

of heavy charges on loan funds and for the next 20 years or so we will not have anything like the amount of money needed. I think separate borrowing powers should be granted to the commission on a basis more or less comparable with that possessed by the Finance and Development Board in this State. I hope the Minister in association with the Treasurer, will look favourably on this proposal.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: I would like to smile on this amendment but, after consultation with the Treasurer, it has been decided that the odds against it are 60-40, and not 50-50 as suggested by the member for Williams-Narrogin. There are two main reasons why it is thought undesirable to incorporate this proposal in the Bill. Firstly, with Government borrowings the Commonwealth Government is responsible for 5s. per cent. of the necessary sinking fund, which is a considerable contribution and a great help to the State. If the commission were given separate borrowing powers that advantage would not be available and the whole of the sinking fund required would have to be provided out of funds available to the commission or, if those funds were not sufficient, by the Government, out of other funds.

Mr. Doney: It is available out of the funds of the Finance and Development Board, in their case.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Secondly, funds borrowed by the Government and with the backing of the Government, by way of loan, can be obtained more cheaply than would be the case if the commission borrowed on its own account. Even though it were a Government instrumentality the commission could not hope to obtain money at as low a rate of interest as could the Government, borrowing direct and in association with other State Governments and the Commonwealth. As I suggested earlier, the argument is against the amendment that proposes to give the commission separate borrowing powers. The Treasurer considers it better, in the financial sense, to leave the Bill as it is and leave to the Government full responsibility for the raising of loan money required for the purposes of the commission. I have therefore to indicate the opposition of the Government to this amendment.

Mr. WATTS: Both the objections of the Minister are met by the words, in the clause, "with the approval of the Governor," because if the commission cannot borrow without the approval of the Governor it cannot borrow without the approval of the Government. That is the whole story.

New clause put and negatived.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

BILLS (2)—RETURNED.

- 1, Builders' Registration Act Amendment.
With an amendment.
- 2, Supreme Court Act Amendment (No. 1).
Without amendment.

House adjourned at 11 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 6th November, 1945.

Bills:	National Fitness, 3a.	PAGE
Land and Income Tax Assessment Act Amendment, 3a., passed	1623
Town Planning and Development Act Amendment, report	1623
State Government Insurance Office Act Amendment, report	1623
Medical Act Amendment, 2a.	1623
Marketing of Onions Act Amendment, 1a.	1625
Child Welfare Act Amendment, (No. 1) 2a.	1625
Trotting Control, 2a.	1631

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

BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

- 1, National Fitness.
Returned to the Assembly with an amendment.
- 2, Land and Income Tax Assessment Act Amendment.
Passed.

BILLS (2)—REPORTS.

- 1, Town Planning and Development Act Amendment.
- 2, State Government Insurance Office Act Amendment.
Adopted.

BILL—MEDICAL ACT AMENDMENT.*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 31st October.

HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan)

[4.38]: A Bill very similar in nature to the one now before us was thoroughly discussed in this Chamber three years ago. It is almost word for word the same. I consider it wise to bring this Bill before us because it is needed, and has been needed, very sadly. I do not propose to speak at length on the measure, as it was discussed so thoroughly on the previous occasion. The Bill is essentially one for Committee discussion, not for long second reading speeches. One or two important phases in the Bill, however, are worth considering for a moment or two. The first is that for the first time the Medical Board will be given, under this Bill, the power to initiate an inquiry of its own motion. That is essential.

The work of the Medical Board has been hampered for many years because it could not take action unless it received a complaint from some member or members of the public. But now that the board is to be given power to institute its own inquiries, it will not be necessary for individuals to take action. I have placed on the notice paper an amendment in regard to this clause, because I think the power of the board should be wider than is suggested. I would like to see it given power to investigate the professional conduct of any member of the profession if that was considered necessary in the interests of the public. After all, this is a Bill to protect the public, and at the same time one by which the medical profession is to maintain its standard of medical ethics within the State. It is therefore wise that the board should be able to control the ethical and professional standards of the medical fraternity. For this reason I heartily agree with the Bill and will vote for its second reading. I will then be prepared to discuss it, clause by clause, at a later stage.

There are certain features which will call for considerable debate in Committee because the Bill has one inherent weakness. It gives, in a curious way, authority to unregistered practitioners to practise. It gives that authority by imposing penalties on registered practitioners and then providing that the regulations are not to apply

to unregistered persons. The provisions of the Bill could be avoided by me, or by any other member of the profession, quite simply if I were to decide to practise no longer as a member of the medical profession but as one of these unregistered persons given liberty by this measure. Many things which I think would be of advantage are not included in the Bill, but it would need a total reorganisation of the present system and standards to accomplish what I desire. I believe that medicine and surgery have progressed so much and so fast that it is no longer possible for a graduate, on receiving his degree, to undertake all the skilled and technical work that he can be called upon to do in his profession.

We should, by some means, evolve a system whereby a member of the medical profession will be allowed to do more and more skilled work as he gains experience. That would be an entirely revolutionary procedure and is not attempted here. But I think the future will see that a man will, upon receiving his university degree, be limited, to some extent, in the work he is allowed to do. I refer particularly to certain of the advanced forms of surgery. I realise that it takes a long time to qualify for the profession, but I would still like to see it made obligatory for a man to reside in a hospital for at least one year before being registered. But that is a matter for another day; this Bill is dealing with the situation as we see it at present. I commend the measure as a whole, but I would suggest that members give careful consideration to the amendments I have placed on the notice paper because they represent the considered opinions of those who have the interests of the public and the profession at heart.

The Chief Secretary: Could you explain a little more fully the point about practising as an unregistered practitioner?

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I was referring to the dietitians and chiropractors. I could quite easily, under this Bill, fail to pay my registration fee, do everything outside this measure and continue my present occupation. All that would be necessary for me to do that would be to get some member of the profession to cover me by signing death certificates. I could carry on as a dietitian, because a dietitian is given practically all the liberty that is necessary. This difficulty

could be overcome quite easily by deleting all reference to persons other than those associated with the medical profession. It is my intention, when the Bill is in Committee, to ask the Chairman of Committees whether such words are foreign to the Title.

Hon. J. Cornell: Now is the time to raise that point.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Then I shall raise it now. I consider that all reference to dietitians and chiropractors in the Bill is foreign to the Title. If those callings are eliminated from the Bill and we receive an assurance that another measure will be brought down controlling them and other practitioners, not being medical practitioners, we would get somewhere. There are two schools of thought on this matter. There are those who say that these people should not be qualified or registered, and those who say that they should all be qualified, but under their particular headings. I understand that in those countries where these types of practitioners are registered there occurs within their own organisations such jealousy that they endeavour to maintain a high standard.

This measure refers to dietitians and chiropractors, but we have within our State no definition of "dietitian" or "chiropractor." Now that the point has been raised, one might say that the situation became so serious in Victoria that steps were taken to register dietitians, and before one can be registered as a dietitian there, courses of study have to be undertaken. At a later stage, I propose to give some details under which dietitians can be qualified in other States. In Victoria, such a practitioner has to do a three-years' course, yet in this Bill we give liberty to dietitians to practise without asking them to have any qualifications. I seriously submit that it might be wise to defeat this Bill, if that is the way we wish to continue, and then everyone would have a perfectly free opportunity to treat the sick. We could have doctors, dietitians, chiropractors, naturopaths and nature healers. We could all do what we thought best in the interests of the public. On the other hand, because we have medical men who have gone through a course of study, have spent six years at least at a university and most of them have spent many years in hospitals, they must be penalised; any action of theirs must be scrutinised and a board is to be set up to see that they do nothing that

is injurious to the public health. Not so with anyone who desires to set up as a dietitian or chiropractor. No restraint is to be placed upon him at all. Such people are to be given so much consideration that in a Bill seeking to control medical practitioners they are to be excluded entirely from the provisions of such legislation.

We would be much wiser to devote the Bill entirely to medical practitioners and then consider what control should be exercised over those people who believe that by some heaven-sent gift they can look after the sick of our State. I have already expressed my conviction that the references to dietitians and chiropractors are foreign to the Title of the Bill. If my contention is correct, then the Bill will be immeasurably improved by the removal of those references and it will then be for the Government to introduce further legislation dealing with such practitioners.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BILL—MARKETING OF ONIONS ACT AMENDMENT.

Received from the Assembly and read first time.

BILL—CHILD WELFARE ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

HON. J. A. DIMMITT (Metropolitan Suburban) [4.53] in moving the second reading said: I think that the introduction of this Bill does not need a very lengthy dissertation because I feel the contemplated reform has long been needed. I am fully hopeful that members of this Chamber will agree with me on that point. The Bill seeks to alter the age at which juveniles shall be allowed to indulge in street trading. I would like members to realise that the terms "street trading" and "selling of newspapers" are synonymous because, so far as I can ascertain, the only street trading in which children are employed is the selling of newspapers. Section 104 of the Child Welfare Act sets out in Subsection (1)—

A written license authorising a child of over the age of twelve years to engage within prescribed hours and subject to the regulations, in a specified description of street trading, may be issued by the department.

the Bill seeks to alter that subsection by changing the word "twelve" to "fifteen," the effect of which will be to change the age at which a license may be issued for street trading from twelve to fifteen years. There is a consequential amendment to Section 105 in order to change the same words. The Bill also provides that this alteration will not in any way affect the licenses of children under fifteen years of age, which are at present in existence. In New South Wales and Tasmania similar legislation has been enacted and has operated for a number of years. In those States it is still possible for people to purchase newspapers in the streets and in both those States persons holding shares in newspapers are still able to draw dividends. I make that comment because on Friday evening I was rung up by a person who asked me to oppose this Bill.

Hon. G. Fraser: He picked the wrong one!

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: He said, "You now, certain newspaper people are pretty concerned about this matter." I explained to him that I was not very interested in the concerns of newspaper people but that I was very much interested in the welfare of the youth of this State. My friend was much disconcerted and somewhat non-plussed, but I have no doubt that those newspapers that are interested will have reported someone in this Chamber to present their views and espouse their cause. The Act which the Bill seeks to amend was passed in 1907—38 years ago. In those times little control was exercised over employment. In 1907 the Industrial Arbitration Act was not even in existence. We have gone a long way in our industrial legislation during those 38 years and that legislation has been developed to the point where child labour is not permitted.

Hon. G. B. Wood: How many hours do the children work each day?

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: I cannot say; I have not been a newspaper boy. I presume they are there for the 3 p.m. edition and stay on for the 4.15 p.m. edition. If we leave the House at 6.15, we can still find the boys selling in the streets. On Saturday nights if we go to a picture show we will find the boys still on the streets selling newspapers when we leave the theatre. The experience of members themselves will give

them some idea of the hours the children work. As I was saying, our industrial legislation has been developed to a point where child labour is not permitted in factories, shops or warehouses and yet we still have mediaeval ideas expressed in the Child Welfare Act, which allows children of twelve years of age to be employed in street trading.

That seems to me to be a complete negation of the principles that have been accepted for many years. Why such a Bill as this has not been brought before Parliament in the past is beyond me. I am sure that members after considering this proposed legislation will agree that child employment has been out-moded for many years. Personally I would like to see children taken off the streets altogether so far as street trading is concerned. The street is not a desirable place for children from the educational point of view, very far from it. Members will no doubt have come into contact with or have heard or read of the activities of children on the streets of Perth during the time when the city was full of servicemen. Those children indulged in the practice of hailing taxi cabs.

Hon. G. Fraser: I think most of them were over 15 years of age.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: I think many were under 15.

Hon. G. Fraser: Many were over 15.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: We are dealing with children under 15; those over 15 are freer agents. We want to prevent boys under 15 from being permitted to indulge in this most undesirable practice, though it may have been a profitable one. Not only did they secure taxi cabs, but they touted for other services. Some of them, I dare say, developed a little business through informing some of these servicemen of the way to a famous street of ill-repute. Surely members would want to see such undesirable practices put beyond the possibility of being indulged in by children between the ages of 12 and 14.

Hon. J. Cornell: Only by closing them up altogether.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: Let us preclude children from selling newspapers.

Hon. J. Cornell: I mean closing these bad places.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: There is an economic aspect, and no doubt it will be emphasised by opponents of the Bill who will tell us with tears in their voices that some of these lads of tender years are the sole support of their widowed mothers.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: You are on the verge of tears yourself now.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: Or it may be that they are the sole support of their crippled fathers. We will hear all about that. Those arguments were used in the last century.

The Chief Secretary: And we heard them quite recently on other measures.

Hon. G. Fraser: We have heard them sometimes from the hon. member.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: Not from me. These arguments were used last century when legislation was introduced in the House of Commons and the House of Lords to do away with pit boys in the coalmines of England and Wales.

Hon. G. Fraser: There is no analogy between the two.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: We have progressed a good way in our industrial legislation since then. No longer are children employed in the coal pits or in other forms of trading except in the selling of newspapers.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: And flowers.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: Yes. In regard to the economic aspect, in the bad old days there was no such thing as widows' pensions, or child endowment. At the time when the Child Welfare Act came into being there was no such thing as the basic wage. All these economic factors have been introduced since, so that the hard luck stories we will probably hear will not be so hard. There is one important thing to remember, namely, that the provisions of the Bill will allow those boys who are already licensed and are under 15 years of age to continue to trade in spite of their tender years.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Why?

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: So that the economic conditions that no doubt will be emphasised will not be disturbed.

Hon. E. M. Heenan: Are you not compromising with your own views?

Hon. C. F. Baxter: It depends on the conditions appertaining to the home.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: The Bill will prevent the issue of any further licenses to children under the age of 15. Our youths

deserve that protection. I hope members will view this matter in the same light that I do and will vote for the Bill. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. Sir HAL COLEBATCH: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

Motion put and negatived.

HON. H. S. W. PARKER (Metropolitan Suburban) [5.6]: Although I listened with interest to Mr. Dimmitt's remarks I am afraid I cannot agree with him. There are many reasons for my opposition to the Bill. I do not know that we want to make our city dull and unpleasant. All said and done there is a certain amount of charm in hearing newsboys. A city would be very dull if we did not have that. What is the alternative? When we leave our offices in the evening we desire to get a paper. Are we going to run to the nearest stationer's office for one, or are we going to have the streets littered with newspaper kiosks all over the place and have no boys at all in the street? It is suggested that all sorts of evils come to boys between the ages of 12 and 15 who are selling newspapers. I have made it my business to inquire from what I believe to be correct sources as to the exact position. I have not found anything against existing practices in any shape or form. On the contrary, a person who should know tells me that the smartest boys in the school are the newspaper vendors, that the trading brightens them up and makes them more alert, keen, intelligent and active.

Hon. L. Craig: Edison was a newsboy.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: The same can be said of other great men. It has been suggested that the boys hear a lot of bad language. I venture to say there is far less bad language heard on the streets where newspaper boys operate than is heard on various playing fields, at street corners and in back yards where youngsters of 12 to 15 play after school.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: Where was that suggested?

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: In another place, but it may not have been suggested by a supporter of the Bill. It is also said that the practice interferes with school work. I am informed by a person who should know that the Government school object to homework, that the children should not have any and, if they do, that

it should not take them very long. All these boys are licensed, and it rests entirely with the liaison that exists between the Education Department and the Child Welfare Department. I have been informed on good authority that up to the present owing to manpower restrictions the Child Welfare Department has not had sufficient inspectors to see that the licenses are not abused. Boys are only allowed to be on the street up to, I think, 7.45 p.m., but inspectors are not available to see that they come off the streets then.

Will this Bill prevent boys from running round the streets after 8 o'clock at night? Because we see boys running about the streets it does not mean that they have been or are street trading. One argument used against street trading was that boys were employed to get taxi cabs for American servicemen. Those were not boys who were licensed to do street trading because they were not selling newspapers. They were the hangers-on. These particular boys were not licensed. The law as it stands watches very carefully all boys between 12 and 15 who are selling papers. If boys or girls between those ages are not permitted to sell newspapers even under license, what is going to happen to them up to the age of 15? Will they run about the back streets or play in some other way instead of being usefully occupied in becoming smart and alert, and incidentally doing some good for themselves? I do not believe that the boys keep their crippled parents. I do, however, take an interest in the boys, and my belief is that they are better employed doing something than in doing nothing.

One of the curses of Australia today is that we do not make our children do some good for themselves in their early years. I am not referring to slavery or sweating conditions; what I mean is that they should be encouraged to do something of a useful nature and help themselves in every possible way. There is a general belief that we must not allow anyone under 15 years of age to do anything. They are not missing school when they are selling newspapers and are not doing anything else at that time. It is now suggested they should not be allowed to sell papers. One argument seemed sound to me until I went further into it, namely, that if they were on the street selling newspapers from 3.45 p.m. until 7.45 p.m. they missed their evening

meal. It was put to me that if the boys did not earn any money some of them would not have any meal.

I was also informed—I understand it is correct—that there is a cripple who has a stand near the railway station, and who sees to it that the boys he employs get a good hot meal at night, which is probably what they would not have at home. The proprietors of the "Daily News" in the winter, I understand, give their boys hot soup and also some sort of meal in the summer. The boys are all looked after. If they are not looked after it is the fault of the Child Welfare Department which licenses them, and which should see that the conditions are correct. I am in favour of the conditions generally provided that the boys get correct and proper meals and certain shelter during the wet weather. I oppose the Bill because I think these lads should be permitted to sell papers in the streets both for the benefit of themselves and the community at large.

HON. J. CORNELL (South) [5.15]: I want to know why the age is fixed at 15 years. I understand the school leaving age is 14 years. I believe the Act was amended to make it 15, but when it comes into force is a sort of Kathleen Mavourneen—it may be for years and may be never! I understand that boys between 14 and 15 can be employed in certain industries provided their health is not injured thereby, and yet it is suggested that they are not to be allowed to sell newspapers. I have travelled over a good deal of Australia and have been in two continents overseas—Europe and America—and I have yet to hear an uncivil word from a newsboy. I venture to say that our local newsboys give good service and render it with civility. As for their using bad language, I have never heard it. More than one newspaper boy has risen to great eminence. The late Percy Stewart, who was a Commonwealth Minister for a number of years, sold papers on the steps of the Victorian Parliament House, and one could give more than a dozen illustrations of men who have entered the British Parliament, and who at one time sold newspapers.

Far from the selling of newspapers injuring the standard of youth, I think it is inclined to improve it. As has been said,

by prohibiting them from selling newspapers, we are not going to keep them off the streets. A newspaper-boys' club is in existence and has had a very good effect. There is another institution that the community should encourage and foster, and which has done more good for the youth of this metropolitan area than all the busybodies and would-be reformers of child welfare. I refer to the Police Boys' Club. We are not going to improve the morale or standards of a boy by saying that from the time he leaves school until he is 15 years of age, he cannot sell newspapers. I think it is a farce. While I may support the second reading, I shall not support the principle that a boy can get work almost anywhere after he is 14, but may not sell newspapers.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: The Bill originally fixed the age at 14, but the Minister for Education had it amended to 15.

Hon. J. CORNELL: He is of the new school, perhaps. He was probably actuated by the knowledge that the Education Act has been amended to provide that children shall continue at school until they are 15. But that is a Kathleen Mavourneen—it may be years before it takes place; it may never happen. I hope the House will take the long view. Undoubtedly boys who sell newspapers confer a great benefit on the community, and I have yet to learn that there is anything demoralising in it; I think the contrary is the case. I shall support the second reading, but shall reserve judgment as to the age limit.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [5.20]: Unlike the previous speaker, I am going to oppose the second reading. It is not often I join forces with Mr. Parker, but I am doing so on this occasion.

Hon. J. Cornell: I may change my mind.

Hon. G. FRASER: I think the hon. member ought to. Little reason was submitted by the sponsor of the Bill as to why we should support it. He did suggest that child labour should be stopped. I quite agree with him; but between the labour which consists of working in pits and places of that description and the selling of newspapers there is no analogy. Mr. Cornell has pointed out that we allow boys to work at the age of 14 in various occupations—in fact, they can be engaged anywhere, per-

haps, outside of factories—and yet there is an attempt to prevent them from selling newspapers.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: Your Minister disagrees with that.

Hon. G. FRASER: There again, I differ from him. I am not thinking of the interests of newspaper companies, as one member suggested those who opposed the Bill were doing. Nor am I speaking with tears in my eyes and suggesting that the income earned by these boys keeps widows or disabled persons. Those earnings would not keep anybody for very long.

Hon. L. Craig: They earn very good money.

Hon. G. FRASER: But I do suggest that the income earned by those boys considerably assists persons receiving a widow's pension or child endowment. If widows' pensions and child endowment were coupled, no family would have a very good livelihood from the two combined. The greater portion of that money would be spent in keeping a roof over the family's head, and there would not be much left for clothing and other needs. But the money earned by the boys helps to keep the family going. It helps them considerably in battling through life, and I can see no harm in boys working in this way for two or three hours during an afternoon. They go to school first, and it is generally a quarter to four or four o'clock before they are on the streets.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: They are on the streets at three o'clock.

Hon. G. FRASER: Some of them—those not going to school. Those attending school are not on the streets at three o'clock. Except in the central portion of the city, the "Daily News" is not on sale then. In the suburban areas it is usually a quarter to four or four o'clock before the papers are delivered. So the boys first of all have their schooling and then sell papers until six or seven o'clock. Mr. Dimmitt mentioned 1 o'clock or midnight.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: On Saturdays.

Hon. G. FRASER: I did not hear the hon. member say that. At any rate, that is only once a week; and if the hour were that late, I would be prepared to help to prevent it. But I can see nothing wrong in boys selling newspapers between four o'clock and seven o'clock. I have already referred

to the help this work is in augmenting family incomes. There is also the position that exists in the suburban areas. Only on a few street corners do the boys sell papers in the suburbs. Quite a number of ex-servicemen of the last war with little businesses, and a number of widows such as those referred to by the hon. member, have agencies and employ a large number of boys to do certain newspaper rounds.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: That is delivery on a weekly basis.

Hon. G. FRASER: What is the difference? It is tweedledum and tweedledee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: It is a different thing altogether.

Hon. G. FRASER: These boys do the rounds, and perhaps sell on the corner afterwards. Would the hon. member be prepared to allow them to deliver papers?

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: Yes.

Hon. G. FRASER: Is not that child labour? I can see no difference. If boys are going to be allowed to sell—

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: After they are 15.

Hon. G. FRASER: Where are we going to get boys over 15 to sell newspapers? Would they not be engaged in other occupations during the day? They would not be likely to subsist on what they earned by selling newspapers.

Hon. J. Corriell: They would not knock off from their other job in time to sell newspapers.

Hon. G. FRASER: That is so. They would be working until 5.30 or 6 o'clock. If this Bill is passed it means the total elimination of the trade. I am not going to suggest what some members in another place suggested, that this would be a wonderful occupation for returned ex-servicemen.

Hon. C. B. Williams: You should not have said that; your Minister said that.

Hon. G. FRASER: I am not going to suggest that. I feel that boys between 12 and 15 are doing a wonderful service to the community in selling newspapers, and are rendering wonderful assistance to their families. Many of them, too, are helping small shopkeepers in the suburban areas. In view of the fact that they are doing no great harm to themselves or anybody else, I intend to oppose the Bill.

HON. G. B. WOOD (East) [5.26]: I intend to oppose the second reading, because no arguments have yet been submitted to

convince me that these children are doing anything detrimental to themselves or anybody else. In answer to an interjection from me, Mr. Dimmitt said that these boys were out all hours of the night.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: On Saturday nights.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: That is entirely in the hands of the department that issues the license. I intend to read from the parent Act something about these licenses. Section 104 reads, in part—

(2) Such license shall be delivered to the child, who shall produce such license, on demand, to any inspector.

(3) Such license shall not be issued unless it is shown that the moral or material welfare of the child will not suffer by such trading.

(4) Every license shall be granted for a term not exceeding six months, but may be renewed from time to time, and may at any time be cancelled by the Department.

I think that provides every safeguard that is necessary. The people responsible for the Bill should have approached it in a different way. They should have suggested amending the license to provide that selling should not take place after a certain hour at night. The proposal may have had a certain merit. As the Bill stands, however, I must oppose the second reading.

HON. C. B. WILLIAMS (South) [5.28]: I speak as a paper boy of about 50 years ago, who delivered the Melbourne "Age," the Melbourne "Argus" and another paper in the service of which he broke an arm.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: You are thinking of "The Hawklet."

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: Mr. Baxter knows about "The Hawklet"! I think the paper I am referring to was "The Evening News" of Bendigo. I also sold "The Bulletin." I read "The Bulletin" up to two years ago, and I thought it the most stupid paper I had ever read. It was not even sensible. It is not even sensible yet.

The PRESIDENT: Order! We are not discussing the merits of newspapers.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: We are discussing the right of people to sell them.

The PRESIDENT: The merits of newspapers do not come into the question before the House.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: Very well! When I was a little newspaper lad I sold all those papers. You, Sir, were the editor of "The Kalgoorlie Miner." I do not know

utmost admiration, as a casual visitor and onlooker. I have heard it repeatedly said by visitors from other parts of Australia that trotting as conducted in Western Australia is on a very high plane, probably on a much higher plane than in any other State in Australia or in New Zealand. Whether that is so or not, I am not competent to say. The ground is an excellent one. It has been improved throughout the years, and I think it is very creditable indeed to the people who have had the conduct of the sport. It provides a very healthy and happy day's outing; and from what I have seen and heard, the racing is controlled in such a way that the public get quite a fair go or a run for their money—if I can use that slang expression—in keeping with what they get on the racecourse. This Bill does not propose to deal with the sport of galloping. The Chief Secretary mentioned that the W.A.T.C. is in some degree controlled by the Government or in some way comes under Government influence. But the measure of Government influence or control is almost negligible.

The Chief Secretary: Just the same as in this Bill.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Yes. The W.A.T.C. and the Kalgoorlie and Boulder Racing Clubs get their constitutions through Acts of Parliament, but the only measure of control the Government exercises is when those clubs want to amend their by-laws. In that event, they have to submit them to the Chief Secretary's Department. On one occasion, I applied for an amendment of the Kalgoorlie Racing Club's rules, and it was a mere matter of form. The Bill will set up a new body. As I understand it, the W.A. Trotting Association will continue to function as it has. So will the Kalgoorlie Trotting Club and the Fremantle Trotting Club. They all have their own constitutions. But a separate league is to be established and the chairman of that league will be a Government nominee.

Hon. V. Hamersley: Another State trading concern!

Hon. G. Fraser: It would be a pretty profitable one, too, would it not?

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: The members of the league are to be appointed and hold office during the pleasure of the Government. The league that is proposed will cer-

tainly be subject to a fairly large measure of Government control; the Minister will have a fair amount of jurisdiction.

The Chief Secretary: No more than over the Turf Club.

Hon. G. Fraser: And that does not amount to much.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: As regards the Turf Club, the Government has little or no control. It is proposed to set up a special tribunal for dealing with disqualifications, but I doubt very much whether a person with the qualifications of a judge or a stipendiary magistrate would be the right person to decide some of the issues that would be submitted from a sport such as trotting.

Hon. J. Cornell: He would be above suspicion, anyway.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: So far as I know, there is no agitation for this Bill from my district. In the trotting club that carries on its activities in my district, there is no advocacy of this measure. They are getting along quite well and I think this measure is premature and unnecessary. The league that is proposed will add to the expenses of trotting, and I do not see that there is any great public demand for it. As far as I am aware, the general conduct of trotting in Western Australia does not call for it. I see no necessity at all for this measure.

Hon. J. Cornell: It is possible to eliminate the Goldfields in Committee.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I do not think anyone would suggest that some Minister should have control of football or cricket in this State, though it is a fact that the Western Australian Football League, during its career, has passed through some trying times. It has had its disputes and tribulations.

Hon. G. Fraser: It has not had any strikes.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I do not know whether the fact of the Trotting Association and the Breeders, Owners and Trainers' Association having a dispute is sufficient justification for bringing in a measure such as this. They, unfortunately, have had that trouble, but all organisations have trouble at some stage or other. They get over it, and in the same way these people will have to see that their affairs are run on better lines in future. As years go by, they will get new members and they will have to sec-

that the errors of the past are not repeated. Taking the broad principle of this Bill, I do not see any necessity for it, and I am afraid I cannot support it.

On motion by Hon. H. S. W. Parker, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 8.20 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 6th November, 1945.

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

QUESTIONS.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

As to Shortage and Service Releases.

Mr. HOLMAN asked the Minister for Health:

1, Is he aware that there is still a shortage of medical officers in various country centres?

2, Has he any information as to the possible release of medical officers from the Services in the near future?

3, If not, what steps (if any) is the Government taking with a view to having sufficient releases made to cater adequately for the health of the community?

The MINISTER replied:

1, Yes.

2 and 3, The State Government is co-operating with the Commonwealth in order to secure the services of medical officers. The Commonwealth proposes to retain partial control under National Security Regu-

lations to enable an even distribution of medical officers until the position reverts to normal.

CRICKET GROUNDS.

As to Assistance from Physical Fitness Fund.

Mr. NORTH asked the Minister for Education:

1, Is he aware that there is great difficulty for cricket clubs to obtain grounds for their game, owing to the impossibility of maintaining such grounds during the war in the metropolitan area?

2, Has the question been considered of assisting the local authorities, as for instance in Cottesloe, with finance from the Physical Fitness Fund to assist rehabilitation of such grounds?

The MINISTER replied:

1, Yes.

2, Yes.

AIR SERVICES.

As to Applications to Operate.

Mr. NORTH asked the Minister for Transport:

1, Has he any knowledge of applications to the Transport Board for permission to run an air service to various parts of the State from the city?

2, If so, what are the particulars?

3, Has he any objection to such applications being granted, assuming everything is in order?

4, Would such improved facilities for fast travel have any appreciable effect upon railway revenue?

The MINISTER replied:

1, Yes. The Western Australian Transport Board has applications from two firms for licenses to operate air services between Perth and country centres.

2, The applications relate to the conduct of an air service between Perth and Albany with landings at intermediate towns in the South-West and Great Southern districts.

3, The granting of licenses is a function of the Western Australian Transport Board.

4, I would not endeavour to forecast the effect of air services upon railway revenue, but the future policy in regard to air services is now under consideration.