by a Mr. Brown. Something has been said regarding grades. Before I touch on that question, however, I will remind members that there are some who do not think as the Government do regarding this proposition, but believe that the line should go practically due north from Dwarda along the Hotham Valley to Codjototine. It is a long way from the existing railway line. If that proposal were investigated and it was found necessary to make a deviation other than the proposal before the House, it would be necessary to take a line from Brookton or Popanyinning in order to give connection between the South-Western and Great Southern railways. The object of the Government is to provide a shorter route to Albany and the towns along the Great Southern generally. That is an important point. I do not see, even if the line were to turn north to Codjototine and then turn into Brookton, that there would

be any additional advantage. There would be difficulty respecting Dwellingup. It would not overcome the difficulties of the steep grades from Pinjarra to Dwellingup. As to the timber traffic, at Dwellingup there are a number of mills including the Railway Department's sawmills, the State sawmills, Porter's mills, and the W.A. Lumber Co. The line from the mills to Narrogin is on a down grade. Of course, a difficulty is experienced in coming back from Pinjarra to Dwellingup where the grades are more steep. In fact, there are grades running up to 1 in 40.

Hon. J. A. Greig: Or one in 30?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The timber could be conveyed to Narrogin by a shorter route, and that would help the people on the Great Southern line to obtain cheaper timber. It has been said that a lot of timber goes from the Collie district and that the Collie-Narrogin line is sufficient. I do not hold this view. We must not consider the Collie-Narrogin people any more than those at Dwellingup. The latter have a right to their trade and access to the market. The fact of it being possible to obtain all the timber required from one place is no reason why another place should be debarred from competing. In the event of the line being turned to Codjototine, it would remain for the time being in the middle of the forest.

Hon. J. A. Greig: That is good agricultural land.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Anyhow, it would be incumbent on the Government to carry the line to the Great Southern. The question is, which is the best point at which to junction. In the opinion of the Government Narrogin is the best point.

[The Deputy President took the Chair.]

Hon. H. Stewart: Do the Government base their information on the advice of the railway authorities?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Yes; if the hon. member peruses the files he will find that the consensus of opinion of railway surveyors and others was that Narrogin was the right place at which to junction.

Hon. H. Stewart: What is the date of that opinion?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Thirteen years ago. The Railway Department now object to the steep grade from Pinjarra and Dwarda to Dwellingup. The same objection, however, would hold if the line were taken to Brookton, unless a connection were made from Brookton to Armadale. Before members vote against the second reading, or suggest delaying the measure, I hope they will consider what is best in the interests of the State to honour the pledge given by several Governments. Consideration should be given to the settlers as promised, and we should not deprive them of an ad-

vantage that Parliament has already decreed they shall have. The traffic easterly from the mills is practically downhill and therefore would not be affected by the grades.

Hon. T. Moore: Where is the timber to be taken?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: All down the Great Southern railway line.

Hon. E. H. Rose: What about the back traffic? Would that go through there?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The wheat from Narrogin should be taken to Bunbury. Last season 11,000 tons of wheat were sent to Fremantle and 16,000 tons to Bunbury. From Narrogin to Bunbury is about 100 miles, while to Fremantle is 160 miles via Spencer's Brook and 140 miles via Dwarda. The advantage is all with Bunbury. The natural port for all the country around Brookton, Lake Grace and Newdegate is not Albany or Fremantle, but Bunbury. Therefore to build this line will not be disadvantageous to Bunbury.

Hon. J. Duffell: Could you handle the increased traffic at Bunbury?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Yes, there are plenty of trains available, while at Bunbury there is plenty of water and everything is in good condition. The objections raised by the Commissioner of Railways should not be taken seriously. If the line is carried to the north and to Brookton, the difficulty of steep grades will still be encountered. Maybe the Commissioner would not carry his traffic over that line, but if he will not take it from Narrogin via Dwarda to Pinjarra, he will not take it via Codjototine and Dwarda to Pinjarra because the grades would be precisely the same. The people of the Hotham Valley require a railway, but not at the expense of people who for years have been promised this line. The construction of this railway would have been completed long ago but for the war and the high cost of material. To build it now will cost £136,000. Had it been built during the war, I daresay it would have cost double that amount. Therefore the Government were wise in postponing its construction. They did not postpone it in order to break faith with the people. Their only idea was to avoid a too heavy capitalisation. If the objective of some people is to build a line to the north and ignore the settlers to the south that have been promised railway communication for years, I ask is it fair to take the advantage from the one lot of settlers to give it to others in the same district? The proper course is to carry out the intentions of Parliament. That will be done by building this line which, when deviated, will serve the Noombling settlers. The Premier and the Minister for Works visited the district some time ago. They went to 14-mile Brook, where they were met by settlers from Noombling, portion of the Hotham Valley and the surrounding district. It was a thoroughly representative gathering and the settlers were quite satisfied when the Premier announced the Government's intention to de-

viat the line and thus serve the Noombling estate. Various Governments have promised that this line should be built; no Government has ever gone back on that promise. Why, then, should these people be denied what they consider to be their right by virtue of the promises made to them? We have been practically holding out an inducement to people to settle in the district, and great improvements have been carried out there. Mr. Baxter said the land was inferior poison country. Cleared of the poison, the land has been proved to be good. From my recollection of it, I should say it is fair average country from Dwarda into Narrogin.

Hon. J. A. Greig: It is already served.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Looking at the map I cannot agree with the hon. member there. I ask members to study the map and judge for themselves what the deviation means. If the line is taken to the north, it certainly will not serve the people to the south. If the people north of Dwarda towards Brookton look for a connection with Armadale in years to come, that will give them all they require. I appeal to members to support the Bill and thus permit this long-standing promise to the settlers of the district to be fulfilled. To do otherwise than fulfil this promise would not be honourable. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. J. A. Greig, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 7.59 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 12th September, 1923.

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

QUESTION—TRAMWAY EXTENSION AND MUNICIPAL RATING.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN asked the Minister for Railways: Is it his intention to introduce during this session legislation giving power to local authorities to levy a rate for the purpose of paying a subsidy towards the financial loss, if any, on the extension of any tramway, such as from Como to Canning Bridge?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: The matter is under consideration in conjunction with tramway extensions generally.

QUESTION—SANDALWOOD, AND FORESTS ACT.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Have any regulations been made under the Forests Act, 1919, to compel sandalwood getters under permit to sell or dispose of the sandalwood obtained under such permit to any particular company, firm, or persons? 2, If so, have the regulations been gazetted? 3, If gazetted, when were they placed on the Table of the House? 4, If not placed before Parliament, when will that be done, in accordance with the Forests Act?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, No; but Regulation 51a was gazetted on the 16th March, 1923, prohibiting the cutting, pulling, or removal of sandalwood from Crown land within the State north of the 20th parallel of south latitude, except for distillation purposes within the State; and on the same date Regulation 52a was gazetted restricting the issue of licenses to those persons who could produce an order for sandalwood for oil distillation purposes within the State. These regulations were laid upon the Table of the House on the 31st July, 1923. 2, 3, and 4, Answered by No. 1.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. Willcock, leave of absence for four weeks granted to Mr. O'Loughlen (Forrest) on the ground of ill-health.

BILL—ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER AGREEMENT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Council.

BILL—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE ACT CONTINUANCE.

Third Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell --Northam) [4.36]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.