

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 18th January, 1923.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTION—STATE SHIPPING SERVICE.

Mr. MUNSIE (for Mr. Wilcock) asked the Premier: 1, In view of the fact that considerable anxiety exists with regard to the future policy respecting the State Shipping Service, does he intend to make an announcement as to his policy? 2, If so, when?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, If and when a change of policy is determined upon.

QUESTION—COTTON CROPS, DERBY.

Mr. TEESDALE asked the Premier: 1, Is he aware that telegrams were received on Tuesday complaining that straying cattle are destroying the young cotton crops at Derby? 2, Will he take immediate action to have the trespassing cattle destroyed, or, failing that, erect a ring fence at once, utilising all the settlement and other available labour in the district to prevent the loss of this season's crop?

The PREMIER replied: 1, A telegram has been received by the North-West Department from the officer in charge of the Cotton Group Settlement, Derby, to the effect that Messrs. Thurkle and Foley have complained that straying cattle have trampled in their cotton. The matter has also been reported to the North-West Department by Mr. Shaw. 2, The fencing of crops forms portion of the work to be carried out by the Group Settlement, and fencing wire was supplied in the first instance for the purpose. The officer in charge will see that what is necessary in this respect is done. The erection of a ring fence is impracticable. It is in the interests of settlers outside the Group Settlement that they undertake the fencing of their own crops. The Department has warned intending settlers that straying cattle were on this area.

QUESTION—JANDAKOT ROAD BOARD.

Mr. MUNSIE (for Mr. McCallum) asked the Minister for Works: What were the costs of administering the Jandakot road board area by the commissioner appointed by the Minister as compared with the last term of the road board under the following headings:—(a) Office rent and expenses; (b) Salaries, wages, and honoraria; (c) Travelling expenses; (d) Other administration costs?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: The difference between the board's administration and the administration of the Commissioner is a saving to the ratepayers of £27 3s. 3d. I lay the papers, containing the details, on the Table.

QUESTION—GROUP SETTLEMENTS, VITICULTURE.

Mr. JOHNSTON (for Mr. A. Thomson) asked the Premier: In view of the statement made by him in this House on 3rd August, 1922, "that he proposed to increase vine production by putting in straight away 10,000 acres of vines," and taking into consideration his reply of Tuesday, "that his experts had been seeking land suitable for viticulture," a period of five months having elapsed since his announcement of 3rd August—1, Will he state if it is his intention to establish group settlements for viticulture? 2, If so, at what date may persons who are desirous of joining viticultural groups expect to commence, and will he announce the conditions? 3, Is he aware that quite a number of persons in and out of the State, with capital, are anxious for the establishment of viticultural groups?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, In a few weeks. 3, No.

QUESTION—RAILWAY PROJECT, KONDININ-NEWDEGATE.

Mr. JOHNSTON asked the Premier: 1, Is it the intention of the Government during the present session to introduce a Bill for the construction of a railway from Kondinin to Newdegate through the East Jilakin areas in accordance with the recommendation of the Railway Advisory Board dated 13th November, 1922? 2, If not, why not?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2, A Bill will be introduced next session.

QUESTION—RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION, DWARDA-NARROGIN.

Mr. HICKMOTT asked the Minister for Works: 1, How many miles of clearing has been done on the Dwarda-Narrogin railway? 2, Was the work done by contract or day labour? 3, What was the total cost?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, Six miles. 2, Day labour. 3, £791.

QUESTION—NEWDEGATE SETTLEMENT.

Mr. HICKMOTT asked the Premier: 1, What is the total charge to the selector per acre of the clearing done at Newdegate? 2, Was the price paid a flat rate irrespective of the conditions? 3, Is there any water available at present for the men going on the land?

The PREMIER replied: 1, The charge per acre has not yet been fixed. 2, Yes. 3, An ample supply of water is available.

QUESTION—TRAMWAY EMPLOYEES, CAPS.

Mr. MANN asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Has an arrangement been made with a firm in the Eastern States for supply of caps for the tramway employees? 2, Were local firms given an opportunity of quoting for such supply?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, No. 2, Yes.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. Mullany, leave of absence for three weeks granted to Mr. J. MacCallum Smith (North Perth) on the ground of urgent private business.

MOTION—STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [2.42]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Appropriation Bill to be introduced without notice and the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Act Amendment Bill, the Loan Bill and the Appropriation Bill to be passed through all their stages in one day.

Mr. SPEAKER: It will be necessary for an absolute majority of the House to pass this motion. There is an absolute majority of members present and if there is no dissenting voice when I put the question, I shall not divide the House.

Question put and passed.

BILL—GENERAL LOAN AND INSCRIBED STOCK ACT AMENDMENT.

All Stages.

Introduced by the Premier and read a first time.

Message.

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation in connection with the Bill.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [2.45] in moving the second reading said: This is a Bill to fix the rate at which money may be borrowed. For years it was fixed at four per cent. but gradually rose to higher amounts. The Treasurer is permitted to pay discount and can pay any discount he pleases, but the value of the money is fixed for him and he has to raise it at that price. Money to-day costs a little over five per cent. I hope it will become cheaper soon, but one never knows. I am, therefore, asking the House to agree to a rate not exceeding six per cent. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

BILL—LOAN, £3,850,000.

All Stages.

Introduced by the Premier and read a first time.

Message.

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation in connection with the Bill.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [2.52] in moving the second reading said: This is a Bill to authorise the raising of money, if necessary, to be spent on works already sanctioned by this Assembly during the last few days. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 5—agreed to.

Schedule:

Mr. MUNSIE: How much of the authorised construction of the Esperance line will be covered by the expenditure of £100,000 set down in the schedule?

The PREMIER: A considerable portion of the line has already been built. We expect to be on the edge of the settlement, about 40 miles out, in March. This sum should very nearly complete the line.

Mr. Munsie: Do you anticipate spending it this year?

The PREMIER: Yes, but I do not know that we shall do so.

Mr. ANGELO: With reference to the item "urgent minor works throughout the North-West, £10,000," how long will it take to spend this munificent sum?

The PREMIER: This gives authority to raise only that sum, and has nothing to do with the other amounts set apart elsewhere for expenditure in that part of the State.

Schedule put and passed.

Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

BILL—APPROPRIATION.

All Stages.

Introduced by the Premier and read a first time.

Message.

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation in connection with the Bill.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [2.58] in moving the second reading said: This is the usual Bill for the appropriation of money to meet the expenditure covered by the Estimates which have already been passed. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Munsie: The Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1, 2, 3—agreed to.

Schedule A:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I observe that the amount of Advance to Treasurer is fixed at £500,000.

The PREMIER: I will explain that. The reason is the work being done at the Victoria Quay, Fremantle, which is to cost £135,000, and will be spread over five years.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is the renewal of the quay?

The PREMIER: Yes. We are taking the money out of the revenue bit by bit, as is usual in such cases.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Undoubtedly the work wants doing, because the structure is falling down. However, an additional amount of about £350,000 will be required. I have heard from the officers that the Premier some time ago raised strong objection to advances for this work.

The Premier: Never in my life!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Hon. members will recollect that the Labour Government started the State Shipping Service out of the Treasurer's Advance. That represented a legal authority. Parliament objected, however, on the ground that the money should be appropriated by Parliament. The Treasurer's Advance gives the Premier power to embark on large works, because he can use the amount for any purpose he desires. The vote is one which calls for some scrutinising. There is no opportunity of dealing with it when we have the Estimates before us. I hope the Premier will not continue to pile up the amount of the Treasurer's Advance. Formerly it was £250,000. In the Wilson Government's last year of office, 1911, it was raised to £400,000. Now we are asked to provide £500,000. If there is a change of Government, we will make good use of the advance.

Schedule put and passed.

Schedule B:

Mr. UNDERWOOD: This Appropriation Bill is for an amount of £4,794,117, of which the Minister for the North-West gets £26,401. The North-West is a very big country. It is the country on which the Minister for the North-West lectures so eloquently, with the aid of a magic lantern—a country of magnificent distances and of marvellous latent potentialities. I would ask hon. members to consider well whether they can spare the £26,000. If they cannot spare it, they must not give it to the North-West. Of the total of approximately five millions sterling the Minister for Education gets £559,533. Then the Minister for Justice gets £78,528, or three times as much as is allocated to the development of the great country of magnificent distances and latent potentialities. Practically the whole of the expenditure in this Bill is centred on the country around the Leeuwin. The Minister who has adopted the North-West gets £26,000 out of five millions.

The Minister for Mines: No; that is quite wrong.

The Premier: The North-West is in every other vote.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Yes, in the same proportion.

The Minister for Mines: What about the State Shipping Service?

Mr. Johnston: What about cotton planting?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Since we of the North have been adopted, we are being treated like any other adopted child; we are getting a pretty rough spin.

Mr. ANGELO: There is a well known quotation that "hope deferred maketh the heart sick." Year after year North-Western members are confronted with what we see in this Appropriation Bill—£26,000 for the North-West out of a total expenditure of four or five millions.

The Minister for Mines: That is absolutely incorrect, and you ought not to make such a statement.

Mr. ANGELO: How is it incorrect?

The Minister for Mines: Because that amount of £26,000 merely covers the department definitely controlled by the Minister for the North-West.

Mr. ANGELO: Exactly; but that Minister is gradually absorbing all the other departments.

The Minister for Mines: The loss on the State Shipping Service alone is more than the amount you mentioned.

Mr. ANGELO: The Minister told us the other day that the loss was being covered.

The Premier: Do not let us quarrel.

Mr. ANGELO: The people of the North, and also the people who are desirous of developing the North, are getting sick of the constant putting off and putting off, while such huge sums are spent in other parts of the State. In Western Australia's present position it is essential that money spent in development should bring quick production and quick returns. I contend that in the North-West such expenditure will bring quicker production and quicker returns than some of the money which has been spent in the South. As usual, the Premier pretends to be cross, the Minister for Mines laughs and jeers, and the Minister for Agriculture sympathises. That is all we get out of it. In the North-West the Government have a magnificent asset, a huge province which will pay to develop. If they want to continue to have that province attached to Western Australia, they will have to look sharp about developing it. The newspapers in the North are all advocating separation from Western Australia.

Mr. Money: Have you got newspapers up there?

Mr. ANGELO: Yes, newspapers with more news and better reading than some of the journals published in the South-West. The people of the North are thinking very seriously whether it would not pay them if the North-West were separated from the South of this State. From to-day's newspapers I learn that probably the next Prime Minister of Australia will be a gentleman who is one of the strongest advocates of smaller States. That gentleman has visited the North-West. If he is not Prime Minister soon, he will certainly hold an important portfolio in the next Federal Government.

The Minister for Mines: Is he, too, going to adopt the North-West?

Mr. ANGELO: It may be news to the Minister for Mines that Dr. Earle Page has visited the North-West within the last 18 months. He has met the leaders of opinion there, and has inquired into the circumstances of the government of the North-West. He strongly urged the people to apply for a separate State. If our Premier would make himself acquainted with the North-West and with the opinions of the people there, and if he would read the Press of the North-West—I do not suppose he ever looks at it—he would find the people of the North have got sick and tired of these constant promises of better attention. I trust that future Estimates, whether of Loan or of Revenue and Expenditure, will give evidence of more at-

tention to the development of that huge territory which it will pay Western Australia handsomely to develop, which it will certainly not pay Western Australia to lose by bad administration and by lack of attention.

The PREMIER: I can assure the hon. member that the requirements of the North-West are receiving very close attention from the Government. Of course this is not the time for the hon. member to talk separation; we cannot discuss that just now. A great deal of interest is being shown in the North-West, and probably it will not be long before the people up there have occasion to be gratified at the activities of the Government. We realise to the full how valuable is the North-West to the State.

Mr. MARSHALL: I fully endorse the remarks of the member for Gascoyne. Up to date the North-West has been neglected by successive Administrations. Of late years the importance of the North-West has been altogether submerged by that of the South-West. Obviously, from the defence point of view, the North-West should be the first to be developed. We all desire to protect Australia from the possibility of invasion from the northern races, but at present army after army could be landed in the North-West without any possibility of our stopping them, at all events not before they were firmly entrenched. The North-West lacks development because its most fertile lands are under the monopolistic direction of Elder Smith's, Dalgety's and other big firms, who, with the approval of Parliament, have secured possession of the land until 1948. It is well known that the Lefroy Government sold the rightful heritage of the Australian-born to land grabbers, with the result that all our best lands along the river fronts, and on the coast, have been securely locked up. If only we could break down the existing monopoly, the North-West would soon have a full measure of development and an assured prosperity. I hope the Government will give immediate attention to the development of the North-West, for nothing of greater importance could be considered by Ministers. We are devoting a great deal of time and money to the South-West, which is an extremely expensive proposition. In the North an equal volume of production could be secured for a very much smaller expenditure. It would be a much saner policy if the Government were to devote attention to the development of the North-West, after which they could with better warrant proceed to deal with the South-West.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I could not help being struck by the remarks of the member for Gascoyne, who has ever been the strongest of State-righters in this Chamber. In season and out of season has he urged before hon. members the need for fair play from the Federal Government for Western Australia.

Mr. Wilson: But he doesn't mean it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: However, that has been the hon. member's attitude right through

the piece. Apparently, when in his own constituency he advocates an entirely different policy. The first intimation I received of this was borne in on me through a tactful little remark in a leading article in the "Gasecoyne Advocate" or "Banner" or "Echo," or whatever the name of the Carnarvon paper may be. Here is an extract from that article—

Mr. Angelo, member for the district, who has suffered through the centralisation policy of the southern Parliaments past and present, realises the necessity for subdivision, and that it must come sooner or later. Even some of those opposed to it owned up that it was inevitable—some day. But the metropolitan members, as one might expect, were very much against it. Mr. Walker, speaking against subdivision, brought in a lot of high-falutin against squatter kings and their love of money.

I need not read any further. The writer of the article proceeds to give me and the member for South Fremantle a rap over the knuckles for evincing no interest in the North-West.

The Colonial Secretary: The "North-West Times" is a very live newspaper.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Of course it is. Nevertheless, no Government ever did more for the North-West than did the Labour Government. Even the Government of the day are promoting some experimental cotton plots in the North-West with a view, doubtless, to carrying the enterprise further if it proves successful. Of course the North-West requires developing, just as do other parts of the State. It is true, as the member for Murchison said, that what, most of all, is going to delay the populating of the North-West is that Act extending the pastoral leases till 1948.

Mr. Munsie: It crippled the development of the North-West all right.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: However, it was agreed to by Parliament. Responsibility for the undeveloped state of the North-West is, to a large extent on the shoulders of those who hold a monopoly over the land.

Mr. Angelo: But that is only in one district. Ask the Premier about the fish.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I know all about the fish.

The Premier: There are some sweet fishes at North-East Fremantle.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Government are well advised in displaying caution in their handling of the North-West and insisting upon experiments being made to prove the conditions before they go ahead with any large expenditure.

Mr. Angelo: They are too careful. They are not even experimenting.

Mr. Pickering: How do the bananas grow up there?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It all depends upon the percentage of salt in the water. Mr. Despeissis's report shows clearly that there

is salt in the water. Consequently it is necessary to make sure that the water is suitable for irrigation before launching any big scheme. I am quite willing to support a small expenditure on experimental plots, but I am not prepared to assist the hon. member in demanding the expenditure of a million and a half upon a weir.

Mr. Angelo: Half a million would do it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I hope that, next year, the hon. member will be able to show that something has been done to demonstrate that the land is as good as he says it is. On the day before I left for Carnarvon, a man at Fremantle advised me to inspect a certain garden at Carnarvon, and to inspect also Mr. Burt's property, Brickhouse, in order that I might see what the place was capable of producing. Everything around Brickhouse was most satisfactory. There was an abundance of water, and plenty of hands to keep the relatively small garden in order. Unfortunately I was not able to see the other garden, that at Carnarvon, with which my informant at Fremantle had assured me I would be so well pleased. When I asked to see it I was told that pests had got into it and that, in consequence, it was not then in a fit state to be shown to visitors. The soil looks all right, but in many instances the water is salt.

Mr. Angelo: The water in the river is fresh.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I made particular inquiries regarding the water in the river and I was told that the river at one time had not run for five years.

The Minister for Mines: It is dry only from the point of view that there is no water on the surface.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The bed of the river is bound to be damp because the sea goes up there. I suppose the hon. member has in mind the pool which is 30 miles away. Anyhow, the water difficulty will have to be solved. I admit too that this is the only dangerous part of Western Australia and we shall have to see that it is populated. We were so advised by Admiral Jellicoe.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Speaking from the knowledge I possess I declare that this part of the State will return a profit on expenditure. The pastoralists have practically no hold on the country; and that of the hundreds of millions of acres held by pastoralists, about 20,000 acres only are freehold.

The Minister for Mines: The land is held for one purpose only, and that purpose will not develop the North-West.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The agreements under which the land is held provide that the Government may resume at any time for agricultural purposes, or for any public purposes whatever. It has been stated in one or two newspapers that the pastoralists are against close cultivation, particularly in regard to cotton. In the electorate I represent there are about 60 stations and I do not think it would

be possible to find more than five, the owners of which were opposed to close settlement. The others would be only too pleased to lend a helping hand to anybody whose desire it was to grow cotton.

The Minister for Mines: Why should they not?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If a man is doing reasonably well from sheep and bullocks, enough in fact to provide him with a solid income, would he be expected to strike out in other directions?

Schedule—put and passed.

Schedules C to F—agreed to.

Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

1, Land Tax and Income Tax Act, 1922, Amendment.

2, Industrial Arbitration Act Amendment.
Transmitted to the Council.

BILL—WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [3.42] in moving the second reading said: It is proposed to bring two sets of people within the scope of the Workers' Compensation Act, the person working in connection with the felling, hauling, carriage, sawing, or milling of timber for another person who is engaged in the timber industry, and the person employed at group settlements. Regarding the former, it is necessary to amend the Act, although the Solicitor General always contended that such a person came within the scope of the Act. Some time back a timber hewer was killed and a claim for compensation was lodged. The claim was resisted, so certain was the Solicitor General on the matter; but when the case was taken to the High Court, it was lost.

Mr. McCallum: Is the Bill supposed to cover hewing?

The PREMIER: It will cover all timber workers, either those engaged on piecework or on wages. The occupation is perhaps more dangerous than any other and it is proposed by the Bill to protect those engaged in it. Regarding the people who work in group settlements, it is proposed to bring them also under the Act. It will be realised that the cost of making a farm is debited against the owner of the land, and that the work which is being carried out in heavily timbered country is no less dangerous than that to which I have already referred. These

men are without any great means; we want them covered for the protection of themselves and families, and it is right that we should be protected to an extent. We want them covered so that, if anything happens to the bread-winner, the wife and family will not become a charge against the State. These men will pay for the cover, and it will be a charge against their holdings. It will be possible for hon. members to argue that many other persons should also be brought within the operation of the Act. I do not agree that such contentions will be right, but we want to cover these two sets of people. The member for Forrest (Mr. O'Loughlen) has interested himself in the question as it affects the timber workers, and I have pointed out to him that we should send the Bill to another place in its present form. We want to get it through. It is rather late in the session, and though members may desire to bring other workers under the Act, it would be unwise to attempt to make other additions at this stage. We are more likely to get the Act amended if we accept the Bill in its present form than if attempts are made to enlarge its scope. I hope the House will pass the Bill because, by so doing, it will be only meting out justice to these two classes of workers. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. O'Loughlen, debate adjourned.

BILL—HOSPITALS.

Message.

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation in connection with the new clause to stand as Clause 40.

In Committee.

Resumed from the previous day. Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; the Colonial Secretary in charge of the Bill.

Postponed new Clause 40:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: An amendment was moved by the member for North-East Fremantle, whose object was to permanently appropriate certain moneys for the use of hospitals. The text of the proposed new clause was not quite constitutional. I am advised that there are two ways by which money can be appropriated from Consolidated Revenue, one by special Act appropriating a specified amount, and the other by the annual Appropriation Act covering the Estimates on which the items are specified. I ask leave to withdraw my proposed new clause with the object of substituting another which will comply with the requirements of the Constitution.

New clause by leave withdrawn.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move—

That the following be inserted to stand as Clause 40: "There shall be payable to

the Minister out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund in every financial year such sum as Parliament may appropriate for the purpose of this Act, and such sum shall be placed to the credit of the said fund."

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The proposed new clause is an improvement on the one which the Minister has withdrawn. If the previous one had been agreed to, it would have provided for a permanent amount not to exceed £15,000. I do not think £15,000 will meet the deficiency, and Parliament should have an opportunity from time to time to review the amount to be devoted to hospitals.

Mr. Davies: Should not the amount be specified?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is impossible because the requirements vary in different years.

Mr. DAVIES: Assuming that £15,000 was provided on the Estimates, it would not be competent for a member to increase it to £20,000.

The CHAIRMAN: No.

Mr. DAVIES: Then would it not be better to specify a certain sum?

The Minister for Mines: You cannot do that.

New clause put and passed.

Schedule, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

BILL—MINERS' PHTHISIS.

Second Reading.

Order of the day read for the resumption from the 6th September of the adjourned debate on the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Angelo in the Chair; the Minister for Mines in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—Short title:

The MINISTER FOR MINES: In the ordinary course of events, on the passing of an Act and its assent by the Governor, the measure would come into operation immediately. Certain things are necessary preliminary to bringing this measure into operation, which matters I mentioned when moving the second reading. The main feature comprises the negotiations proceeding between the Federal and State Governments regarding the establishment of the necessary machinery to enable the examination provided for to take place. At the moment I cannot say definitely when that machinery will be available, and as I do not wish to disturb the existing conditions until we can do something effective, and as I do not want this matter to drag over an extended period, I have placed on the Notice Paper an amendment to provide that the Act shall come into operation on a

date to be fixed by proclamation. The object is that the proclamation shall follow immediately we are ready to undertake the obligations in conjunction with the Federal authorities to make the necessary examination. I move an amendment—

That the following words be added "and shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by proclamation."

Mr. MUNSIE: I agree with the Minister that without the amendment, the measure would come into operation immediately it received the assent of the Governor. Will the Minister say when it is likely the necessary arrangements will be made for the issue of the proclamation?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am anxious that this Bill should apply at the earliest possible moment. When it is passed I propose through the Premier to urge upon the Federal authorities immediately to proceed with the work they have undertaken, but which has been hung up during the disturbance in the Federal political arena. I understand the Federal authorities are determined to go on with the work. It would apply at first only to certain mines on the Kalgoorlie and Boulder fields.

Mr. CHESSON: If the Federal authorities will not act, what will the State do? Are the Federal people prepared to take up the work and make it a Commonwealth as well as a State matter?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The Act will not be a dead letter. The Commonwealth Government have already undertaken certain work in other parts of Australia and have brought into the Commonwealth a specialist from the United States (Dr. Lanza). If they will proceed with their part of the work we will go side by side with them. Certain buildings and plant have to be provided, but the plant is not yet obtainable in Australia. I want the Commonwealth authorities to take their part in the matter, because they are as much interested in this particular section of the community as we are.

Mr. MARSHALL: This should be a national question. We cannot blame the Minister for the delays on the part of the Federal authorities. I am sure he appreciates the position, and will keep closely in touch with them in order to bring about an early relief of the situation.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 2 and 3—agreed to.

Clause 4—Medical examination:

Mr. MUNSIE: There is nothing in this clause to say how the employee is to leave his work for medical examination at the bureau. If no facility is afforded to a man to be examined during the ordinary hours of the day he must, if he is on day shift, have time off during working hours. In what way is the manager of the mine responsible for his pay?

Mr. Money: The employer must be reasonable.

Mr. MUNSIE: I take it the medical officers will be Federal officials, and that the Minister will have no control over them.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes. Every aspect of the matter has been considered. The first essential of compulsory examination was to make it a duty for every man to be examined. He must, therefore, comply with any reasonable request to be in a certain place at a definite time for that purpose. I have discussed this matter with the two Commonwealth medical officers concerned. They proposed to proceed with the work on the voluntary basis. I also discussed the matter with the Prime Minister. The Federal authorities are of the opinion that if compulsion could be brought into the matter it would be preferable so that no one could evade examination. I am informed that no one need be inconvenienced by such examination. I also discussed the matter with the Chamber of Mines and representatives of the unions concerned. It was agreed that a proper roster could be arranged so that the men could be examined. Further, the bureau could be kept open at night when necessary for the convenience of the men. They would be consulted before being instructed to attend. The only thing necessary to provide was that the men should not deliberately shirk their responsibilities.

Mr. Marshall: The mine managers will block the examinations if they can. They do not like being deprived of good miners.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am assured that they are not opposed to the Bill but recognise the necessity for something being done. To-day the mine owner is under penalty if he employs underground a man suffering from T.B. A new man generally has to put in a certificate that he is not suffering from T.B., but a casual examination such as that will not always reveal the presence of the disease. So long as evidence is given that an endeavour has been made to comply with the Mines Regulation Act we do not take action. What we are doing is to introduce the only known modern method of determining when men are suffering from this complaint. When we know that we shall ask that they shall be removed from those portions of the mine where they are likely to be a menace to men who are not suffering in that way. When a man's lungs are affected by dust lodgment, he becomes not only more prone to the germs of tuberculosis, but also less able to throw them off. In the absence of tuberculosis, dust lodgment will only produce short-windedness. We want to get the man who is affected with dust lodgment out of the mine before he develops tuberculosis. I learn from the officers directly concerned that the work of examination can take place without inconvenience to either employer or employee. If it should be found necessary to examine a man within working hours, the employer must compensate him for the loss of time. As it

is necessary to make a condition that the man shall comply with a request for examination, so is it necessary to make a condition that the employer shall enable the man to comply; and this will be subject to a penalty. The arrangement will be found to work quite simply. It is true that the examining officers are under the control of the Commonwealth Government, but in connection with this Bill they can only act as officers of the State Mines Department. If they should do anything that we consider detrimental, we can at once suspend their appointment as State officers. Thus the State will control the position.

Mr. CHESSON: I do not think the department will have any trouble as regards examination of the miners, provided the miners are compensated for loss of time. I hold definite opinions on miner's phthisis. If a miner is found to be suffering from tuberculosis, he should certainly be pulled out of the mine, because he is a menace to the other miners. On the other hand, he should certainly be compensated. I am not now referring to the man with silicosis, who represents a different proposition. A man may get "dusted," and still die of old age. But tuberculosis means that a man's time is very short, since no cure is known. If tuberculosis is known to exist in a mine, the mine should be closed pending fumigation. At present we practically say to the miner, "You can work in a tuberculous mine, and you can get tuberculosis, and then we will pull you out." That state of things should not be permitted. Safety of the mine should be insisted upon as regards tuberculosis, just as in other respects. More men have been sent to the Wooroloo Sanatorium from the Great Fingal mine than from any other mine in this State.

Mr. Willecock: Yes, hundreds.

Mr. CHESSON: Years ago Dr. Blanchard told me tuberculosis existed in that mine. Dr. Mitchell told me that one could tell a man from the Fingal mine by his look. It is believed that a tuberculous miner who came from South Africa brought the disease to that mine. A tuberculous mine should be closed until it is safe, which question can be determined by examination of the dust. A good deal of fibrosis and silicosis is caused by bad ventilation of mines. The law stipulates for ventilation of mines to carry away fumes. Moreover, there is a regulation that firing shall not be done more than once in 24 hours in a place where many men work, because the smoke and the fumes from firing prepare the lungs for reception of the germs of tuberculosis.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: I was not here when this Bill was introduced, and therefore I hope I may be excused for asking a few questions regarding the term "miner's phthisis." My impression was that our Mines Regulation Act of 1906 and its amendments provided for the exclusion from the mining industry of workers suffering from tuberculosis. I understood the Minister to say a few minutes ago that we had a regulation on that subject. I am unable to find that regulation. I know

that the Mine Workers' Relief Fund has a provision in that connection, but it is applicable only to men who are newly entering the mining industry. The fund has no provision for exclusion of workers who have been connected with the industry for a number of years. Under the Acts of 1906 and 1915 the Governor has power to make regulations for the exclusion from the mining industry of persons suffering from pneumoconiosis, tuberculosis, or other transmissible disease. But no such regulation has ever been promulgated. I point this out because I seek information from the Minister as to the reason for the introduction of this Bill. I have always been under the impression that "miner's phthisis" meant tuberculosis.

Mr. Pickering: No.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: If it does not mean tuberculosis, what does it mean?

The Minister for Mines: "Miner's phthisis" includes all those diseases, such as fibrosis, silicosis, and pneumoconiosis.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: There is nothing in the Bill to say so. We do not want to pass a Bill which will have no application to some of the diseases existing in connection with the mining industry. I welcome the measure as giving partial relief to the men now working in the industry. It should have been introduced years ago if, under the Mines Regulation Act and its amendments, the Minister had not power to exclude from the mining industry workers affected with tuberculosis. When a man is found to be suffering from tuberculosis, he is advised to go to the sanatorium, and right up to the hour when he is leaving the industry he is permitted to work with other men underground, in spite of the fact that he is known to be a menace to those around him. No precautions whatever are taken; yet the Railway Department are fully alive to the position by reason of the fact that they provide special accommodation in the train. I wish to know what it is proposed to do in the direction of compensating those who will thus be excluded from continuing to work in the mining industry. If nothing is done for them a hardship will be created. That question will have to be gone into with a view to making compensation available. We have a Mine Workers' Relief Fund, but with the money at its disposal, it is doing all it possibly can in the direction of relieving distress that is caused by the disease. The Minister should give us some information as to what it is proposed to do in this direction.

The Minister for Mines: The matter will be fully discussed on Clause 8. There is no need to deal with the subject now, and again a little later on.

Mr. LUTEY: There can be very little objection to Clause 4, but there is no doubt that the objection to an examination has been the fear that proper provision might not be made for dependants.

The Minister for Mines: That too will be dealt with fully when we come to Clause 8.

Mr. MARSHALL: The Minister anticipates the smooth working of the measure. The Chamber of Mines lodged a strong objection to this Bill when it was first introduced. I fear there will be more trouble over the examinations of the men than the Minister thinks, because the Chamber of Mines has an objection to losing experienced men irrespective of the fact that they may be almost dead. These men are still valuable to the mining industry, more so than young and more vigorous men who have not the same experience. A miner who realises that he is due for compensation under another clause will not hesitate, in view of his failing health, to take advantage of Clause 4. I know mine managers who will do anything to evade the provisions of a clause such as this, inasmuch as they know that those men who are suffering from miner's phthisis, will ultimately be taken away from the vocation in which they have had experience and where they have proved a valuable asset. I hope the Minister will not enforce the measure too rapidly after it has been passed. If he does so he will rob the mining industry of 50 per cent. of its workers, and in using those figures I do not think I am exaggerating.

The Minister for Mines: That is pure nonsense.

Mr. MARSHALL: Even in the electorate I represent, and where the disease is not so bad, I can pick them out.

The Minister for Mines: More like five per cent.

Mr. MARSHALL: There are many more miners suffering from miner's disease than the Minister thinks. On the Murchison there have been cases of disease contracted elsewhere. I know of one who possessed a certificate to say that he was all right and who, 18 months later, died in the Wooroloo Sanatorium. If the Minister had seen this individual when he first appeared on the scene, he would have been bound to declare him to be all right. I once knew a mine manager who, on being acquainted with the fact that a workman had been killed underground, in a place which ought to have been timbered, made the statement that human life was cheaper than timber. Fortunately we have very few such men. I am only quoting that case to show the callousness of some people. Men suffering from phthisis are so numerous that one becomes accustomed to seeing them and waiting for the day when they will be taken either to Wooroloo or to the cemetery. Subclause 2 provides that any person employed on a mine and who fails to submit himself for medical examination shall be guilty of an offence the penalty for which is £50.

Mr. Heron: I don't think we need fear that that clause will be harshly used.

Mr. MARSHALL: From my 22 years' experience in the mining industry I know that mine managers will take exception to that clause and will do their utmost through its medium to evade their responsibility.

The Minister for Mines: Clause 5 deals with that and throws the responsibility on the employer.

Mr. MARSHALL: The Minister will find that there will be more trouble than he anticipates in connection with the administration of the measure. I hope, however, he is right.

Mr. MULLANY: I cannot understand the objections raised by the member for Murchison to the clause. The hon. member thought that if the provisions of the clause were applied suddenly, the effect would be to dislocate the industry and that in consequence the mine managers would offer strong objections to it. This clause is vital to the Bill. It is the first step towards finalising out the true position. The responsibility for the wages of the men will be cast upon the employer. We are all interested in the question of compensation, but can discuss it when we come to it.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 5, 6—agreed to.

Clause 7—Reports:

Mr. MUNSIE: Under the proposed new clause the Minister provides for publicity to be given on the register to the names of persons found to be infected by miner's phthisis, but by this clause he prohibits the disclosure of such names. The two proposals are, therefore, contradictory.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The clauses in question deal with two entirely different phases of the matter. Clause 7 deals with every aspect of the medical examination and the names of the persons concerned are not to be disclosed. The proposed new clause provides merely for the keeping of a register of those who after examination have had to be permanently excluded from the mines because of T.B., and with respect to whom the duty devolved upon the Mines Department of finding them other employment. To-day a register is kept of those who receive relief under the Mine Workers' Relief Fund. The secret register giving the results of the medical examination will be open only to the officials.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 8—Employment of miners suffering from tuberculosis may be prohibited:

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The Bill provides for the examination of all men engaged in our mines. This is being done as much for their own sakes as for others. There are stages in dust lodgment where a man can live a healthy and vigorous life if he is removed from the danger of immediate infection. If such a man once contracts T.B., which is a definite disease, and is communicable to others, his chances of living are nil, should one of his lungs have been seriously injured by dust lodgment and become affected. The T.B. germ floats about almost everywhere. According to the condition of the tissues of the person he will throw it off

or retain it. There is no such thing as consumption in the family. There is often a hereditary weakness of the lung tissues, and when the T.B. germ lodges in the weak tissues it makes progress. Underground, in badly ventilated and dark places, is where the T.B. germ makes most progress, and where a healthy man, not too seriously affected by dust lodgment, may contract the disease. Dr. Lanza, who has been loaned by the United States Government to the Commonwealth, spent about five years investigating 1,000 cases. He made an exhaustive examination into the conditions appertaining to the workers in the Butte mine, which is recognised as one of the worst mines for miner's phthisis in America. Engaged on that mine are so many foreigners that amongst them seven or eight different languages are spoken. Crowds are huddled together there in slums of the worst type. The living conditions are suitable for the spread of the T.B. germ. The result of these investigations disproves the statement of the member for Murchison that an examination of the men engaged in our mines would show that 50 per cent. of them would come under Clause 8. The examination was not merely a medical one. The X-ray was used and lungs were tested, and all the conditions under which the men worked were gone into. Ventilation was inquired into, and the condition of the atmosphere, and the nature of the rock was analysed. Inquiries were also made into the conditions under which the men lived and the food they ate. Thus he was able to state definitely what progress tuberculosis had made in certain conditions. This proposed reform is likely to be even more beneficial to the mine owners than to the miners themselves, because it will provide a more highly efficient labour than can be given to-day; for under existing conditions the harder a man works the sooner does he go under to phthisis. Of the number examined by Dr. Lanza, 42.4 per cent. were found to be suffering from some form of what he calls miner's consumption, what we call phthisis. But of that percentage only 3 per cent. would come under Clause 8 as suffering from tuberculosis. Others were suffering from dust lodgment which, of course, renders them prone to the attacks of the germ. In the early stages of miner's phthisis there were 194 affected. Of that number only seven, or 3.6 per cent., had tuberculosis. Of the moderately advanced there were 128, of whom only eight, or 6.3 per cent., had tuberculosis. Of 110 far advanced in miner's phthisis, 48, or 43.3 per cent., were suffering from tuberculosis; definitely proving that as dust lodgment proceeded with tuberculosis, the patient became more prone to the attacks of the germ. Conditions will not be found to be as bad in our mines as in the mines where this examination was made. I understand that a number of men who were not able to get the necessary certificate for employment in South African mines came over to Western Australia and,

because we have only a medical examination of the lungs, they were able to go to work in our mines, although definitely excluded from the South African mines. When we get this new system operating, we shall be able to close out all those men. In the meantime, all I want is to have an examination made of all the men in our mines. We will schedule certain districts, and in those districts schedule certain mines, and in those mines schedule certain parts; because some parts even of a more or less bad mine are everything that could be expected, and men could safely work there so long as they are not a menace to their fellow workers. I have two or three amendments to move, the first of which is to Subclause 1. I move—

That the following be added to Subclause 1:—"or part of a mine to which this section applies."

Mr. LUTEY: As the Minister pointed out, those suffering from miner's phthisis in an advanced stage ought to be excluded from working underground. Because of that, I think we ought to add after the word "tuberculosis," in line 3, the words "or advanced stage of miner's phthisis." Those people, even though not tubercular, ought to be excluded from working underground and allowed to work about the surface. Provision for such cases should be made in the clause. Men who have been actually paid compensation in South Africa have come here and been allowed to work in our mines. That ought not to be.

Mr. CHESSON: This clause is the whole crux of the Bill. It prohibits tubercular men from working in the mines, and at the same time gives them the right of appeal. I do not think that right will be availed of, for no tubercular patient seeks publicity. Silicosis pre-disposes the lungs to tuberculosis, so silicosis patients working in a mine are in grave danger of picking up the germ. Fibrosis causes a fibrous state in the lungs and is capable of becoming very dangerous. Practically all the rock choppers working in the Sydney sewers died from fibrosis. Ventilation is the all-important requirement. In a coal mine the quantity of air to be circulated through each working face is provided for. In a gold mine it is defined as an adequate supply. In the South African mines not less than 30 feet is stipulated and provision is there made to remove the fumes from the mines. The presence of fumes renders the lungs susceptible to disease. If the Act were amended to enforce proper ventilation and sanitation, our miners would be much more healthy. One of the difficulties of the industry is to get young men to go into the mines. Their unwillingness to do so is due to the bad conditions. In the South African mines, humidity is also dealt with, but this condition exists only where there is a scarcity of air circulating through the mine. No such provision is made in our mines. In some mines the jet is used, but in South Africa the hollow drill is used, and that abates the dust nuisance.

This clause is really the crux of the Bill. It provides for pulling men out of the mines. When men are taken out of the mines, provision should be made to compensate them. Yet it is proposed to scrap these men without providing for the maintenance of the men and their dependants. The mining industry has done much for Western Australia, and if it cannot be arranged for the mines to provide for the men whose health has broken down through working in the industry, provision should be made out of Consolidated Revenue.

Mrs. Cowan: If you get this Bill through, you will get better ventilation in the mines.

Mr. CHESSON: If the companies had to compensate the men who are stricken down, they would be more careful to see that the mines were properly ventilated. South Africa makes ample provision for its stricken miners.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: The term "miner's phthisis" does not cover the diseases known as fibrosis, silicosis and tuberculosis. I have had conversations with Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Cumpston and have read the reports of the investigations in Western Australia in 1911 and in Bendigo in 1906. These authorities say that the term "miner's phthisis" is meaningless. The Minister said the Bill would provide for the exclusion from the mines of men suffering from fibrosis, silicosis and tuberculosis.

The Minister for Mines: I did not.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: That was the Minister's reply to my question as to the meaning of the term.

The Minister for Mines: I did not say anything of the sort.

[Mr. Stubbs took the Chair.]

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: The one word to employ in this Bill is "pneumoconiosis" which covers fibrosis, silicosis, tuberculosis, and other lung diseases arising from an oppressive or detrimental atmosphere in the mines. I would like to move to delete "tuberculosis" and insert "pneumoconiosis."

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot accept the hon. member's amendment unless the Minister temporarily withdraws his amendment.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I have no objection to doing that if the hon. member is anxious about it, but I do not think members representing mining constituencies are willing to adopt his suggestion. If we do so, we shall have no chance of getting the measure on the statute book. Our aim is to obtain data regarding the condition of the men employed in the industry.

Mr. Cunningham: We have had two Royal Commissions.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not want Royal Commissions; I want actual work done and this is the way to get it done. We are providing that all men in the industry shall undergo medical examination from time to time. No Royal Commission is required for that. The examination will enable us to procure definite data.

Mr. Cunningham: You have power under the old Act to do that.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am not worrying about the old Act. If men are suffering from any of the diseases covered by miner's phthisis or pneumoconiosis, irrespective of the term employed in the Bill, the examination will disclose it.

Mr. Cunningham: Disclose it for what purpose?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I told the House on the second reading, and I told the miners' representatives in Kalgoorlie as well as the mine managers, that I was setting out to get a compulsory examination merely to obtain data. All our Royal Commissions and every one else have declared most emphatically that the first essential was to remove from the mines men suffering from tuberculosis. I am making provision for mine owners to give the men an opportunity to be examined and, if a man is definitely suffering from tuberculosis, he shall not work underground. Having done that, we shall not stop there. We shall eventually reach the stage reached in South Africa of clearing up miners' phthisis, which embraces fibrosis, silicosis and pneumoconiosis. Therefore, I do not wish to introduce at this stage something which may jeopardise the commencement of work which will prove quite as effective as if we started on the basis suggested by the member for Kalgoorlie. We should not put in something that is unworkable, because we cannot at the present stage undertake the responsibility of withdrawing from the mines all the men who are suffering from fibrosis and silicosis. But if we removed the men who are suffering from tuberculosis, we would give those other men a chance of going on for a time. Later I shall move to introduce compensation, and also preference of employment, the Government undertaking to find other work for the men who are displaced. In certain directions, such as sewerage and drainage work, the officers of the Public Works Department will take a man with mining experience every time in preference to anybody else. When the opponents to this measure understand the benefits to be derived from it, they will readily agree to further steps being taken. If I were working for my daily bread at manual labour, and was rearing a family, I would not go to the goldfields. I would rather crack stones on the road for a living than go there. If I did go most of my family would enter the industry, and would eventually lose their lives through it. Nearly all my brothers died of miner's complaint. To-day mine owners are suffering from the fact that they cannot induce young men to go into the mines. If we could clean up this business, and show the value of the scheme, young men could go into our mines and find the occupation a pleasant one. Subject to being able to avoid dust lodgment on the lungs and T.B. there is no class of work I would prefer to that of mining underground. It is the diseases that have followed in its train that have

caused all the trouble. It is a duty devolving upon us to take out of the mines men who are in an advanced stage of miner's phthisis.

Mr. Cunningham: I agree with you.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am working up to what the hon. member is aiming at, but he wants to swallow the whole loaf, and in so doing will choke himself. This is too important a subject to play with. I have letters in my office which I am circulating through the departments, from men in Kalgoorlie and Boulder asking me for work. They are able to do a good day's work at present, but are getting very short-winded, and sooner or later will pick up the dreaded germ.

Mr. Cunningham: And I want to help them.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If we took out of the mines every man who was suffering from dust lodgment and gave him compensation our expenditure would be increased by £500,000 a year. By the means proposed under this Bill we shall obtain such data as will enable us to ascertain whether the conditions mentioned by the member for Cue exist or not, and by which we shall be able to prevent the lodgment of dust on the lungs. We want to build up on a solid basis and not make aerial and ineffective flights. To-day too many people are lukewarm upon the whole question.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: Only now has the Minister awakened to the true meaning of the Bill.

The Minister for Mines: I would wait a long time for you to teach me.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: He gave a wrong reply in the first case to my question.

The Minister for Mines: You do not know what you are talking about.

The CHAIRMAN: If I understand aright, the question before the House is not the one now being discussed by the hon. member. It is to insert certain words, and he must keep to the matter before the Chair.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: I want to move an amendment to strike out the word "tuberculosis" in line 3."

The CHAIRMAN: You cannot do that. It is the duty of the Chairman to assist any member in his desire to improve a Bill, but I cannot depart from the Standing Orders. Unless the Minister for Mines will withdraw his amendment, I cannot accept any other.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am under no misapprehension in regard to the meaning of the word "tuberculosis." The clause is intended to apply only to T.B. cases. I have known that all along. In the circumstances, however I am prepared to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: I move an amendment—

That in Subclause 1 line 3 the word "tuberculosis" be struck out and "pneumoconiosis" inserted in lieu.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I have a good mind to allow the hon. member to gain

his end. He will have to answer for it in Kalgoorlie. The clause only provides for action being taken in the event of a person being found to be suffering from T.B. and it compulsorily removes him from the particular mine in which he has been engaged. If the hon. member's amendment is carried, every person who is found to be suffering in the slightest degree—

Mr. Cunningham: No; it will not.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: He said the word would cover all forms of miner's complaint.

Mr. Cunningham: You know that a certain definition will be taken.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Until we get further data T.B. cases would be taken out only, because they are a menace to the rest, but men suffering from dust lodgment, which is not a communicable disease, would under the amendment also have to come out. It was only on the assurance that T.B. cases would be taken out of the mines that the Bill was accepted. It was then only that I agreed to pay compensation to the men suffering from T.B., not so much for their own sakes, but because they would have been withdrawn from their occupation in the interests of the other men working in the industry.

Mr. TEESDALE: Both the Minister and the member for Kalgoorlie are most earnest in their desires to do what they can for the unfortunate men affected. It is a pity therefore to see the hon. member and the Minister so hostile towards each other. The Minister says the amendment is likely to nullify the whole of his scheme. An impasse appears to have been reached, in which case the situation must be taken in hand by the Committee.

Mr. LUTEY: I do not know why the hon. member should think the member for Kalgoorlie and the Minister are hostile to each other. They are both out to do the best they can for the men. We have had power of examination for many years past, and could have made regulations excluding affected men from the mines. I agree that it is better to have it definitely stated in the Bill. But the Bill contemplates only tubercular patients. We require to go further and take out from the mines all who are suffering from an advanced stage of miners' phthisis.

Mr. Teesdale: Do not let us lose the whole by asking too much.

Mr. LUTEY: We should have a wider scope than is afforded by the word "tuberculosis." I hope the Committee will agree to the amendment to strike out that word and insert other words.

Mr. PICKERING: A lot of misunderstanding has arisen because of the Title, which alludes to nothing more than miner's phthisis. The miners have offered some objection to the Bill, but they will appreciate the big step taken by the Bill towards amelioration of existing conditions. The Minister says that if the amendment be carried the Bill will not be acceptable to the miners. The amendment suggested by the Minister will remove in large measure any objection which the mine owners have to the Bill. We cannot afford to com-

pensate all the affected men in the industry, for it would mean too large a sum. Fortunately the Bill provides for the employment of phthisical men on the surface, which is a big advantage. I do not pretend to any great knowledge of the industry, but I claim that the Country Party has just as much interest in the prosperity of mining as of any other industry. The Committee will be well advised to agree to the Bill in the shape in which the Minister wants it, rejecting the amendment of the member for Kalgoorlie. If we can remove all tubercular patients from the mine, it will relieve from very great danger the phthisical miners.

Mr. CHESSON: I support the amendment. Once a man is tubercular it is too late to do anything for him. All that can be done is to put him out of the mine for the sake of the others working there. But if we pull out a man when he is merely "dusted," we are doing something for him and his family. Such a man left in a mine is liable to pick up the tubercle at any time. If he be removed from underground before he gets the tubercle, he can get wholesome employment on the surface, thus obviating the necessity for compensation.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: The Minister said the amendment would mean the exclusion from the mines of all men slightly affected with dust. That is not so, for fibrosis and silicosis would not come under the term pneumoconiosis.

The Minister for Mines: Does not the term embrace everything?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

The Minister for Mines: Therefore the amendment will pull all the affected men out of a mine.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: Whoever the appointed medical practitioners may be, they are not going to exclude from the mines men who are only slightly affected. Such men will be notified of their condition and given a chance to get out of the industry. I am not prepared to wait until a man becomes tubercular, because I know that once the germ gets into the lung of an affected miner, it is good-bye. I do not want him to reach that stage, and for that purpose I want the Committee to help me. The member for Sussex pointed out that if we tried to compensate all men excluded from the mining industry because of disease, the sum would be so large that we could not possibly raise it. What an admission that the mining industry is slaughtering our workers! To-day we are paying for the mistakes of the past. The Minister has now agreed to introduce a scheme of compensation for men excluded from the mining industry. This measure is for the benefit of men in the industry who are affected with disease but who, in view of their pecuniary position, cannot get out of the industry. I have had endless applications from miners anxious to obtain other employment; but the only work offering elsewhere was land clearing, which is not an occupation for a man whose lungs

are half-filled with dust. However, let us get the men out into the sun and the fresh air, and then they will recuperate. There are times when one must come to the rescue of a man who cannot help himself. Why did the miners show hostility to this Bill when the Minister went to Kalgoorlie? Because of the absence of compensation. Now that compensation is promised, let us do all we can to get the men affected with disease out of the industry. Let us give those men a chance to live.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	..	14
Noes	..	..	..	..	23

Majority against .. 9

AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. Hughes
Mr. Chesson	Mr. Lutey
Mr. Corbooy	Mr. Marshall
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. McCallum
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Munste
Mr. Heron	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Hickmott	Mr. O'Loghlen

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Angelo	Mr. Money
Mr. Carter	Mr. Pickering
Mrs. Cowan	Mr. Piesse
Mr. Denton	Mr. Richardson
Mr. Durack	Mr. Sampson
Mr. George	Mr. Scuddan
Mr. Harrison	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Johnston	Mr. Teesdale
Mr. Latham	Mr. J. Thomson
Mr. H. K. Maley	Mr. Underwood
Mr. Mann	Mr. Mullany
Sir James Mitchell	

(Teller.)

Amendment thus negatived.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I move an amendment—

That the following be added to Sub-clause 1:—"or part of the mine to which this section applies."

Mr. CHESSON: Does this provide for pulling out the men who happen to be affected, and, at the same time, does it make no provision for the closing of a portion of a mine in which tuberculosis is known to exist, until such time as that portion has been fumigated and declared safe for working?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: This has nothing to do with closing part of a mine. It only provides that a person suffering from tuberculosis shall not work in or about any part of the mine to which this provision applies. If any part of a mine gave evidence of the presence of tuberculosis germs, we should have to take action at once to fumigate that part and clean it up. When we discover a man suffering from tuberculosis, he must leave the mine, or at least must not work where he will be a danger to any-

one else. Under the Mines Regulation Act we have power already to clean up any part of a mine found to be dangerous from any cause, including the presence of tuberculosis germs.

Amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I move a further amendment—

That in Sub-clause 2, line 2, after "mine" there be inserted "or part of the mine to which this section applies."

Mr. MUNSIE: What has the Minister in mind when he says that there are portions of a mine in which it is not detrimental for a man suffering from tuberculosis to work? According to my knowledge of the mines on the Golden Mile, a man who is suffering from tuberculosis, and who has been instructed as to the precautions needful to prevent his spreading the disease, might perhaps be employed as a watchman; but I cannot conceive of any other employment for such a man in connection with a mine, either on the surface or underground.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He should not be there at all.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The wording of the clause is all-embracing, because it provides that no person affected shall work on, in or about a mine. The contention is that there are places about a mine where it would not be dangerous for such a man to work. A man might be working on a brace or sand dump.

Mr. Heron: A sand dump would not be too good for him.

Mr. Marshall: You do not look too bad on it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: There may be parts where a man might work for a time. The district would be scheduled and then the mines, though perhaps not all at once, and then parts of a mine. Some of the mines in the crowded centres would be embraced as a whole, but whatever was done would be done on the advice of the medical staff.

Mr. MARSHALL: I see no objection to the Minister's suggestion, but would point out that Murchison miners who ultimately went to the sanatorium were prevented by the R.M.O. from working in the vicinity of a mine. One man was offered a good job on a treatment plant, but was debarred by the doctor from taking it.

Amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I move an amendment—

That the following sub-clause be added: "(7) This section shall apply only within such districts and to such mines or parts of mines as are declared from time to time by the Governor by Order-in-Council published in the 'Gazette.'"

It will not be practicable to apply the Act to the whole of the mining districts at once. The districts will be brought under the Act as we obtain the necessary assistance.

Mr. CHESSON: If the Act applies to only one district, what is to prevent an affected man from moving to another district? Surely the Act should apply to the whole of the mining areas.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The hon. member is concerned lest a Kalgoolie man, discovered to be suffering from tuberculosis, may be prevented from working there because of it being the only scheduled district, and may move to another district. The Mines Regulation Act prohibits the employment of a man known to be suffering from tuberculosis. The mine owner would be notified and he, as well as the employee, would be liable for a breach of the Act.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 9—agreed to.

New clause—Compensation:

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I move—

That the following be added to stand as Clause 9: "(1) It shall be the duty of the Mine Workers' Relief Fund, Incorporated, to keep a register, and on application by any person employed on, in, or about a mine at the commencement of this Act, and whose employment is prohibited under Section 8 of this Act, to insert the name of such person in such register. (2) Any person whose employment is prohibited as aforesaid, and whose name is registered in the register to be kept by the Mine Workers' Relief Fund, Incorporated, shall have the right to receive from the Department of Mines compensation, equal to the ruling rate of pay in the district in which he is employed at the time of such prohibition for the class of work in which he was engaged, until other suitable employment is found for and offered to him by the Department of Mines. (3) If suitable work is found for and offered to any person entitled to compensation under this section, and is refused by him, the right of such person to receive compensation under this section shall thereupon cease, and his name shall be removed from the register. (4) If any question shall arise touching the right of any person to have his name placed or retained on the register, or his right to receive compensation hereunder, the question shall be referred by the Minister to a warden, whose decision shall be final. (5) For the purposes of this section 'suitable employment' shall mean (a) Work on, in, or about a mine, or part of a mine not declared under section eight to be a mine, or part of a mine to which such section applies. (b) Such other work as the Principal Medical Officer may certify to be suitable employment for the person to whom it is offered."

I have provided for the register to be kept by the Mine Workers' Relief Fund, Incorporated, because it will avoid duplication and that body has undertaken to do it, so long as the compensation to be paid is found by the Mines Department. No expense other than the actual compensation will devolve upon the Mines Department. A person excluded from working under Clause 8 must apply to be registered and, from the time he ceases work until we find him other suitable employment, he must obtain the ruling rate of wage for his class of work in the district. I do not anticipate that the monetary compensation will be great, because in almost every case the men will be fit to do other work. By the time we commence to apply the Act, I hope to have organised certain work which will be available to men withdrawn from the mines. The greatest number we would have to provide for would be about six in a month. I shall consult with the medical staff as to suitable work for individual men.

Mr. CHESSON: I am in accord with the principle of compensation, but I am afraid Subclause 2 would not apply to the Murchison miners. In my opinion the register should be kept by the Mines Department—at all events in places outside Kalgoolie—rather than by the Mine Worker's Relief Fund.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The subclause may work some hardship, but it will be some time before we reach the Murchison miners. I will ascertain if it is necessary to make some proviso that in certain districts a person may register direct with the Mines Department.

Mr. MARSHALL: The mining registrar would be more closely in touch with the administration of the Act than would the officials of the Mine Workers' Relief Fund. I should like to see preference of employment given to the miners who are the subject of this Bill.

The Premier: We must get them at work as soon as possible.

The Minister for Mines: They will get full pay unless we find them work.

Mr. MARSHALL: It will cost the Government a great deal to get rid of T.B. from our mining industry.

The Minister for Mines: I think not.

Mr. MARSHALL: This disease is mainly due to rising in mines. The Minister should as far as possible prevent the use of those methods in mining which can be abolished, without great expense or inconvenience, but which are adopted because it is cheaper to do so than to employ other methods.

Mr. MUNSIE: I take it the register will be for only those who are found to be suffering from T.B.

The Minister for Mines: Yes.

Mr. MUNSIE: Who will be responsible for notifying the Mine Workers' Relief Fund?

The Minister for Mines: The man himself.

Mr. MUNSIE: That may not be satisfactory. The Minister should arrange for this responsibility being attached to the medical

officer making the examination. It was tacitly agreed that every man employed on a mine had to show a clean bill of health before he could get employment or could receive assistance from the Mine Workers' Relief Fund. When an attempt was made to enforce this, the mine owners objected and have not yet come into line. They do not endeavour to ascertain whether a man has a clean bill of health or not before employing him.

The Minister for Mines: I am assured that they do.

Mr. MUNSIE: This was not so in connection with a young returned soldier, who after paying into the fund for some time, found he could not get assistance through the fund at the time when he had to go to the Wooroloo sanatorium. His money, however, was returned to him.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: When a man is medically examined, he is not notified of the result by the medical officer, but this is sent on to the Minister, who takes the necessary action. If the man is debarred from working any longer in the industry he is notified and referred to the Mine Workers' Relief Fund for his compensation. The registration is then effected. Some men may not require to be registered, but may prefer to seek work elsewhere. We do not pay compensation unless the men agree to take work where we can find it for them. If they are not prepared to take it, they cease to get compensation. I do not think there is any danger in the position at all. Men should be sufficiently interested in their own welfare to register, but some men will not do it.

Mr. LUTEY: The measure may be all right if it is sympathetically administered. But "suitable work" may be suitable from the health point of view, and yet not suitable for a man suffering from miner's phthisis—shifting sand, for instance. A man coming from underground and suffering from phthisis will not be able to maintain the pace set on such work. Will that phase of the question be recognised? A proper method of appeal should be provided. Regard must be paid to the ability of the person to do what is considered healthy work. Manual work is up to such a pitch now that only strong men can perform it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I realise the need for sympathetic administration of the measure. Subclause 2, however, provides that the work shall be suitable for the particular man, not for any man in general. Each case will have to be dealt with on its merits. A sufferer from tuberculosis may be in such a state of health as prevents him from accepting the work offered him. Then, under the next subclause the Minister refers the matter to the warden, who will deal with it and declare either that the man ought to accept the work or that he ought not. In the latter case other work would have to be found for the man by the department. The

conditions are of a nature conferring as complete protection as can be given.

Mr. MUNSIE: Subclause 3 deals with forfeiture of compensation in the event of work being refused. It provides that the name of a man who refuses suitable work shall be removed from the register. I want to know whether the use of the word "retained" in Subclause 4 implies a right of appeal on the ground that the man is of opinion that the work offered is not suitable for him.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: In the absence of any other legal adviser, I may say that the Government can cease to pay compensation only by removing the man's name from the register, and that he can appeal to the warden to have his name retained. That is to say, the man can appeal against the removal of his name from the register.

Mr. MUNSIE: Subclause 4 contains the words "name placed or retained on the register," and "right to receive compensation." Why are those words included? The previous subclause says that if the man refuses suitable work, he forfeits compensation. Certainly he should have a right of appeal against the removal of his name. However, I am content to accept the Minister's assurance on the point; and if afterwards it turns out that the position is otherwise, the matter will have to be reviewed here again.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I will not ask the hon. member to accept my assurance on the point. I will obtain the opinion of the Solicitor General, who drafted the clause, as to the legal position.

Mr. MARSHALL: Does Subclause 4 imply that the victim of Subclause 3 is entitled to offer a defence in person, or will the Minister merely receive a report from the secretary of the relief fund stating that a certain individual has objected to the removal of his name from the register? Will such a question be treated in the same way as an ordinary case in a warden's court, the individual concerned having the right to state his case to the warden?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The answer to the hon. member's questions is that in such a case the warden must act, not as an individual, but as a judicial officer sitting in court. The person affected will certainly be able to appear before the warden.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: With reference to paragraph (b) of Subclause 5, the certificate as to employment being suitable for the person to whom it is offered would depend very largely upon whether the medical officer certifying has made a study of this particular disease and thoroughly understands it. The suitability of work would be largely a question of the constitution of the person to whom it is offered. I would prefer that such a certificate should be obtained from the medical officer of the Wooroloo Sanatorium, who is a specialist in these diseases, and better qualified than the Principal Medical Officer to decide what is suitable work.

The Minister for Mines: He may be.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I consider that he is. The Principal Medical Officer, while a very smart man in health matters, has not been in private practice since March, 1911. He has not dealt with cases of the kind now under consideration in the same way as has the doctor at Woorlooloo Sanatorium. I remember being in the Kalgoorlie hospital once when the doctor pointed out to me a man leaving the institution and said, "I have had that man under observation continuously for three months, and his condition is such that I am afraid he will never work again." The same man, upon being examined by a doctor without experience of these particular diseases, might be certified as fit for work. So it is necessary that the doctor should have practical experience as well as qualifications.

The Minister for Mines: Is not Dr. Mitchell under the Principal Medical Officer?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, but this states definitely "Principal Medical Officer." I move an amendment—

That after "officer" in line 2 of paragraph (b) of Subclause 5 the words "of the Woorlooloo Sanatorium" be inserted.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I agree that probably nobody in the State is in a better position to make a recommendation on a matter of this kind than is the medical officer at Woorlooloo. But it is not usual to provide for a subordinate officer in an Act of Parliament. The custom is to hand the authority to the officer in charge, who is thus in a position to delegate that authority. The hon. member ought to make his amendment read "Principal Medical Officer or someone deputed by him."

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That Dr. Mitchell is not the Principal Medical Officer is merely because he has specialised in one subject. It is all very well to talk of appointing a deputy, but the departmental system is that the deputy shall be the next man in office.

The Minister for Mines: It could not happen in this case.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But it would happen. When we have an expert officer we should appoint him to a position where his services will be valuable to the State. When a man suffering from disease in its early stages is taken out of a mine, it is necessary that the officer who is to select suitable work for him should be a man of practical experience, not merely a health man. I want to see the best man in the position.

The Minister for Mines: Well, make your amendment read "or the resident medical officer."

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, that would do. I will withdraw my amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I move an amendment—

That after "officer" in line 2 of paragraph (b) of Subclause 5 the words "or the resident medical officer of the Woorlooloo Sanatorium" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed; the new clause, as amended, agreed to.

New clause:

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I move—

That the following new clause be added: Interpretation. 10. For the purposes of this Act, a person working under a tribute agreement or other contract shall be deemed to be engaged in mining operations within the meaning of this Act, and any mine owner who is party to any such tribute agreement or contract shall be deemed an employer of such person.

Hon. members will appreciate the importance of this provision.

New clause put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

BILL—PERPETUAL TRUSTEES EXECUTORS AND AGENCY CO. (W.A.) LIMITED (PRIVATE).

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from 30th November.

Mr. HUGHES (East Perth) [8.25]: I will oppose the Bill.

The Premier: Surely not!

Mr. HUGHES: Does not the Premier want money to put into industries, instead of nourishing enterprises of this sort?

Mr. Marshall: Not now that he has the Hospitals Bill through.

Mr. HUGHES: I oppose the Bill because in the first place the company is not required by the public and, secondly, the Bill is conferring a privilege on a section of the community which should not have that privilege. If the Bill be carried, there will be in the State only two corporations allowed to act as executors and trustees.

Mr. Hickmott: I thought you people were opposed to monopolies.

Mr. HUGHES: That is why I am opposing the Bill.

Mr. Munsie: We want the Government to compete against the existing monopoly.

Mr. HUGHES: If the hon. member's political boss were not the chairman of this company, the hon. member also would be opposed to it. If there were public need for a company to carry on the business of executors—I believe there is some virtue in allowing a company to carry on that business, so as to secure perpetuity of succession and the elimination of the disabilities arising from personal executors and trustees—we have already the W.A. Trustee Company, which has given satisfaction to the public for many years, and the highest possible satisfaction to its shareholders.

The Minister for Mines: You do not believe in monopolies, do you?

Mr. HUGHES: If the monopoly be for the public good, yes. A public trustee should be appointed and the Treasurer, instead of levying a tax of 1d. in the pound

on the earnings of newsboys to provide for our hospitals, should take the profits which would accrue from this business and increase the revenue in that way.

The Premier: You voted for the Bill.

Mr. HUGHES: I did not. The W.A. Trustee, Executor and Agency Company, Limited, has been able to meet all the demands of the public. It has never had occasion to turn away any business owing to inability to cope with it. Consequently there is no public demand for the creation of another company. The existing company is carrying on the business to the satisfaction of the community. We have it on the testimony of some of the reputable newspapers of Perth that I am a deep-dyed socialist.

The Minister for Mines: Did you say disreputable papers?

Mr. HUGHES: No, reputable, because they devote a lot of space to the Minister. If there was a public demand for this company and it was prepared to carry out the business at a reasonable profit and with satisfaction to the public, I would be quite satisfied, but this Bill will permit another company to come in and compete and increase the existing charges. I have never heard of any serious complaints about the manner in which the W.A. Company transact their business.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The company turned a widow out of her house two days ago. She came to see me. She does not owe any rent, either.

The Minister for Mines: Do you expect the public to bring their complaints to you?

Mr. HUGHES: The existing company has been making enormous profits. There is an interesting document prepared by Saw and Grimwood of the Stock Exchange, Perth, giving particulars of the various executor companies operating in Australia. The W.A. Trustee Company's shares of £2 10s. are paid up to 18s. and the last dividend amounted to 21 per cent. on the paid up capital. The market price of the shares is £2 12s. It is not the public need that has brought the new competitor into the field, but the spoils which the W.A. Company has been making.

The Minister for Mines: Because it has been able to charge very high fees, whereas competition will bring them down.

Mr. HUGHES: The fees permitted to be charged by the new company are the same as are prescribed for the old company.

The Minister for Mines: They are the maximum.

Mr. HUGHES: The Minister knows that the new company also will charge the maximum.

The Minister for Mines: No.

Mr. HUGHES: I hope it will not.

The Minister for Mines: Knowing these people as I do, they will probably be prepared to give a bonus for being allowed to do the work.

Mr. HUGHES: And do as the directors of the Fremantle meat company did—borrow

the money from the Government. It is the same game.

The Minister for Mines: I would not call it a game.

Mr. HUGHES: The shares of the W.A. Company are valued at £2 12s., representing an increase of 200 per cent. It has been making handsome profits and now we have another competitor in the field, attracted by the spoils which have fallen to the old company. The competitor is desirous of sharing in the rich profits.

Mr. Teesdale: These companies print their rates, and it is optional whether you employ them or not. You are not forced to employ them.

Mr. HUGHES: I do not know what the hon. member is talking about. My second objection to another company is that it will duplicate the machinery for carrying out a certain service which the existing company can render. The public will have to maintain another set of directors, another manager, another staff, and office accommodation. There will be a duplication of this expense right through, and no additional business will be dealt with, because the present company can deal with all the business offering in Western Australia. We hear a lot of talk about the drift to the city. When we go to the Premier and request the expenditure of money in the city, he replies, "You do not want to live in the city. There are too many people in the city already." Yet he agrees to the establishment of a company which will create additional unnecessary employment in the city.

Mr. Mann: The new company may be looking for an auditor.

Mr. HUGHES: If so, the hon. member's influence will be sufficient to prevent me from getting the job. We hear a lot about the drift to the city and the need for directing money in channels that will lead to the development of our industries. Here is a fine species of industry indeed, an industry which undertakes to look after a man's affairs after death at such a profiteering rate that the company can afford to pay the equivalent of one-fifth of the subscribed capital by way of dividend in a single year. This is a fine industry indeed. This is an industry we are asked to encourage in order to draw more people to the city, which is a direct negation of the Premier's policy to get people out into the country. Parliament has established the precedent of giving one company the right to act as executors, and now we are asked to extend the privilege to another company. What justice is there in Parliament saying to a certain section of men, "If you form yourselves into a company and lodge £5,000 at the Treasury, we will give you the right to do that which no other citizen is permitted to do." If it is necessary to allow a corporation to act as executors, why not extend the right to every corporation willing to put up the £5,000 guarantee?

Mr. Marshall: Is that not making a monopoly of it?

Mr. HUGHES: Of course it is. Why not amend the Companies Act? If it were shown to be necessary to permit a corporation to act as executors, why do not the Government bring down an amendment of the Companies Act and extend the privilege to every corporation willing to put up the £5,000 guarantee? In order to acquire the privilege of acting as executors, all the company has to do is to comply with certain conditions. If any other company complied with the same conditions twice over, it would not get the privilege.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The company will not put up the £5,000. It will put that money into mortgages.

Mr. HUGHES: No doubt other people would like to get a similar monopoly.

Mr. Money: Would you support such an amendment to the Companies Act?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes; I would allow any corporation which complied with the conditions and lodged the necessary deposit to enjoy the privilege.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The company do not lodge the deposit.

Mr. HUGHES: It has to.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No, it has not.

Mr. HUGHES: Read the Bill. If Parliament is to be used to give one little coterie of men a privilege not extended to other corporations, Parliament will be laying itself open to the charge of looking after the interests of one small section of business men in Perth. It is quite wrong to provide that this company and the existing one shall be permitted exclusively to engage in this business. If there was any sense of justice in the House, members would not agree to the proposal. If an amendment of the Companies Act were brought down prescribing that any corporation might engage in this business—

The Premier: Anyone can get a charter from this House.

Mr. HUGHES: How? Members are not willing to pass this sort of legislation giving a privilege to four or five men in the community. The proposal is so palpably unjust.

The Premier: The company pays for it.

Mr. Marshall: And bleeds the industries of the State in return.

Mr. HUGHES: That is a fine statement to come from the Premier. Because a company is willing to pay for it, we should pass a Bill giving it an exclusive privilege as against other sections of the community.

The Premier: The select committee said the Bill should be considered by the House.

Mr. HUGHES: But the select committee did not say that the Bill should be agreed to,

The Premier: It will be agreed to.

Mr. HUGHES: Possibly it will. The member for Perth (Mr. Mann) said there was room for another company and that the manager of the W.A. Trustee, Executor, and

Agency Company had said so. The manager was questioned and answered as follows.—

So really what you want by this measure is to duplicate the facilities of the public for putting their affairs in trust. You have this Western Australian Trustee Company but you think there is room for another?

—That is what the promoters and shareholders think.

He did not think there was room for another company. However, I do not attach much importance to that. Naturally he would not, and neither would anyone else with any common-sense. There is no room for another company. It is merely a duplication of an existing public facility. The only people demanding another company are the shareholders of the new one.

The Minister for Mines: No, there was another company suggested before these people started.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Are they going on with it?

The Minister for Mines: These fellows put the mop on them.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And we will put the mop on these fellows.

Mr. HUGHES: These fellows showed wisdom in getting as their chairman the high "panjandrum" of the Country Party. I compliment them on their foresight and strategy. There is a most extraordinary species of financing springing up in Western Australia. Companies are asking the Government for assistance to enable them to carry on their business. If the money which the Government are going to allow to be put into a company that is not required, a sum of £31,000, were diverted into useful industries, it would materially assist in their development. There are two or three industries lagging for want of funds. If the money were available to tide them over a certain period, they could be made successful. The shareholders of the meat works, some of whom are shareholders in this Trustee Company, have asked the Government to subsidise them although they have capital invested in another company. I know of the case of a company which induced the Government to guarantee their overdraft while they had uncalled capital of their own.

The Premier: Did you refer to this company?

Mr. HUGHES: No. The managing director of the company is closely associated with the Fremantle Meat Works Company. Those shareholders have money in this company, but are asking the Government for capital with which to carry on their other works. This method of financing shows great ingenuity on the part of those who are adopting it. People can float a company, put up some of their money, and call upon the Government to supply the rest. If the venture is a success, the Government are paid a nominal rate of interest and get their money back. If it is a failure the Government lose their money. They take the risk every time. Mr. Monger, as the head of the Fremantle Meat Works, has demanded money from the Premier with which to support his company. He also has

capital put up for this Trustee Company. Why should he not invest the money he is putting into this useless company in the Fremantle Meat Works, instead of calling upon the Government for assistance?

Mr. Pickering: He put in to the limit he was permitted to do.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HUGHES: A sum of £31,000 has already been subscribed for the Trustee Company. The woollen mills, however, are not yet able to raise all the money they require.

The Premier: This is a free country. People can invest their money where they like.

Mr. HUGHES: It is not free to the working man.

The Minister for Works: It is not too free when men are not allowed to earn their own living.

Mr. Angelo: The people will back any horse they like. They will put their money into what they consider is the best investment.

Mr. HUGHES: They back two or three horses. When they want some chaff for the animals they demand money from the Government with which to buy it. This is the most scandalous ramp ever brought before Parliament.

The Minister for Mines: Not at all.

Mr. HUGHES: Probably the Minister knows of a worse one. Take the Waroona-Lake Clifton railway, for instance.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member must speak to the Bill.

Mr. HUGHES: If the £31,000 had been invested in the woollen mills, they might have been in operation by this time.

The Minister for Mines: I agree with that.

Mr. HUGHES: I hope the Minister will oppose the Bill so that this money can be made available for that purpose.

The Minister for Mines: That might be worth considering.

Mr. HUGHES: I would advise the Minister not to have woollen mills in his electorate if he does not want to return to engine-driving.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HUGHES: I hope the House will not give these people privileges that are denied to others, that it will tell them we do not want industries in the city, but that money should be put into developmental works, into something that will prove more useful to the State. The policy of the Premier should be to keep people out of the city, instead of assisting to create useless works that will bring them into the city. It has been stated that competition between the two companies will tend to a reduction in the rates. The days of competition are gone. Financiers of today do not enter into ruinous competition one with the other. The Bill provides for the same rate of interest and the same charges being levied by the new company as by the existing company. There will be no competition in this direction. Our commercial men have too much business acumen to think of ruining each other by competition. There are

396 lines of foodstuffs on which the prices have been fixed by the manufacturers. The retailers have no voice in the price. Business men have become too cute for competition of that nature. It is only the worker, who is not so cute, who indulges in ruinous competition. I am safe in saying that this company will charge the full fees allowed by the law. We shall, however, have competition in regard to investments. The gambling instinct will be introduced, and there will be greater speculation with trust money. When there is another company sharing in the business—there will be no new business—competition for speculative investments will be engendered. In the report of the select committee we find the condemnation of the manager of the existing company against speculative investment. When the question of competition between the two companies was raised, with a view to showing that there would be a race for better investments and better returns to the legatees, he replied that speculative investments were dangerous. He is a man of experience. Investments are limited by Statute. There are only certain investments in which a trustee can put money.

The Premier: They are very safe ones.

Mr. HUGHES: Of course. If another company is formed to share in the existing business, it will be forced to stretch the law in order to return a higher rate of interest, and show that theirs is a better company than the other. The security, however, will not be so good.

Mr. Money: Under Clause 7 the company will be bound not to do that.

Mr. HUGHES: The manager of the existing company gave the following evidence before the committee:—

I was not a lawyer, but I started this company and carried on to the best of my knowledge in good faith. On one or two occasions I was instrumental unwittingly in creating a breach of trust by taking up contributory mortgages, by acting in a way which it is here proposed should be made legal.

The law did not permit this to be done, but here we have a practical man saying that he did it. He continues—

At the time I did not know it was illegal, but I had occasion to find out.

By actual cases in the court?—No, but by solicitors representing different estates pointing it out to us, sometimes in a very abrupt manner.

Had it not been for these solicitors, doubtless this gentleman would have gone on dealing in contributory mortgages, which are not proper investments.

Mr. Money: That should not be done.

Mr. HUGHES: It is possible under this Bill.

Mr. Angelo: You are wrong. Mr. Barker was referring to Clause 29, which the select committee recommended should be deleted.

Mr. HUGHES: But it has not yet been deleted.

Mr. Mann: When introducing the Bill I assured the House I would ask leave to withdraw that clause.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We have to take the Bill as it stands.

Mr. Angelo: Mr. Barker's opposition was only to that particular clause.

Mr. HUGHES: Even though a thing is not legal, it can still be done. The member for Banbury has only to take the evidence of a learned member of his own profession. He treated it as tommy-rot when he said it was being done every day. I have no doubt the hon. member knows of many instances in which the law is broken. Otherwise, it would be a poor look-out for the legal profession.

The Premier: You are going to oppose the Bill, are you?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes. Although these people are to be given certain privileges, the public are not being protected. A sum of £5,000 only is to be deposited as a guarantee. The administrator's bond will be for that amount, irrespective of the assets of this particular company. This is a privilege which would not be permitted in the case of a private individual. There is another feature which I think the Bill should include. In order to safeguard the public, there should be a clause making it compulsory for the company to lodge annually its profit and loss account and balance sheet at the office of the Registrar of Companies. Then the public, the other party, will have some little protection. If Parliament does grant a privilege to the chosen few, by giving them a charter unobtainable by other citizens, I hope Parliament will prescribe some little measure of protection for the community. I hope that in return for this privilege Parliament will insist that the company shall render an annual statement of its affairs, such statement to be available to the public. The other trustee company has made handsome profits from year to year, but nobody seems to have known anything about it.

Mr. Pickering: You seem to know.

Mr. HUGHES: I learned recently. I would not have known but for this Bill being introduced.

Mr. Teesdale: You know that the existing company must file its balance sheet every year with the Registrar of Companies.

Mr. HUGHES: Do the public see it?

Mr. Teesdale: It is printed in the "West Australian."

Mr. HUGHES: Extracts from it have been printed in order to sell the shares in the new company.

The Premier: They are all sold now.

Mr. HUGHES: If they are all sold, it is an extraordinary thing that the principal shareholders—who in fact are trying to sell—should go to the trouble of printing statements showing what a good investment the shares are. The principal shareholders printed a little dodger showing what a splendid thing this new venture was.

Mr. Mann: Have you taken up shares?

Mr. HUGHES: The hon. member knows that I am not a boodler. He knows that I am not like those boodlers for whom he shows so much consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member must not say anything offensive.

Mr. Mann: I give you credit for having ordinary common sense.

Mr. HUGHES: I give the hon. member credit for having something more than common sense where a certain section of the community are concerned. Here is a special privilege to be given to a few boodlers.

The Premier: You have said that forty times.

Mr. HUGHES: They are to be given a special privilege.

The Premier: They would put a writ in to you to-morrow, if they could, for the words you are uttering here to-night; and it would serve you jolly well right.

Mr. HUGHES: They can put whatever they like into me. The Bill is nothing less than an attempt to give a privilege to a few boodlers. Here we have support for a Bill like this intended to give these boodlers a privilege, and we cannot even get justice for a worker. We cannot get consideration for the case of a railway man who is entitled to a pension under the Superannuation Act. Still, boodlers can get privileges. That is the state to which the Parliament of Western Australia has come.

The Premier: I do not know where we are going.

Mr. HUGHES: Neither do I know. I look forward to the day when we shall get a change of Government. Unless we do, God knows where we shall drift to!

The Premier: We have drifted a long way in the last few minutes.

Mr. HUGHES: And in the last few years, too. The Premier knows that better than anyone else.

The Premier: I do not know where we shall drift to if we have much of this sort of thing.

Mr. HUGHES: I can tell the Premier where we shall get to if we have a few more years of his administration; but he does not want me to tell him.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member would do well to keep to the Bill.

Mr. HUGHES: Anyone who opposes this little select coterie of boodlers, anyone who opposes giving privileges to them—

The Premier: You say you will not do justice to the boodlers. You do justice to the people who have the largest number of votes. Of course, everybody can do that.

Mr. Lutey: These people can buy a lot of support.

Mr. HUGHES: Some parties can do justice to those who subscribe large cheques to their election funds.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. member had better keep to the Bill.

Mr. Pickering: I think the hon. member should withdraw that remark. I ask that the remark be withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: What was the remark?

Mr. Pickering: The hon. member said that members received cheques for their election expenses.

Mr. SPEAKER: The member for Sussex takes exception to that remark. I will ask the member for East Perth to withdraw it.

Mr. HUGHES: I did not say anything of the sort. I did not say that any member received a cheque for his election expenses.

The Premier: You said cheques were paid into party funds.

Mr. SPEAKER: The member for Sussex cannot take that remark to himself. The member for East Perth may proceed.

Mr. HUGHES: I am sorry to disturb the peace of the House on this question. If this Bill passes the second reading—I hope it will not—then I trust that in Committee a clause will be inserted requiring these people to lodge their profit and loss account and balance sheet annually, so that the public will be able to see just what is being done. I was going to speak on the question of contributory mortgages, but in view of what the Leader has said I will leave the matter at that. I hope the House will not allow itself to be used by one or two men, no matter what their power in the land may be, to give those men privileges which are denied to the public. If we want more corporations to act as executors, let us amend the Companies Act and place all the corporations on the same footing.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [9.10]: I hope the House will agree to the Bill. I suppose the House will not listen to a speech more favourable to the passing of the Bill than the one we have just heard. The hon. member opposes the establishment of a second trustee company. Yet he told the House that he would not oppose a law which would allow of the establishment of 40 trustee companies.

Mr. Hughes: Certainly. Place them all on the same footing.

The PREMIER: It is a little difficult to follow that line of reasoning. The hon. member, while opposing the establishment of a second company because there is not room for a second company, would permit the establishment of 40 companies. What is it that the hon. member objects to?

Mr. Hughes: Privilege.

The PREMIER: The hon. member says that men who have money are boodlers, must be boodlers.

Capt. Carter: What is a boodler?

Mr. Hughes: This particular lot of boodlers are the best example one could get.

The PREMIER: This man who loves freedom, this democrat, also asks, "Why cannot they be obliged to put their money into woollen mills or meat works? Why should they have the right to invest their money as they please? Why should they have the right to put their money into this company?" I am perfectly certain that the hon. member would not agree to any Bill that would have the result of giving the control of capital to

any man. I wonder what he would say if we brought in a Bill providing that everybody, before making an investment, should apply to somebody in the Government service for permission?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We might make it compulsory that the deposit should be placed with the Government.

The PREMIER: I am sure the member for East Perth would not agree to such a Bill. It is, of course, the custom to oppose Bills of this kind. The present Bill was introduced here, and then referred to a select committee. Fees were collected. We have agreed to consider the Bill. When we accepted the fees, we undertook to give fair consideration to the measure.

Mr. Hughes: But you did not undertake to pass it.

The PREMIER: No; but so far as I am concerned, I will do what I can to help towards passing the Bill. We have to give fair consideration to it because we have accepted the fees. We shall get about two guineas for the time that has been and will be taken up in the discussion of the measure this evening.

Mr. Hughes: That is the only useful thing I can see about the Bill.

The PREMIER: But it will cost far more than two guineas to print the hon. member's speech; so we shall lose by the transaction. I was very glad when the Bill was introduced, for the reason that I do not think it right that there should be only one company. If this Bill is passed, the people will have a choice.

Mr. Hughes: A limited choice.

The PREMIER: The existing company has done excellent work for the public.

Mr. Hughes: You think there should be a choice, but you want to limit it to two.

The PREMIER: No.

Mr. Hughes: Why don't you give them all a fair chance?

The PREMIER: The existing company has done good work, but there is no reason at all why we should not have a second company. Competition is good. There will be competition when the second company is established. In Sydney there are about 15 of these companies, and in Melbourne there are many. If trustee companies render services at reasonable cost—and we limit their charges—then I think we can consent to the formation of this company. I do not think the House will object to it for a moment. We have the one company, which has served the purpose up to now. But the population is growing, and there is room for two companies. I do not know that we need spend much time in discussing the measure. Of course it is for members to say whether the Bill shall become law or not. Those who favour the formation of another company will vote for the second reading, and those who are opposed to the formation of another company will vote against the second reading. I do not expect that everyone will agree with the Bill. It would be unreasonable to

suppose that we could all agree on any subject, but we can at least give the measure calm and reasonable consideration. There is no ground at all for supposing that the public will not be well served by this second company, and by the people who will be the directors after the formation of the second company. I hope that the company will be formed, and that it will last a very long time. There will be changes. My friend who has just sat down may in the course of a few years become chairman of directors of the company. There is no reason at all why he should not. I hope to see him in that position after the lapse of a few years. He will then see that the company does its work cheaply and well. He will see that the fees charged by the company are as low as possible. I can quite imagine the five per cent. becoming one per cent. when my friend is in charge. It is a fact, of course, that the shares can be taken up by any person. It is also a fact that anybody who becomes a shareholder may become a director. I hope the House realises that when we allowed the Bill to be introduced, we did so with the intention that it should have fair consideration. It is not usual for companies to come to Parliament. Usually they are not obliged to do so. However, this company is compelled to come to Parliament for authority.

Mr. Hughes: The company could not carry on without coming to Parliament.

The PREMIER: The company must obtain authority from Parliament, in that respect being different from other companies. We have an opportunity of saying whether this company is necessary and likely to prove satisfactory. That is all we have to consider. I believe that the company is necessary, and that it will conduct its business in an eminently satisfactory manner.

Mr. Lutey: Why not run it yourself, and get the profit?

The PREMIER: I am not going to deal with State trading to-night.

Mr. Hughes: If you had some of the anticipated profit you could take that penny in the pound off the workers.

The PREMIER: And if we were to get some of the losses which may be sustained, we should be worse off than ever.

Mr. Hughes: The men who are going to run this company will not make losses; they are too clever.

The PREMIER: Why should those who have put their money into this enterprise be abused by hon. members? When the member for East Perth has been here a little time he will begin to realise that it is wise to encourage people to show enterprise. I know, of course, he does not mean half of what he says. Many members who have discussed this company with me approve fully of the Bill. I cannot understand why any member should disapprove of it. I hope the House will pass the second reading.

Mr. PICKERING (Sussex) [9.17]: The member for Mt. Magnet gave us a clear and

logical speech, and now we have had from the member for East Perth an interesting dissertation on monopolies. In fact the hon. member poses as an advocate of monopolies. The W.A. Trustee Company have been operating for many years, and have done excellent work.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And some pretty bad work.

Mr. PICKERING: Naturally they have not been able to give complete satisfaction to everybody. In any case, there ought to be a choice between companies of this description. If there were three or four companies wanting to start operations, I should support them all. The member for Mt. Magnet based his opposition to the Bill mainly on the necessity for creating a State trusteeship. He instanced that in England such a department has proved very successful. But in England there are hundreds of trustee companies doing well, so there is no reason why, if at any time this State desired to set up a trusteeship, it should not do so despite the existence of two private companies. I cannot understand exception being taken to the formation of this company. A select committee has dealt with the Bill and recommended it to the House. There is in the Bill only one clause to which any exception can be taken, and the member in charge of the measure has assured us that it will be removed. I am convinced that this new company, having secured as its manager Mr. Jones, the late secretary of the W.A. Trustee Company, will be starting its operations under the most favourable auspices. Moreover, a legal firm has been engaged by the company, so it is not likely that any mistakes will be made on that side of the business. It has often been said that a man who has himself for lawyer has a fool for a client. The instance given by the member for East Perth affords proof of the necessity that the company should be alive to the danger of taking undue risks. One of the arguments used by the member for East Perth was that it is wrong to divert money from any other source of trading to a trustee company. In my view it ought to be left to the investors and the people generally to say where their money shall be placed. As to the Fremantle Mea Works, the number of shares which any shareholder can take is strictly limited. I am convinced that the directors of the concern have taken up the full number of shares to which they are entitled.

Mr. Marshall: Did the Government take up more shares than they were entitled to?

Mr. PICKERING: The assistance given to that company by the Government was in the shape of a loan. That company has done a very great deal this season to help the sheep breeders, enabling them to make profit where a loss had been threatened. I am confident that nothing but general satisfaction will result from the operations of this Perpetual Trustee Company. Why, then, should we refuse authority to the company and so maintain a monopoly for the

older organisation? The House should view these matters impartially. It is the general desire of the people of the city that the company should be given an opportunity to establish its business in Perth.

Mr. ANGELO (Gasecoyne) [9.25]: I support the Bill, notwithstanding the contention of the member for East Perth that it will give a set of boodlers another monopoly.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No member of the House holding shares in the company is entitled to vote on the Bill.

Mr. ANGELO: I am not a shareholder of the company, although if I had the money to invest I certainly would take shares in it. Let me tell the member for East Perth that the boodlers to whom he contemptuously refers number between 400 and 500. They are not monied persons, for the shares have been applied for in small lots. The hon. member gave the company a fine testimonial when he said the men who are going to run it will not make losses, that they are too clever. That is what the people who will be doing business with the company require, namely, that their affairs shall be conducted by persons too clever to make losses. It is said that this company is going to secure a lot of money by excessive charges rendered possible by their having a monopoly. The last Administration Act Amendment Act empowered private executors and trustees to charge 5 per cent. This company is limiting its charge to 2½ per cent.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And 5 per cent. on income.

Mr. ANGELO: It is asking only the 2½ per cent., one-half of what private trustees can charge. Clause 21 is an excellent safeguard for the public. Although the authorised capital is £250,000, the company is issuing only 150,000 shares, and it can call up only 8s. per share. Consequently it is creating a reserve fund of 12s. a share, which is a fine safeguard for those doing business with the company. We have been asked whether this company is necessary. Let me quote one or two answers given by Mr. E. S. Barker, the manager of the W.A. Trustee Company, before the select committee. Mr. Barker was asked, "What was the population of Western Australia when your company was formed?" The reply he gave was, "At the outside 60,000." Now we have nearly six times that number in Western Australia and we still have the one company. The next question and answer were, "How many trustee companies are there in Victoria?—I think there are nine. There are in all 19 or 20 in Australia." Yet we have only one in Western Australia. I am in favour of a public trustee, but I consider there is room for not only a public trustee but also these companies. Judging by the way the State has grown in population, there is room for two or three of these companies as well as a public trustee. These companies do excellent work; they lend money at a fair and reasonable rate of interest and assist people to

build homes and business premises. I am glad the company has been formed. The directorate is composed of men who have proved themselves to be good, successful business men, and I am certain the operations of the company will be conducted to its own good, to the good of those who will do business with it, and to the good of Western Australia.

Mrs. COWAN (West Perth) [9.32]: I support the Bill. I was greatly surprised to hear the remarks which have fallen from the members of the Opposition. It is astonishing that so many of them should wish to continue a monopoly. It will be a very good thing for the community to have the Perpetual Trustee Company established, as it will afford great assistance to many people. There are people, who will not deal with the other company, waiting now to put their money into this company, and why should not they be considered? The directors of the W.A. Company do not object to the establishment of this company. They realise that there may be some competition in the matter of efficiency, but efficiency in the administration of the business affairs of such large numbers of people can only be highly advantageous. I am not opposed to the appointment of a public trustee, but I am a little surprised that members of the Opposition who listened to the remarks of their Leader last year should think such a department could be of any great efficacy. We have only two forms of trusteeship of a public kind, and one of them is the lunacy trusteeship.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: This is a lunacy trusteeship, too.

Mrs. COWAN: If for that reason only, I should have expected the Opposition to support this Bill, because it would have prevented what happened in a case which evoked such strictures from the Leader of the Opposition, strictures with which I entirely agreed. That was a case of which we all know, and it was anything but satisfactory. It was not conducive to encouraging the public to entrust their business to State administration.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That will not apply to this Bill.

Mrs. COWAN: I do not say that it will, but members have advocated a public trustee instead of this company or with it. Let them have a public trusteeship by all means. But it surprised me to hear that advocated from the Opposition after having heard the very strong remarks against the public management of the affairs of certain lunatics. I agreed with those remarks at the time, and I still agree with them. I supported the action to have justice done in the case of that individual, and my support would have been forthcoming this session had not illness prevented me from being in my place. It has been said that this company is going to take people from the country. We need not worry about that contention. There are plenty of people who can be employed by

this company, and it seems to me they will come from the town and will assist people in the country to take care of the tremendous amount of money our primary producers are supposed to make. I am not sure that they make so much money; they may hold the value in land and not in cash, but if they have the cash, they will in future have two trusteeships from which to choose the more efficient to take charge of their affairs. I shall support the second reading.

Mr. LUTEY (Brownhill-Ivanhoe) [9.35]: The member for West Perth cast doubt on the efficiency of public trusteeship. The public trustee system has been successful in the Eastern States, in New Zealand and in the Old Country, and as a result of it, a large amount of profit has accrued to those countries.

Mrs. Cowan: The companies would help it to be efficient.

Mr. LUTEY: If the State undertook this business, it would certainly be profitable.

Capt. Carter: How many companies are there in Queensland?

Mr. LUTEY: I do not know, but I believe the public trusteeship there has been very satisfactory.

Capt. Carter: There are four companies.

Mr. LUTEY: I oppose the Bill because, if any additional facilities for the transaction of such business are required here, the State should provide them. In New South Wales last year the total value of estates held was £2,431,000, and in Queensland, £1,464,000, and the business proved very profitable. Western Australia is languishing for want of funds, and here the Government have an opportunity to undertake profitable business.

Mrs. Cowan: Will you be so ready to advocate a Government trustee after the evidence I have referred to?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I can tell you about that.

Mr. LUTEY: The member for West Perth said there were people waiting for the Perpetual Company to be formed in order to invest their money.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is all very well for the member for West Perth to abuse a man after his death.

Mr. LUTEY: The remarks of the member for West Perth indicate that these people are not satisfied with the existing company, and are anxious for the establishment of additional facilities. Here, then, is an opportunity for the State to step in and engage in profitable business. The Government, instead of bringing down a Hospitals Bill and taxing people who are below the bread line, should seize this opportunity to gather in revenue at very little expense. The Government have the machinery at hand; very little organisation would be required, and the business would prove as profitable here as it has been in Queensland, New Zealand and particularly in the Old Country, where it has given entire satisfaction. I oppose the Bill, because I consider the Government are failing

in their duty in not creating a public trustee here.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [9.40]: Western Australia has a very small population and it is fruitless to make comparisons with a country like England in regard to trustee companies. On one occasion I heard a gentleman refer to a trading company in this State and another in England as being in the ratio of a flea to an elephant when the relative populations were considered. A public trusteeship has been advocated, not only by members of the Labour Party but by men in public positions and legal men. The proposal has been brought before the public on several occasions and has received approval. If we permit another private company to start operations now while our population is small, its vested interests will become so great that we shall be building up strong opposition against the day when we inaugurate a public trusteeship. We cannot fairly contrast the number of companies in this State and the other States where the population is much larger. Those who are desirous of having their funds protected by a public trustee under the Government will not have an opportunity to avail themselves of those facilities, because private companies have come into existence, and to start a public trusteeship may not be a payable proposition. I regret that the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) referred to the public trustee in connection with the Lunacy Department. Unfortunately, that official had died prior to the charge being laid against him.

Mrs. Cowan: I did not refer to any administration.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The hon member did. The official had been dead a considerable time before any inquiry was made. I had an opportunity to look into that question and I have grave doubts whether that official was lax in his administration.

Mrs. Cowan: I never said so. I was pointing out what a member on your side said. It came from the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Certain propositions were put forward but could not be sifted, because the official had died. I doubt very much whether there was any laxity at all. However, that is no reason why a public trusteeship should not be successful. This is a private Bill of the usual kind to allow this company to carry on. One clause strikes me particularly, the clause containing reference to what the member for East Perth (Mr. Hughes) called the deposit. I cannot see why this company should not be compelled, in the interests of those who put their property into its hands, to pay the deposit into the Treasury, as many other companies have to do. An insurance company has to deposit with the Treasurer a certain sum on which the Treasurer has to pay 4 per cent. But in this instance the money may be left in the bank on fixed deposit, lent out on mortgage, or invested in Treasury bonds or in any other

form of which the Treasurer approves. It should be embodied in an Act of Parliament. This company should be placed in a position similar to that occupied by other companies in the State. The money should be at the disposal of the Colonial Treasurer at the same rate of interest as is found in other instances. The shareholders of this company know that it is a profitable venture. The remark of the Minister for Mines should be sufficient, if nothing else was required, to warrant members in rejecting this Bill. Another company came into existence to carry on this class of work, just prior to the formation of the Perpetual Trustee Company. If what the Minister said is correct, that this new company successfully squashed the other, members could serve it in the same way by throwing out the Bill.

Mr. Mann: That is not correct. The Minister said he did not blame the directors of this company.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Apparently shareholders connected with the other company were not so influential as these shareholders are. They had not the same pull or power over certain institutions that these people have. The other company had its prospectus advertised in the Press, and I believe it was brought into being in conjunction with a building society in William-street. If this new company adopted unfair methods to wipe out the other company, that would be sufficient justification for us to oppose the second reading of this Bill.

Mr. Mann: But that is not correct.

The Minister for Works: There is room for both companies.

Mr. Mann: The other company is still going on.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I would prefer a public trustee.

Mr. Angelo: There is room for him too.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Our population is too small for many organisations of this sort.

The Minister for Works: The first company started 30 years ago, and has done a tremendous amount of good.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Both good and harm. Yesterday a widow came to me to ask whether I could help her. She kept a boarding house in order to maintain her children. She owed £11 to the company. She went down to pay it, but the man at the office could not accept it. She was then summoned, and her rent has now been put up to £3 a week. Very few companies have any soul.

The Minister for Works: You know the old saying.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes. The company objected to this woman keeping a boarding-house, but she had rented the place for many years. There are always two sides to a question, but I know hers only. I hope in Committee we shall be able to amend the Bill to provide for the deposit being placed in the Treasury, and in other directions which I will outline when the time comes.

I notice there is a limitation with respect to the calling up of the share capital.

Mr. Mann: Is not that a good thing?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That may be so. It is not intended to call up more than 8s. per £1 share, or unless there is a winding up of the company.

Mr. Mann: That improves the position.

Mr. Angelo: It creates a reserve of 12s. a share.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It shows what a profitable venture it is, and supports the argument of members on this side of the House in favour of a public trustee. Profits on an undertaking of this sort could be used by the State for carrying on various State affairs. If we had a public trustee, and the profits accruing from the office, there might be no necessity for a hospital tax, or for the State to find compensation for miners suffering from phthisis. There are many directions in which such money could be utilised, such as in the direction of reducing taxes to our citizens. This is not a State trading concern, but one for the protection of the public. There is no better protection than Government protection. The Bill itself shows there is no necessity for the company to call up more than 8s. per share, and proves that the Government would not require much in the way of funds to carry on the business. The Government are missing a golden opportunity by neglecting this avenue of profit. Their policy, however, is to hand these opportunities over to others, rather than make an effort to decrease the taxation upon the people.

Mr. MARSHALL (Murchison) [9.52]: I am opposed to the second reading of the Bill. There has been no great public demand for it. The Government are going to put into the pockets of a few money which might be used for the development of the country, and for reducing the taxation upon those who can ill afford to pay it. Members argue that it is a good thing to see private enterprise growing. I agree with that principle. I have no desire to stampee the objective of those who wish to launch out in enterprises, nor do I object to their utilising the capital they have for the development of our secondary industries. Of late years Governments of Australia have been anything but patriotic in the legislation they have brought forward. They have always studied the interests of the private individual instead of the State. Individuals who proclaim their patriotism from the house-tops, who are never short of a little flag to wave, or cease to call upon the Government to assist them in so doing, always place their own interests ahead of those of the State for their own private gain. If this Bill had been one for the establishment of a trading concern, one could have understood the opposition of the Government to the views expressed by members on this side of the House, but it is not a trading concern, that of a public trusteeship, in the true sense of the word. If it were so, the Imperial Gov-

ernment would have set us the example. There is a public trustee in England.

Mrs. Cowan: We have one too.

The SPEAKER: Hon members are labouring this trusteeship too much. The Bill does not deal with it. I do not mind a reference to it.

Mr. MARSHALL: I wish to stress my opposition to the Bill, and to show how profitable a public trusteeship would be to the State. I cannot do that if you rule me out of order.

The SPEAKER: I have no desire to restrict the hon. member.

Mr. MARSHALL: The public trusteeship in England yields to the Government millions of pounds per annum, and this money is used to alleviate the burden upon the taxpayers. Members of the cross benches, who never lose an opportunity of appealing to the Government for money for roadmaking, new railways, cheap freights, and other forms of assistance, should, if they were patriotic, throw out this Bill with a view to the creation of a public trusteeship, from which such great benefits would accrue to the State. The member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) argues that it does not matter how many of these companies are in existence. I would point out that the more we have the greater will be the opposition to the Government which desires to introduce the principle of a public trustee.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

Mrs. Cowan: Has that been so elsewhere?

Mr. MARSHALL: Positively. We have it in respect to our State trading concerns. The financial institutions of the country are doing their best to destroy that which labour built up. Any trustee companies which are formed in this State will amalgamate, and will become so powerful that the Government will be unable to enter into competition with them. It behoves us to take such action as will permit of the establishment of a trusteeship in due course, so that the Government may be in a position to relieve the taxpayers of some of the obligations which they are continually piling upon them. Several Bills have come before us this session which will greatly retard the development of the country. I refer to the Licensing Act Amendment Bill and to other registration Bills, which mean further demands upon our struggling primary producers. Those who profess to directly represent the primary producers in this House, invariably support legislation that will ensure profits and prosperity to the farmers who live in St. George's-terrace. The member for Leederville (Capt. Carter), in the course of an eloquent speech delivered by way of interjection, referred to Queensland. I will tell the hon. member exactly what Queensland has done. The figures of the property handled by the Queensland Public Trusteeship are £1,444,852. Queensland has that enormous sum of money at its disposal, not

for profit making, but for assisting the development of the country.

Capt. Carter: I want to know how much the other two companies have.

Mr. MARSHALL: Since 1919 the profits realised by the Queensland Public Trusteeship have amounted to £8,453. That sum represents actual profits. The Queensland Public Trusteeship has at its disposal 1½ millions sterling to lend to the people of the State for the development of their industries.

Mrs. Cowan: To put into private enterprise?

Mr. MARSHALL: Private enterprise has a keen desire to draw money from the Government. To the Fremantle meat works the Government lent money to pay interest due to the State. That is the attitude of people who oppose State enterprise in any shape or form, who say, "Leave private enterprise to us; we are the masters of private enterprise; there is no demand of the public which we cannot supply." But hardly are they on the path to construction of their enterprise, than they appeal to the taxpayers of the country to put in more money than they themselves, the masters of private enterprise, are prepared to put in.

Capt. Carter: Will you look up those figures about the private companies?

Mrs. Cowan: How can you work a public trusteeship without private enterprise?

Mr. MARSHALL: It would take a Philadelphia lawyer to follow the argument of the member for West Perth. In the whole of the Commonwealth there are only two States which have not established a public trusteeship—Victoria and Western Australia.

Capt. Carter: Victoria does not stand for monopoly, though.

Mr. MARSHALL: The member for Leederville has never been known to talk anything but nonsense. Unfortunately he persists in talking it. Even New Zealand, which, so far as I can recollect, has never had a Labour Government, possesses a public trustee in opposition to private enterprise. The member for Mt. Magnet (Hon. M. F. Troy), when speaking on the second reading of this Bill some time ago, quoted elaborate figures from the reports of the New Zealand Public Trustee, which reports are in the Parliamentary Library and are available to hon. members. If the Government of this State miss the present opportunity, and thereby create opposition, they will be highly blameworthy. The member for Perth (Mr. Mann) may smile. This Bill, if passed, will take from the people of this State profits to which they are entitled. If the robbery of Western Australian taxpayers is something to smile over, let the member for Perth keep smiling.

Capt. Carter: What about boodlers?

Mr. MARSHALL: I have not used that word. I have no desire to interfere with private enterprise. On the other hand, private enterprise should have no objection to the State intervening in a function of this description. I oppose the Bill, firstly, because I find no public demand for it other than the

demand of the persons who are going to profit by it.

Mr. Mann: Why don't you take some shares in the company?

Mr. MARSHALL: When I have been as successful in securing cash as the member for Perth has been, I will consider the matter. At present I am not able to take shares. The property held in trust by the New Zealand Public Trustee in 1917 was valued at £8,058,866. The people of New Zealand were quick to note the advantages of their Public Trusteeship, and they readily took their business to that concern. The Act is that people generally have more faith in a State institution of this kind, than they have in an institution controlled by private enterprise. It is astounding to note how the funds of the New Zealand Public Trustee rose almost by a million a year. In 13 years the amount increased from eight millions to thirteen millions. Such figures speak for themselves. They make me feel that I would not be dealing fairly with the taxpayers of Western Australia if I supported this Bill. The total assets of the New Zealand Public Trustee at the 31st March, 1921, exceeded 20 millions sterling. That is a figure well worth considering—20 millions of money accumulated in the office of the Public Trustee of New Zealand, which country has a Conservative Government, not a Labour Government. For the past four years the assets of the New Zealand Public Trustee have stood as follows:—1918, nine millions; 1919, 10 millions; 1920, 11 millions; 1921, 13 millions. Reverting to the Bill, let me ask hon. members whether they have any conception of the amount of profit which the proposed company will draw from the people of Western Australia? I doubt whether the member for Perth (Mr. Mann), who is fathering the Bill, can, or will be fair enough, to say what the estimated profits are.

The Minister for Mines: Go out and discuss it in the corridor.

Mr. MARSHALL: The Minister for Mines may do all his business there, but I like to do my business before the public eye. The unrealised assets of the New Zealand Public Trustee on the 31st March, 1922, stood at 21 millions odd, representing an increase of 1½ millions over the figure of the preceding year.

The Minister for Mines: How much would that be in German marks?

Mr. MARSHALL: I have not watched the exchange closely enough to answer that question. However, going back to something approaching seriousness, let me say that those figures represent a big thing for New Zealand. Finance cannot be a subject of joking here in view of our deficit, which has risen beyond six millions. In such circumstances we cannot afford to throw away any opportunity of drawing into the Treasury funds which may be used for the development of our industries. When we find that the New Zealand Public Trustee has available for utilisation in the development of the Dominion such vast sums of money, the question

of establishing a public trustee here is well worth our consideration. Our Government were compelled only yesterday, or early this morning, to descend to the lowest rung of the ladder of taxation, by placing an impost on our newsboys in order to maintain our hospitals.

The Minister for Mines: No.

Mr. MARSHALL: This country cannot afford to treat a question of finance as a jest. We hear no longer the hue-and-cry of "Gone-a-million Jack." Neither do we hear such a nickname as "Gone-five-millions" someone else. The financial position of Western Australia is such that our Government might well treat a Bill of this kind with much more seriousness. They might well consider whether they should not create a public trustee in order to alleviate the position of our taxpayers. But I agree with the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) that if the most eloquent speaker, not of the Commonwealth, but of the universe, came here and opposed this Bill, he could not prevent its passage.

Mr. Angelo: That shows what a good measure it is.

Mr. MARSHALL: The Bill would pass, not because of its virtues, but because of the influence behind it, the influence demanding its passage. There is no doubt about that. The Bill must go through. That is why the member for Perth can smile. Let me remind the members of the Country Party, who are always professing to look after the interests of the primary producer, that here is an opportunity to conserve those interests. Let those members bear in mind that all forms of taxation eventually fall back on the primary producers, who have to produce all the wealth of the country. The profits which the promoters of this Bill will derive from the proposed company will be put back on our primary producers. When we find certain members rising here and declaring themselves the representatives of the primary producers, we may well look down St. George's-terrace in the hope of seeing wheat and meat. While we can find human meat there, we look in vain for wheat. I am more than surprised that members who profess to be looking after the interests of the struggling farmer will let a Bill of this kind go through and support the Hospitals Bill, which taxes unfortunate boys and girls receiving £1 per week. Those members refuse the present opportunity of gaining revenue by enforcing the establishment of a public trusteeship. I need say no more. The day is fast approaching when the taxpayers will take their revenge.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

House adjourned at 10.18 p.m.