

Hon. P. Collier: That is unquestioned.

Mr. JOHNSTON: I am pleased to have that admission from the leader of the Opposition. The Industries Assistance Board has been a most valuable institution to the Government departments in respect of the collection of outstanding debts. Through the operations of the board the Government have collected an immense amount of money due to public revenue which otherwise would not have been collected, and which during five years have aggregated nearly three-quarters of a million.

Hon. P. Collier: In other words revenue has benefited from loan funds to that extent.

Mr. JOHNSTON: That is so. During the five years the board has paid to the Lands Department by way of land rents £307,858; to the Agricultural Bank in interest, £229,848; in water rates, £29,685; in State land tax, £4,830; to the State Implement Works, £37,167; to the Seed Wheat Board, £33,838; to the Civil Service settlement scheme £929; the Tammin settlement department, £641; and in road boards rates £5,186, or a total payment to Government departments of £720,787. That shows the measure in which the State has benefited from the establishment of this institution. It is certainly the best-revenue-collecting agency the Government have. I commend the Government on having decided to continue the Act, and I congratulate the board upon the way in which they have carried on. I regret that the Government did not decide to make the board a permanent institution instead of merely continuing the board for another year.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Why should it be confined to one industry?

Mr. JOHNSTON: It should not be confined to one industry, but should be for all primary industries, as has from time to time been the case. If we are to make it more useful, let us do so, do not let us reduce its utility in any direction. The fact that 500 returned soldiers have recently come under the operations of the board is convincing proof that the board will have to be carried on.

Hon. P. Collier: Why have two institutions dealing with the man on the land? Why not leave it to the Agricultural Bank?

Mr. JOHNSTON: The trustees of the Agricultural Bank are the members of the Industries Assistance Board.

Hon. P. Collier: Still, they are operating two separate Acts.

Mr. JOHNSTON: I have no objection to the combination of those Acts if that will make the work of the board more useful. Apart from the settlement of returned soldiers the unfortunate storms lately experienced in the Dalwallinu and other districts will probably necessitate new settlers being brought under the board. I regret that while the Government were introducing this Bill they did not make the board a permanent institution as I am satisfied its position merits. It would save the necessity for bringing a continuance Bill down every

year and would obviate the need for their annual debate. If the Government will accept an amendment to continue the board for five years I shall be pleased to move it.

On motion by Mr. Maley the debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 11.21 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 30th November, 1920.

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

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:

- 1, Treasury Bonds Deficiency.
- 2, Health Act Continuance.

VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Resolution of Loyalty—Letter in Reply.

The PRESIDENT: I have received the following letter from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor—

I have the honour to enclose herewith copy of despatch His Excellency the Governor has received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies—

Downing Street, 1st October, 1920. I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch No. 22 of the 13th August, transmitting Addresses to His Majesty the King which were passed unanimously on the 5th August by the members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia

The Addresses have been laid before the King who has desired that the members of the Legislative Council and Assembly may be informed how deeply their Majesties have been touched and gratified by the warm-hearted and affectionate welcome given to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales everywhere throughout Australia.

PETITIONS (2)—FACTORIES AND SHOPS BILL.

Hon. E. M. CLARKE (South-West) [4.35]: I desire to present a petition from the tradespeople of Bunbury and a petition from the tradespeople of Collie with reference to the Factories and Shops Bill. The petitions contain 42 and 32 signatures respectively. Each petition bears the certificate of the Clerk that it is in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council, and contains no language disrespectful to the Legislature. I move—

That the petitions be received and read.

Question put and passed; petitions received and read and ordered to lie on the Table of the House.

BILL—FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

In Committee—Progress arrested.

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

Clause 1—Short Title and Commencement:

The CHAIRMAN: The question is that the clause stand as printed.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: I move an amendment—

That the Chairman do now leave the Chair.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes	11
Noes	10

Majority for . . 1

AYES.

Hon. R. G. Ardagh	Hon. J. Mills
Hon. E. M. Clarke	Hon. J. Nicholson
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. E. Rose
Hon. J. J. Holmes	Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom
Hon. A. Lovekin	Hon. J. Duffell
Hon. C. McKenzie	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. A. H. Pantou
Hon. H. P. Colebatch	Hon. A. Sanderson
Hon. J. Cornell	Hon. A. J. H. Saw
Hon. J. E. Dodd	Hon. J. Cunningham
Hon. E. H. Harris	(Teller.)
Hon. T. Moore	

Amendment thus passed.

The Chairman accordingly left the Chair and the Bill lapsed.

BILL—SALE OF LIQUOR REGULATION ACT CONTINUANCE.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [4.47]: I am moving the second reading said: This is purely a continuance Bill, similar to the measure which has been passed each year since the measure was first enacted in 1915. I do not know that it is necessary for me to say anything further in regard to the matter, and I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

BILL—LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT CONTINUANCE.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [4.51]: I am moving the second reading said: This also is a continuance measure, to extend the operation of the Licensing Act Amendment Act of 1914, which has been renewed from year to year. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

BILLS (3)—FIRST READING.

1, Railways Classification Board.

2, Innkeepers.

3, Meekatharra-Horseshoe Railway.

Received from the Legislative Assembly

BILL—GUARDIANSHIP OF INFANTS

Message from the Assembly received notifying that it had agreed to the Council's amendments.

MOTION—FEDERAL CONSTITUTION, CONVENTION.

Debate resumed from the 17th November on the following motion by Hon. A. Sanderson—

That in the opinion of this House a Federal Convention, with equal State representation, should be appointed by the elec-

tors of each State on the basis of proportional representation to make representations with a view of revising the Federal Constitution, and that the Government of Western Australia be requested to urge this opinion upon the Commonwealth Government.

Hon. A. SANDERSON (Metropolitan-Suburban—in reply) [4.55]: I have to thank the leader of the House for his able support of this motion, and also Mr. Ewing and Mr. Cornell for having spoken in support of it. I am gratified by the way in which the House has received the motion. It has been criticised by Mr. Panton, and I admit at once that I laid myself open to the charge of not having dealt sufficiently fully with the matter; but I explained, in moving the motion, that it seemed to me essential, when dealing with these big questions of public policy, not to confuse the issues by entering into detail. Let me also say that this is not an isolated motion of my own, brought before the Chamber without careful consideration. It is identically the same motion as has been passed by the South Australian Parliament; and I think that if it is passed here, as I hope it will be either unanimously or by a large majority, and then transmitted to another place and carried there, it will have some effect—I do not wish to indulge in any exaggerated hopes—on public opinion in Western Australia, and some effect on our members in the Federal Parliament, and also, I sincerely trust, an effect, together with the corresponding motion from South Australia, on the two Houses of the Federal Parliament. I shall not detain the House at any length this afternoon, but shall content myself by saying that after a very careful survey of the whole position I am convinced that this proposed convention, which we have been promised by the Federal Cabinet, is the most important event in the political history of Western Australia since the original Federal Convention sat. I shall deal with one or two of the points raised by Mr. Panton, dismissing his objection to my attitude of not unfolding at great length the details of this Federal problem. Surely Mr. Panton will admit that an individual in Western Australia, whether inside or outside the State Parliament, might be a very suitable representative to send to the convention to deal with the machinery which we are going to set up, although he might not be a suitable person to send as a representative of the Labour or the Country or the Nationalist party. I think the leader of the House dealt sufficiently with Mr. Panton's criticism that this proposal to have the States represented as States is not democratic. The leader of the House pointed out very forcibly that we have always to remember that the essence of this Federation is that the States as States were parties to the original compact. It is no use, either for Mr. Panton or for anyone connected with his party, to come forward

and talk about democracy. The democracy we have to consider is the democracy in Western Australia. We have to establish, as we hoped originally that we would establish, the equal right of the State of Western Australia to be represented on equal terms in the Senate with the State, let us say, of New South Wales. Mr. Panton must also be aware that unless that had been done at the commencement, when the conventions were originally held, there would have been no possible chance of Western Australia, or indeed any of the smaller States, joining up; joining up, that is to say, unless it felt itself protected to the fullest extent by the Senate, which was the States House. I need not labour the point. That has gone by the board. The Senate no longer represents—indeed it never did represent—the States. It has become purely a party House. On the subject of proportional representation, I can only endorse what the leader of the House said. If there were any serious objection either here or in another place to that method of electing the convention, I should be quite prepared—if it were shown that we were going to be defeated—to withdraw it; but I put it to all sections of the community that at this convention it is only reasonable and fair that we should have proportional representation. I should like to draw attention to the grave danger there is that this matter will be postponed, postponed, postponed, as has already been done by the Federal Government to the beginning of next year; every day, every month that we postpone coming to close quarters with this Federal problem, the danger to our State finances and our State existence is increased. I regret extremely to find, from a perusal of the Federal "Hansard," that apparently the Labour party are committed to the policy that any alteration in the Federal Constitution shall be brought about only by the Federal Parliament. I am ready to join issue on that point, and I wish to emphasise the importance of the public definitely making up their minds which they are going to have. Are we to have our Constitution re-drawn by the Federal Parliament, or are we to have a convention? The question ought to be discussed at great length throughout the land. But if we in Western Australia have definitely decided on the convention as against the Federal Parliament, it behoves us to bring all the pressure we can on our members in the Federal Parliament to see that they support the convention as against a re-drafting by Parliament of the Federal Constitution. I think that covers the important points raised during the debate. As I say, this is only one step. When we have passed this motion, let us send it to another place and ask for their concurrence. When that is assured, we can get into the public arena in Western Australia as soon as possible and begin to prepare our case for submission to the convention and, if necessary, to the Federal Parliament, so that Western Australia on this occasion shall not find herself in the position she occupied 20 years

ago, when she had not full representation and full discussion of the far-reaching effects of Federation. The result we see to-day in the financial position of Western Australia which, it seems to be agreed among all those who devote time to the question, we cannot begin to put right without first grappling with and settling on a sound foundation the Federal bond.

Question put and passed.

On motion by Hon. A. Sanderson, resolution transmitted by message to the Assembly, and their concurrence desired therein.

MOTION—ELECTRICAL ENERGY.

To inquire by Royal Commission.

Order of the Day read for the resumption from 18th November of the debate on the following motion by Hon. J. Ewing:—
“That in the opinion of this House the Government should appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the feasibility of generating electrical energy at Collie and transmitting the same from there with a view to reducing the cost of the supply of power for industrial and domestic purposes at centres where it is required.”

On motion by Hon. V. Hamersley, debate adjourned.

BILL—FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

To revive Committee stage.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [5.4]: I give notice that at the next sitting I will move—

That the Committee stage of the Factories and Shops Bill be revived at the stage at which it was when the Chairman left the Chair.

House adjourned at 5.5 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 30th November, 1920.

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

QUESTION—SANDALWOOD, EXEMPTED AREAS.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN asked the Minister for Forests: 1, Is the area that has been applied for by the firm of Plamar & Co., Ltd., for cutting sandalwood, the area comprising Dorre and Bernier Islands? 2, If not, is it the same area as that from which the samples of sandalwood were brought down by a Mr. Preney, and handed to Mr. Lane-Pool, Conservator of Forests, for experimental purposes? 3, What is the extent of the area applied for by Plamar & Co., Ltd., and where is it situated? 4, Will he refrain from granting any permit in the district to any person, company, or firm, without calling for tenders for cutting sandalwood?

The MINISTER FOR FORESTS replied: 1, Yes. 2, Replied to by No. 1. 3, Dorre and Bernier Islands—30,000 acres, situated in Shark Bay. 4, The Act provides that no permit, the royalty from which exceeds £10, can be granted by the Conservator without being submitted to tender or auction. Tenders will therefore be called.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

- 1, Treasury Bonds Deficiency.
- 2, Health Act Continuance.

VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Resolution of Loyalty—Letter in reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received from His Excellency the Governor a copy of a despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies as follows:—

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 22, of the