

them yourselves." I guarantee that since the department replied to that suggestion, three times as much has been spent on repairing the gates as the ramps would have cost. In the last 18 months or so, I doubt if I have seen the gates at one spot closed or opened, but mostly lying in a wreck alongside the fence. It would have been far more consistent on the part of the department had it agreed to put in the ramps, as suggested, on all main public roads. So long as people up north have no confidence in or respect for the rabbit-proof fences, so long will the present difficulties continue. If they are to regain confidence in the effectiveness of the fences, the attitude of the department will have to be changed. I hope that the next time the Agricultural Vote is introduced, a far more optimistic note will be heard.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 5.43 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 10th December, 1946.

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

QUESTION.

NURSES TREATED FOR T.B.

As to Number, Compensation, Etc.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP asked the Chief Secretary:

1, How many nurses (trainees or trained) are undergoing treatment at the Woollooloo Sanatorium for pulmonary tuberculosis?

2, How many nurses (trainees or trained) are undergoing treatment at the Royal Perth Hospital for pulmonary tuberculosis? How many are in-patients and how many are out-patients?

3, How many of these nurses commenced their nursing training at (a) the sanatorium, (b) the Royal Perth Hospital, (c) elsewhere?

4, How many of these nurses were submitted to the Mantoux test before commencing duty?

5, What are the ages of the nurses affected?

6, What compensation do they receive (a) whilst undergoing active treatment in an institution, (b) whilst attending for treatment as an out-patient at the clinic or hospital or sanatorium?

7, If a nurse so affected is certified as having reached the stage where treatment is no longer necessary but is not yet fit for duty what compensation does she receive?

8, If a nurse who has been treated for pulmonary tuberculosis and has been certified as "disease arrested" or "fit for duty" resumes duty and at a later stage suffers a recrudescence of the disease does she receive further compensation?

9, If a nurse, such as described in Question 8 has married or given up nursing prior to the recrudescence of the disease, is she still able to claim compensation for the recrudescence?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: The information required by the hon. member will take some time to obtain, and will be supplied by the department as early as possible.

MOTION—JUVENILE DELINQUENTS.

As to Implementing Royal Commission's Recommendations.

HON. E. H. H. HALL (Central) [2.34]: I move—

That this House protests against the failure of the Government to implement the main recommendations of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the care and reform of youthful delinquents as contained in their report presented to Parliament on the 10th August, 1943, and desires to urge the importance of immediate consideration and adoption thereof.

I fully realise that members of the Government are extremely busy men; but the failure

of Cabinet to take action to implement the principal recommendations of the honorary Royal Commission which was appointed to inquire into the care and reform of juvenile delinquents is difficult to understand, when the serious consequences of such inactivity are taken into consideration. I desire, with permission, to make some quotations from the report which was made to the House and which is dated the 10th August, 1943. They are as follows:—

Your Commission sets higher value on preventive rather than correctional methods. The evidence suggests that a very large percentage of those children who make a second appearance before the Children's Court are convicted again and again and finally lapse into a life of crime.

Regarding present methods of treatment of delinquents, your Commission fully recognises the difficulties that have to be faced, and does not desire to be over-critical. At the same time it is satisfied that there is weakness in dealing with cases of persistent offenders. The evidence submitted by the inspector in charge of the C.I.B. shows that convicted children are released again and again. So far from applying to isolated cases, it seems to be a common practice. He quoted 18 cases of boys who had been convicted on from nine to 52 charges, and who were almost continuously at liberty to the danger of the community and their own undoing.

Your Commission is of opinion that this, in common with other defects in the present system, can be remedied only by closer co-operation between the different departments concerned, and consequently makes its main recommendation the establishment of a Child Council to co-ordinate the work of all those institutions of Government concerned with youth welfare.

Many witnesses strongly condemned the present practice of newspaper publication of details of Children's Court proceedings; in fact, there was unanimity that this acted as an incitement to delinquency. The children whose cases were published regarded themselves as heroes, and other children were incited to emulate their performances.

Your Commission is impressed with the great importance of the probationary system and considers that it should be extended. Witnesses urged:—

- (1) The establishment of a clinic for examination, both from a general medical and psychological standpoint, and before they are presented to the Court, of all children arrested; and
- (2) The appointment of additional highly-trained probationary officers—both men and women—and recognition that their qualifications entitled them to adequate remuneration.

It would do many people immense good and give them an enlightenment which I think they could not otherwise obtain, if they had a chance to meet Mr. Bulley, who has just retired after years of service on this very highly specialised work. I would be extravagant were I to say that he is a man in a million; but he is a man who is imbued with the importance—I might say the sacredness—of his duties. No ordinary civil servant was Mr. Bulley. If ever there was a member of the Civil Service to whom on retirement these words apply, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," it was Mr. Bulley. Notwithstanding that he has reached the retirement age I would like to see his vast experience, his wonderful breadth of vision and wisdom in dealing with boys, made use of in some way or other. If the House will hear with me, I shall read the main recommendations of the Royal Commission. The commission was much indebted for the first recommendation to a highly-placed civil servant of great experience from a neighbouring State, South Australia, where what is recommended here is operating with great success. Recommendation A. reads—

That a Child Council be established, consisting of representatives of those socialising instruments of Government at present concerned with separate aspects of youth welfare, viz.: The Education Department; the Child Welfare Department; the Children's Court; the Youth Section of the Department of Labour and National Service; the Medical Department; and the Police Department. The members of the council would act in an honorary capacity as a part of their ordinary duties. One representative of the Medical Department might be a trained psychologist. It would be the duty of the council to co-ordinate the activities of the different authorities, and to acquire knowledge of the circumstances surrounding each case of delinquency with a view to making sustained efforts at reform.

That was the commission's principal recommendation. The members of the commission realised that the country was at war and that the Government was faced with an exceptionally acute shortage of finance. On the advice of the experienced chairman, Sir Hal Colebatch, they were studiously careful not to submit any expensive ideas to the Government. Consequently, it was suggested that a council be formed of representatives of government departments, which council would have acted in an honorary capacity. That system was found to be advantageous

in South Australia. Recommendation (D) was—

That a State institution be provided capable of taking, say, 20 boys, and from which they could not escape. This should be used only for the more hardened offenders whom the existing institutions will not take. Workshops could be provided where the boys might learn trades.

A further recommendation was—

There is also a need for the establishment of a home for delinquent girls. At present the department is entirely dependent upon the good offices of the Home of the Good Shepherd. Having visited the home, the Commission is satisfied that the work there is of the highest order and that the State is greatly indebted to those conducting it. There are, however, cases unsuited to such an institution, though the urgency is not so acute as in the case of boys.

Other recommendations were—

(F) The Commission strongly approves of the practice of small weekly payments being made to delinquents as is done in some institutions. Under the direction of the proposed Child Council, this might be made a general, and fairly uniform, practice.

(G) Better methods should be adopted in dealing with persistent offenders. Evidence suggests that about 50 per cent. of these continue a life of crime when they become adults. A number of cases were submitted of boys of ages varying from 9 to 16 who were committed by the Children's Court to an institution until they were 18 years of age, released after a short period on good behaviour, and thereafter committing offence after offence—in several cases over 20 offences, and some over 50, and winding up with prolonged gaol sentences when they passed from the jurisdiction of the Children's Court. It is not too much to say that the members of the Commission were shocked by the revelations made in this connection. A most unsatisfactory state of affairs can be met only by closer co-operation between the Child Welfare Department, the Children's Court, and the police, under the general oversight of the Child Council.

(I) That the probation system be extended, as a means of dealing with children who need never be brought before the court, and of more effectively following up children once convicted. Your Commission is satisfied that probation officers require high qualifications, and should receive suitable recognition. Evidence suggests that good results have followed the psychological examination of children before trial, and it has been urged by witnesses that a clinic should be established at which this examination should be extended to all the children before trial. The Commission does not feel qualified to express dogmatic opinion as to the extent to which the problem of delinquency is a psychological one, but is confident that the proposed Child Council would find the best means by which the services of

trained psychologists might be employed, both in the treatment of children and in the instruction of parents, in some such manner as the Baby Welfare Centres operate today.

Finally, under recommendation (M) appears the following:—

Your Commission is strongly of opinion that there must be a fuller recognition of the responsibility of the State for the care of the child, and of the necessity for the provision of adequate money for this purpose.

In a country of great area, vast possibilities, and scanty population, it cannot be tolerated with complacency that even a small number of children should be diverted from useful to criminal lives. The evidence is convincing that, taken in time and properly treated, most delinquents can be re-educated; but that, otherwise, they generally go from bad to worse.

I am not going to detail the witnesses by name, but they included the Director of Education, the former and the present Commissioner of Police, and the officer in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department. Altogether there were 23 witnesses, all well fitted by practical experience to speak on what is regarded as a very difficult subject. The commission held 15 sittings. To account for my feelings somewhat, I would remind the House that in 1937 a deputation waited on the Minister then controlling the Child Welfare Department, Hon. A. R. G. Hawke, urging that something be done in this very important matter. That deputation consisted of two medical men, the late Dr. Moss and Dr. R. G. Williams; Mrs. Rischbieth, and Mrs. Vallance, of the Women's Service Guild; the Rev. Dr. McMahon; and Mr. M. F. Darcey, representing the State School-teachers' Union. On the 24th June, 1937, in "The West Australian" appeared the following remarks of the Minister to the deputation:—

We are slowly and surely reaching the stage when definite proposals will be ready for the consideration of Cabinet. I hope this day will not be far distant.

That was in 1937. I think that the present Minister for Education, Hon. J. T. Tonkin, is equally serious and equally desirous of doing something in this very important matter; but year after year goes past, and we claim that little, if anything, has been done. True, the Government did build a new lock-up for juvenile delinquents at the rear of the Roe-street police premises; and I should think it would! If ever there was a blot on the fair name of this State, it was that awful place for the detention of boys until

they were proved guilty. Members of the commission inspected it, and other institutions, and were shocked to think that in a civilised and supposedly Christian community boys could be kept in such an awful place. Here are some observations made by Mr. Bulley before the commission—

The position at present so far as making provision for delinquent boys convicted in the Children's Court is concerned is, in my estimation, most unsatisfactory. We have at present two industrial schools—one at Seaforth (Salvation Army) and one at Bindoon (Roman Catholic). Neither of those places at present is provided with what might be called a compound in which the industrial delinquent boy can be safely housed during the hours of darkness, which is very essential. The position of such a boy is most unsatisfactory. He is placed in an industrial school through misconduct, the result of a warped mind. He is at war in his own little way with society. He makes mistakes. He has engaged in breaking and entering and stealing, and has committed other crimes against the law which justifies the magistrate in sending him to such institutions. But in the institution the boy realises he is there by compulsion and has to remain there. While there he has to work. Also his parents must pay as much as they can for his maintenance, and the Child Welfare Department has to pay the church organisation so much per week for his upkeep. The boy knows this is going on while he, in return for his labour, receives nothing; not even so much as a cigarette is handed to him. He is a human being. He knows the value of his labour to a certain extent, and feels the injustice of being compelled to work and getting nothing in return. To my way of thinking, a boy who is sent to an institution is sent there for the purpose of improving his outlook in life, straightening his warped mind and making him a good citizen. It is essential that the boy should be encouraged; that he should be shown his dark outlook in life and that an endeavour should be made to correct that and make him a good citizen. That can better be done by encouragement than by force.

He later said—

Boys of the type I refer to are capable of working. They want to work; if they had work they would not get into these troubles. If they were given a small remuneration per week in accordance with their value, if they were clothed properly, housed properly and had facilities for proper bathing and were made to groom themselves properly so that they came to a realisation that they amounted to something, we would be encouraging their minds to greater advantage than by compelling them to work and giving them nothing in return. I have advocated for years past that boys who are so working should receive some remuneration. I have asked Brother Keaney, who is in charge at Bindoon, six months ago, whether he would pay the boys something in return for the marvellous work they are doing.

He said, "Yes, I think we can do it." Up to the present I have yet to learn that it has been done. I asked Major Raymond, of the Seaforth Home, if he could give the boys there some slight remuneration for their work. He has considered the matter, but so far nothing has been done. I am of opinion that if a boy over 16 years of age smokes, he should receive an issue of cigarettes. It is marvellous what a cigarette will do for a boy. I have had practical experience, although I do not smoke. These little considerations appeal to a boy and give him the impression that, after all, the department or the school in which he is placed is not the bad place it is thought to be at the present time. At the moment we have fourteen boys who are what Mr. Meacham, Secretary of the Child Welfare Department, describes as hard-baked.

That means that nothing can be done with them. The authorities at Bindoon refuse to have them, and so do those at Seaforth. In Mr. Bulley's own words, they are let loose to prey upon society, and they generally drift to a life of crime. What are we doing to save them? It is our bounden duty to make a greater effort than has been made in the past to save these boys from such an awful fate. I have here a book entitled "Probation for Juvenile Delinquents," issued by the Australian Council for Educational Research. I wish to read two short extracts from it, the first of which is—

Organic or nervous conditions can act as a direct cause of delinquency, while in other cases physical disabilities are indirect factors of causation. It is obviously necessary, therefore, to make a very thorough differentiation between individuals, and the time has come to ask ourselves whether such a differentiation, by medical and psychological methods, should not be made in the case of every delinquent child. We should then bring to light not only the obviously abnormal and defective, but those cases of backwardness, instability, neurosis and early mental disorder, not to mention physical disabilities, in all of which delinquency is an illness rather than a crime, and so much can be done to re-educate and cure.

The second is—

Many medical observers contend that often such a differentiation can only be achieved in the atmosphere of a clinic free from any association with the police, with the help of the teamwork and skilled investigation which the clinic can supply. Without such investigation a child may be removed from a bad environment to a good environment and yet no improvement may result, because the change is not adapted to the needs of the particular case, and the real cause of the trouble has remained undiscovered.

We have no clinic, although the commission did recommend that one be established. On

the 12th October last, I felt constrained, after reading about one of these cases, to write a letter to "The West Australian," but I did not do so. I asked myself, "Why should I write a letter to 'The West Australian'?" I am a member of Parliament. That being so, why should I write to 'The West Australian,' or any other paper, knowing what I know? The Legislative Council of this State has given approval to the recommendations of the commission of which I was a member. Why do I not get up in my place and urge the Government to do its duty in this most important matter?" I am not here to throw hard words at the Government, but to plead with it to do its manifest duty to these children who are in their present state mainly through no fault of their own. Many cases, according to the evidence put before us, were the result of broken homes, and some because of there being no parents at all. In "The West Australian" of the 25th October, we find the following report—the name of the man concerned was given, but I shall not mention it; he was 27 years of age:—

A labourer, of Rockingham-road, South Coogee, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment by Mr. A. Schroeder, Special Magistrate, in the Fremantle Children's Court yesterday for having unlawfully assaulted a female child of eight years at Coogee on October 14.

One month's imprisonment for a man who assaulted a little girl of eight years of age, and no word of protest, as far as I have been able to find! One wonders whether one is living in the present supposedly civilised state of society. One of the matters the commission dealt with was that of adults appearing in the Children's Court, and it recommended that they should not appear there. But no notice seems to have been taken of the recommendation. Why was this man brought before the Children's Court? Such a thing is against all one's decent feelings. On the 21st August last, a 14-year-old boy was described by the magistrate as "a thief, a liar, and a rogue." I do not think that is dignified language for a magistrate. It is altogether unwarranted and unnecessary, and the magistrate should be told so by someone! I like Mr. Schroeder, but he evidently forgot himself on that occasion.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: That would not help to cure the boy.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: It would not. I was shocked when I read it. On the 4th April of this year Mr. Schroeder said—

I am sending you boys to different institutions, not under Section 20, because power has been given to the secretary of the Child Welfare Department to alter my recommendations, but under Section 25 where the Governor's approval is necessary to make any alterations to my recommendations. I have had bitter experiences of boys in institutions putting their heads together and absconding to commit further offences. In one year 15 boys committed 212 offences. I don't want to give you boys the opportunity of getting together again.

When I brought my original motion forward, it was because of statements made by Mr. Schroeder against the Government which was responsible for his appointment. He had no special training for the job, but he was a friend of Mr. Hawke, who elevated him to his present position. However, we give Mr. Schroeder credit for being willing, at times, to criticise the Government that appointed him. Mr. Schroeder makes a decision, and then someone sees the secretary of the Child Welfare Department, and the next thing is that the detectives see one of these boys walking about the streets. There is no co-ordination. On the 8th October last the following report appeared in the Press:—

A 16 year old youth who was charged in the Perth Children's Court yesterday with having unlawfully assaulted a girl aged six years at Bayswater on 4th October was committed to an institution for two years by Mr. A. Schroeder, Special Magistrate, who ordered his release while of good behaviour.

What does that mean? Apparently there was no examination made of the boy and no remedial treatment given. There was no slight operation. We have been told by men of experience that frequently, in such cases, a slight operation will effect a great improvement. The magistrate ordered the release of the boy while of good behaviour. The paragraph continues—

The youth said that he had arranged to go to the country to work if released. Mr. Schroeder ordered that the release was to remain in force only if the youth stayed in the country. If he returned to Perth at any time he was to be sent straight to an institution.

There have been protests about sending such people to the country. I think it is a disgraceful state of affairs when such offenders are found, committing crimes of a revolting nature. Surely we, as a society of people,

for the protection of each other and each other's children, should insist upon some psychological examination of such offenders, so that we might find out what to do with them in order to rid them of that type of complex. I commend the motion to the House.

HON. SIR HAL COLEBATCH (Metropolitan) [3.5]: I desire to second the motion. The credit for setting up the Select Committee, which the Government was afterwards good enough to convert into a Royal Commission, belongs entirely to Mr. Hall. It was a commendable and public-spirited action, in regard to what I have no hesitation in saying is a matter of supreme importance. I was privileged to act as chairman, first of the Select Committee, and then of the Royal Commission, and I desire briefly to emphasise some of the statements made by Mr. Hall. The committee consisted of members of the three political parties, with one independent member. Not one of those members entered upon the task with any pre-conceived ideas, with any prejudice against the Government, against any department or any individual. Since I presided over every one of the meetings I can safely say that I cannot recall a single instance in which any member put forward a question that might even look as though it reflected upon somebody or upon some administration.

The work of the commission, from start to finish, was entirely constructive. Its investigation was exhaustive. It invited the evidence of representatives of all organisations in any way interested, and welcomed every possible public co-operation. Its report and recommendations were unanimous in every detail. There was not one single line of its report or recommendations that was not endorsed by every member and, subsequent to the publication of those recommendations, no public criticism appeared from any quarter and, as chairman, I received no suggestion that any of the recommendations of the commission were at fault. Those circumstances alone suggest that it is extraordinary that no notice was taken of the recommendations. The commission found grave danger of an extension of juvenile delinquency resulting from quite natural causes, because I think it must be obvious to anybody—it was certainly obvious to members of the commission—that

the chief cause of the trouble was weakness of parental control, and that that weakness was bound to extend as war conditions continued.

I would also tell the Chief Secretary that that portion of the commission's report was based almost entirely on the evidence of highly responsible police officers, men in whom I have no doubt he has the greatest confidence. Their reports from that point of view could not be ignored, and it was largely because of that that the commission urged quick action. I do know that of recent months there those highly responsible officers foresaw has taken place. I do not know to what extent an increase in juvenile delinquency is illustrated by the Children's Court returns, but I do not know that of recent months there has been evidence not only of delinquency, but of crime, and depravity, of a repulsive character. It is surely time that immediate action was taken in an effort to check that sort of thing.

The principal recommendation of the commission—the one on which all the other recommendations more or less hung—was put up by the Director of Education, and I can imagine no man better able to form a sound opinion on a matter of this kind, no man who would feel a greater weight of responsibility in such a matter. I cannot imagine the Premier or the Leader of this House being in any way indifferent on a matter of this kind and I appeal to them, now that it has been brought forward again, to give it earnest consideration. If they can suggest anything better than the recommendations of the Royal Commission, by all means let them put it into force, and I shall be the last to complain. But let them do something.

Let them realise how serious the position is. I am satisfied that the main recommendation of the Royal Commission would go a long way towards preventing, at any rate, a further spread. Furthermore, it had this important qualification: It involved no additional expense upon the Government. On the other hand, it did involve additional work on the part of high officials in the different departments, but the chief feature of the evidence was the eagerness on the part of those high officials to do whatever they could, not asking for additional remuneration or anything of that kind. Because of the deep interest they took in the

matter, they were eager to contribute towards a better state of affairs. I appeal to the Chief Secretary, and through him to the Premier, to take early action, and I do think they can find strong guidance in the report and recommendations of the commission.

On motion by the Chief Secretary, debate adjourned.

BILL—FREMANTLE TRAMWAYS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACT AMENDMENT.

Introduced by Hon. F. E. Gibson and read a first time.

BILL—STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES ACT AMENDMENT.

Third Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [3.14]: I move—
That the Bill be now read a third time.

HON. H. S. W. PARKER (Metropolitan-Suburban) [3.15]: As the Bill left the Committee of this House, the essential clause, the object of which was to do away with the appointment in future of any stipendiary magistrate, was deleted and I thought that finished the Bill. However, the Chief Secretary presumably desires that it be returned to the Lower House. The Legislative Assembly cannot accept the Bill in its present state because it means nothing at all at the moment. It seems to me rather useless to send the Bill back to another place and in the circumstances I shall vote against the third reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West—in reply) [3.16]: I think it as well to let the Bill go back to another place. It will allow the Assembly to see what this House will do to a Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and returned to the Assembly with an amendment.

BILL—CITY OF PERTH SCHEME FOR SUPERANNUATION (AMENDMENTS AUTHORISATION).

Read a third time and passed.

BILL—LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (WAR TIME) ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 6th December.

HON. H. S. W. PARKER (Metropolitan-Suburban) [3.18]: I have no objection to the Bill, but I regard it as quite valueless. It will not give any soldier the vote and very few of them an opportunity to exercise the franchise, because it is very improbable that the soldiers who will be away from the State when the next Council by-election or the next biennial elections for this House will be held, will have their names on the rolls. In any event there are no opportunities for them to vote outside the State. Under the Commonwealth laws the Federal authorities can implement the Commonwealth Electoral Act by issuing instructions to their own servants, but the State cannot issue instructions to government officials, who will be mainly army and naval officers, to conduct the election. I cannot see any advantage to be derived from the passing of the Bill. It does not seem to me, however, that it matters whether we pass it or reject it.

HON. W. J. MANN (South-West) [3.19]: In my opinion, the last Council elections furnished a very pointed reply regarding the absence of any necessity to re-enact this legislation. Members will recollect that the total number of votes that were cast by those whom this Bill will assist for the whole of the provinces in the election held in May last, totalled 20. If my memory serves me aright, only six of the 20 were on the roll. I have reason to remember this, because two of the six votes were cast against me. Thus I received more than my quota. That is a valid reason why the measure is no longer required. The Act is not likely to operate in future any better than it has done in the past. The men it would be likely to serve, so far as this Chamber is concerned, are those who have gone to Japan and the Near East. Many of them are young men and very few would have the qualification, and the chances are that if they had the qualification, about the last thing they would do would be to enrol. We have had an excellent illustration of the futility of the Act, and I shall vote against the second reading.

HON. E. M. HEENAN (North-East) [3.22]: I am afraid that the measure will not have any very satisfactory result, but surely the least we can do is to consider the young men who are serving in the occupation forces in Japan. Though they are mostly young men, quite a number of them are householders and are qualified to vote, but, under our out-of-date and unsatisfactory system, in spite of the fact that many of them will have the qualification to vote for this House, a majority of them will not be enrolled. Certainly, some of them will be on the roll, and the least we can do is to give them the right to record their votes. Legislative Council elections were held in 1944, when the provisions of the Act applied, and apparently approximately 1,000 soldiers believed they were on the roll. They apparently formed that belief from the knowledge that they had the qualification. Although I have not the statistics before me at the moment, if my recollection serves me, out of 1,000 soldiers who voted, only 200 or 250 were found to be on the roll. Thus 750 votes or more had to be thrown aside. I have spoken of this sort of thing on several occasions and have pointed out what an intolerable state of affairs it is, but that is our system and not much can be done about it at the moment. This measure, however, does propose to give those who are entitled to vote, the privilege of voting, and the very least we can do is to provide the opportunity.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West—in reply) [3.25]: I am afraid that the opposition offered to the Bill hardly squares with the sentiments expressed when the original measure was before the Chamber. When we hear a statement such as that made by Mr. Mann, that, of the few men who did record their votes, quite a number did not have the right to do so because they were not on the roll, it should give members a sharp reminder that they were responsible for putting into the Act the qualification that the soldier absent from the State must be on the roll before he could exercise the right to vote. It was not sufficient that he had the qualifications under the Electoral Act of a voter for this Chamber; he must also be on the roll. That is the reason why such a small percentage of those who did record their votes in 1944 recorded a valid vote. Now we have the suggestion that, because the number was so

small, we should deliberately take the vote away from those people who do desire to record it, who have the qualification and who are on the roll. If only one man had the qualification and was deliberately prevented from recording a vote, it would be unfair. If we are prepared to give a man qualified to record a vote an opportunity to do so, it is his own fault if he does not exercise the right but, if we say he shall not have an opportunity to record his vote, we shall be deserving of all the criticism we are likely to get.

I do not know how long members of the Forces will be oversea, but we can assume they will be away for a year or two at any rate, and we can also assume that a fair percentage of them are qualified as electors for this House. All that the Bill seeks to do is to give people who are qualified to vote and who were already on the roll before they left the State, an opportunity to record their votes. As Mr. Heenan said, it is little enough that we can do for the men who are part and parcel of the occupation forces in enemy country, and I hope the House will take little notice of what Mr. Parker and Mr. Mann have said, but will support the second reading.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: I did not say I opposed the Bill, though if the Chief Secretary desires me to do so, I will.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

BILL—LOTTERIES (CONTROL) ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 6th December.

HON. SIR HAL COLEBATCH (Metropolitan) [3.30]: This is a Bill to validate something that has been done and cannot be undone. I regret its appearance, because it indicates an intention on the part of the Government to make these entirely misnamed charity sweeps a permanent feature of our

social life. I do not think anything can be done about it at the present time, but I do hope that, as the people find some better and more desirable way of spending their money, even the most speculative amongst them will realise the folly of investing in a gamble in which only 50 per cent. of their money runs for them. That is the position at present, and I cannot understand the popularity of any gamble in which only half of a person's money is running for him, except on the assumption that a great many people have a lot of money in their pockets and do not know what to do with it and cannot profitably spend it. I hope the time may arrive when this Government, or perhaps some other Government—

Hon. C. B. Williams: That will be a long while.

Hon. Sir HAL COLEBATCH:—may see the folly of employing large numbers of people in utterly unproductive endeavour. I do not know whether members have read the accounts that appeared in the paper a little while ago of a commission sitting in London. The principal Commonwealth representative on that commission was Dr. Coombe. Dr. Coombe, I understand, is the Economic Adviser to the Commonwealth Government and he spoke on the subject of full employment. He laid emphasis on this, that full employment must be useful employment, profitable employment, not work just for the sake of work. I hope that, coming from such a source, that expression will bear some weight with the Government and that sooner or later it will be realised that simply giving jobs to people so that they shall say, "We have this work to do and we are putting this money in our pockets," is no good. The only jobs that are any good are those that are useful and productive in some way or other. I cannot support the second reading of the Bill, but I feel that no good purpose would be served by opposing it.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

BILL—TIMBER INDUSTRY REGULATION ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

Resumed from the 6th December. Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Chief Secretary in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported after Clause 1 had been agreed to.

Clause 2—Amendment of Section 2:

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Progress was reported on this Bill because Mr. Parker had raised the question of whether it would cover firewood yards. I pointed out to him at the time that that was not intended. I have since made inquiries and am informed that the Bill does not cover firewood yards, as such.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

BILL—FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Assembly's Amendment.

Amendment made by the Assembly now considered.

In Committee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill.

Clause 2—Add at the end of the clause a proviso as follows:—

Provided that nothing in this subsection shall render unlawful the opening of a shop for the purpose only of the sale of petrol, benzine, motor spirit, motor oil, or other accessories, to a person who satisfies the shopkeeper or person acting, or apparently acting, in the management of the shop, that such sale is necessary to enable him to continue a journey which commenced not less than twenty miles from such shop, or to commence a journey of not less than twenty miles from his home or other starting point.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I move—
That the amendment be agreed to.

We passed this Bill, and it went to another place, where a question was raised regarding the attitude of the R.A.C. and the Chamber of Automotive Industries relative to emergency supplies. The Minister for Labour and I did everything possible to arrange for

an amicable settlement of the problem and for an amendment satisfactory to all parties. A conference was held of those concerned at which I was present. Being a member of the R.A.C., I wanted to render as much assistance as I could. However, no satisfactory arrangement could be made. The other parties wanted an amendment covering a 91-hour week, which is, of course, absolutely out of the question. It would not pay country people to open garages under those conditions. They could not afford to pay overtime to man the garages. Country Party members in another place talked the matter over and finally submitted this amendment which was accepted and which it is understood is satisfactory and will overcome the difficulty. I hope the Committee will ignore protestations from different sources and accept the view of country people as outlined in another place that this amendment will overcome the trouble. If we drop the Bill we will be worse off than if it is passed.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I do not think the amendment will overcome the difficulty. Unfortunately, we did not have sufficient evidence or information before us when we considered this Bill.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Notwithstanding that we have been motorists for many years.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I am sorry to say I was slightly mislead. I was under the impression that the large majority of country garages were in favour of the measure, but I have since made inquiries and I find it is not so. When the measure was first shown to me I said that it might look all right for the city but I doubted whether it would suit country travellers. In these days, we should not do anything to prevent speedy transport or to hinder the convenience of the travelling public. If we allow this measure to pass, I think we will be doing a very great injustice to a large number of the travelling public in this State. Like most other members, I received a telegram from Mr. Gibson, President of the Chamber of Automotive Industries, which I would like to have placed on record. It is as follows:—

Of 853 petrol re-sellers throughout Western Australia considerably less than 300 are members of Western Australian Service Station Association and the Garage Trading Hours Bill regarding which you were originally misled will if allowed to become law prevent country garages from giving service after ord-

inary shopping hours. Country garage owners can hardly be expected to wait around their premises for rare emergencies and therefore will not be available when actually needed. Trading hour restrictions in metropolitan area are of much lesser importance but the Bill as at present worded will seriously interfere with country travelling. Anything which you can do towards stopping or deferring this measure until all interested have a proper opportunity to clarify their views would be immensely appreciated.

That is signed —

Gibson, President Chamber Automotive Industries representative of over five hundred country retailers and Royal Automobile Club comprising over 17,000 members.

That, I think, will give those who have not studied the telegram an idea of the injustice we will do if we allow the measure to be passed.

Hon. W. R. HALL: I support the amendment. I think I have travelled sufficiently to have had considerable experience with regard to getting petrol between Kalgoorlie and Perth, a distance of 375 miles. There is a long stretch of 140 miles between Kalgoorlie and Southern Cross where it is impossible to get petrol. I can see nothing wrong with the amendment. If a person is going to do a trip, he knows perfectly well he can secure petrol if he is a bona fide traveller. With regard to getting petrol beyond 20 miles, he should be able to procure enough to enable him to see the journey through. It is wrong to expect owners or proprietors of garages to remain on their premises. As a matter of fact, many of them do not live there and in the past there has been difficulty in locating them irrespective of whether it was on a Saturday or after 6 o'clock at night.

We have on occasions passed legislation so that other people may have their Saturday afternoons and Sundays free, and I see no reason why these people should not have the same privilege. If a man finds himself in a hole through running out of petrol, I do not think he will have any difficulty in obtaining supplies if he can locate the garage proprietor. If a man were contemplating a trip of 100 miles or so, he would not take in sufficient petrol to carry him only 20 miles. Not many motorists have had to walk a great number of miles to get petrol at any time, irrespective of whether the walk had to be undertaken when the shops were open or closed.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: Why do we want the restriction?

Hon. W. R. HALL: We passed the Bill here once before, and there may be room for a little improvement. I want to protect the garage proprietors just as much as I want to safeguard the interests of those who travel the roads. My trouble has not been, when going on a journey, to get the petrol, but the tickets. I have not had trouble in getting garages to serve me. I do not think any injustice will be done to the travelling public. Metropolitan motorists may go a distance of 25 or 30 miles. If they go to Mandurah, they will, under this amendment, be protected. Recently, when coming from Kalgoorlie, I had to get petrol at Southern Cross to make sure of arriving at the next stop. One garage proprietor was open but another was not.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: If we do not oppose the measure, they can all stay open.

Hon. W. R. HALL: Yes, but if it is passed it will be fair to all. I support the amendment.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: I would like the Minister to give us some clarification of what the position will be if the legislation is not passed. I did not oppose the original Bill, although I was not very happy about it and, as a result of later discussions, I think that perhaps we made a mistake. I am informed now that, owing to the amendment made to the Factories and Shops Act in 1939, and the deletion of, I think, Clause 101, service stations throughout the State had their opening and closing hours covered by the same regulations that applied to ordinary shops.

The Honorary Minister: That is so.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: The National Security Regulations carried on from that point, and there was some alleviation of the position. The Bill is an improvement on what would obtain if we were thrown back on to the 1939 legislation. I am speaking particularly of the country areas. If I am correctly informed, then even the original Bill was an improvement on what would obtain when the National Security Regulations cease, but the original Bill, together with this amendment, bring about an infinitely preferable arrangement for people in the country than if the measure is thrown

out. In the circumstances, I support the amendment.

Hon. SIR HAL COLEBATCH: I also received a telegram similar to that read by Mr. Bolton. I do not know why, as I am in no way interested in the industry. I have never even owned a motorcar and, because of the way prices are going, I do not think I ever shall! I will accept the facts and figures quoted in this telegram unless they can be effectively contradicted, and they show that the Bill, even with the amendment, is not acceptable to the great majority of either buyers or sellers of petrol.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: When the Bill was introduced, rightly or wrongly, I gathered from the Minister's remarks that the country garages had approved of the measure. But that does not appear to be quite so. From inquiries I have made, it seems that the great majority of them are much opposed to it. On Saturday I had occasion to go to the Upper Blackwood district, which is 160 miles from Mandurah. Part of the journey was through country where there are no garages, so I stopped at one alongside the main Bunbury-road and purchased some petrol. I asked the proprietor if I would be able to get some on Sunday, when I was returning, and he said, "Yes. I keep my garage open on Saturday afternoons and Sundays."

He asked what Parliament was doing about this Bill. I said I thought it had gone too far for much to be done about it, and asked how it would affect his interests. He said, "If it becomes law I will continue to do business as at present, until I am prosecuted. If I am prosecuted I will have to close up, because I could not conduct this business unless permitted to trade on Saturday afternoon and Sunday." That garage is at the turn-off leading to Collie, which is an important junction. It is a good business and would mean considerable loss to this man if he had to close down. I am sorry I did not know more about the circumstances when the Bill was introduced. I think most members were lukewarm about it. I took it for granted, when the Minister introduced the Bill, that it had been approved of by such men as I have mentioned. I am opposed to the measure, but I do not know how the problem can be overcome.

Sitting suspended from 4 to 4.20 p.m.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I am amazed that this Bill should be proceeded with in view of the fact that it has been made public that no agreement can be reached between the bodies interested, especially as one of those bodies is representative of the whole of the motor-ing public of Western Australia. The R.A.C. can be said to speak with a very decided voice on behalf of motorists. We have reached the stage where we are mostly considering legislation always in the interests of those engaged in industry rather than in the interests of industry itself. As Sir Hal Colebatch remarked, matters are viewed at present as work for the sake of payment rather than from the standpoint of service. It is the right of the public to obtain service and our duty to see that they receive it. I oppose the amendment. I dislike seeing laws passed that can be disregarded, for that tends to bring them into disrespect in the eyes of the public.

In this instance it would be very hard to carry out the provisions of the amendment. How is a garage proprietor to know, for instance, that I am not going on a journey of 20 miles or that I had not concluded one of that distance? Whose is to be the responsibility? Must I say that I am a very truthful person and that my speedometer registered so much at a given point, or must the garage proprietor demand proof? If we agree to this proposition, it will simply mean that the law will be disregarded and the garages will remain open as they like. I cannot see anything in the amendment to recommend it, and I think the progress of the measure should be stopped at this stage.

Hon. G. FRASER: I am amazed at the opposition to the amendment, which appears to give the public added protection in the matter of obtaining petrol. The onus would be on the garage owner to take reasonable precautions to ascertain that the motorist was not breaking the law.

Hon. J. G. Hislop: How would he know?

Hon. G. FRASER: He would take precautions just as are taken when a person under 21 years of age enters a hotel for liquor. I received a telegram today that led me to question whether the Chamber of Automotive Industries represents more than a section of the motoring public. The telegram mentions 800 odd garages. I do not know whether the number is correct, though it might be if

every store having a petrol pump were included. Under the amendment, Mr. Tuckey would be able to obtain petrol just as he has done in the past, because the service station would have the right to open. The only condition would be that the person being supplied had complied with the 20 miles stipulation. By defeating the amendment, members will be depriving the public of additional facilities and possibly stations that in the past had served petrol would refuse to do so in future.

Hon. A. THOMSON: On the second reading I suggested that an understanding should be arrived at whereby at least one service station in a country town would be available to meet the needs of the travelling public. The Act already provides for motorists being supplied in cases of emergency. The Honorary Minister gave a definite assurance that the Bill had the support of all the people in the country districts.

The Honorary Minister: A majority of them.

Hon. A. THOMSON: I feel perturbed about the Bill, especially in view of the expressions of the R.A.C., which has a thorough knowledge of country requirements. People in the country areas have not a patrol man at call and have to rely on service stations. If we reject the amendment, shall we revert to the provision in the Act of 1939?

The Honorary Minister: Yes, to those hours.

Hon. A. THOMSON: A large sum of money has recently been expended in my home town on the erection of two motor garages with necessary machinery. I oppose the amendment.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Mr. Thomson is still clouded on the issue. If the Bill is defeated, we go back to the hours provided by the Factories and Shops Act and motorists will lose the opportunity of obtaining petrol during the hours provided by this measure.

Members: Nonsense!

The HONORARY MINISTER: Not so.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: What are the trading hours?

The HONORARY MINISTER: The ordinary shopping hours in the country, whatever they are. This amendment, as the Leader of the Opposition said in another

place, is designed to make it possible for motorists to secure emergency supplies of petrol. What right has the Chamber of Automotive Industries to say that the Royal Automobile Club did not want this measure? The majority of the members of the club would vote for it.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: No. The R.A.C. has just had a deputation to the Premier.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Because the club thought the matter had been overlooked. When the Bill was introduced, unfortunately the president and the secretary of the R.A.C. were attending a conference in Melbourne. I sent them a copy of the Bill. I am a member of the club, and did everything I possibly could to assist it.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: You would be the only member of the club I know of who would vote for the Bill.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I do not think so. This Bill will not inflict hardship on motorists. In the telegram from the Chamber of Automotive Industries there is the following statement:—

Country garage-owners can hardly be expected to wait around their premises for rare emergencies.

That is an indication that the chamber does not know what it is talking about. That body also made a mistake when it said that this House was misled with respect to the Bill. That is a reflection on both Mr. Dimmitt and myself, as we both spoke to it. I certainly would not dream of trying to mislead the House; that would be an unprofitable undertaking. I adhere to my previous statement that, with this additional amendment, the Bill will make it possible to maintain emergency supplies in the country and do justice to the majority of country proprietors who want the Bill.

Hon. G. W. MILES: I move—

That the Chairman do now leave the Chair.

Motion put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	10
Noes	12
	—
Majority against	2
	—

AYES.

Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. A. Thomson
Hon. R. M. Forrest	Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. W. J. Mann	Hon. C. H. Simpson
	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. W. H. Kitson.
Hon. F. E. Gibson	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. E. M. Heenan	Hon. G. Fraser
	(Teller.)

Motion thus negatived.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I move—

That the amendment be amended by striking out the word "twenty" in line 9 with a view to inserting another word.

It is my intention to move to insert the word "five" if this amendment is carried.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: This debate seems to be verging on the ridiculous. We recently passed this measure, and the amendment on the notice paper is a modification of the provisions in the Bill which, to my mind, should satisfy all parties. I would be disappointed if the Bill, with the amendment, were not accepted. I am not impressed by the telegram that has been read to us because I have been a member of the Royal Automobile Club for many years and no-one has tried to ascertain my views on this question; and I have mentioned it to a number of other members and they have not been consulted. This measure affects the public and the garage proprietors in my district as much as it does those in any other part of the State. I have spoken to three garage-owners in Kalgoolie and they all favour the proposals in the Bill; they want some relief from their present long hours.

The other people vitally concerned are those comprising the motoring public, and, for them, the provision of 20 miles is surely reasonable. If we reduce it to five miles the amendment becomes ridiculous; it would have the effect of largely nullifying the Bill. The telegram is in many ways absurd. Country garage-owners will not wait around for rare emergencies. If they do not want to sell petrol there is nothing in the Bill to make it mandatory on them to do so. If there are two or three garages in a town one should be available on one Sunday and another on the next. We prescribe hours and conditions for ourselves, and we should not expect garage proprietors to be, at all hours, at the beck and call of the public. The Bill appears

to be very fair, and I hope it will be passed without further amendment.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I did say that I intended to insert the word "five," but on further consideration I desire to say that if my amendment is carried I will move to have the word "ten" inserted in lieu of the word struck out.

The HONORARY MINISTER: This only makes a farce of the amendment. We should uphold the dignity of the Chamber by sticking to our guns and doing the reasonable thing. I hope the Committee will reject the amendment.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: The amendment is a farce now. The onus is still on the garage proprietor to say whether a man asking for petrol is honest in stating that he is going 20 miles. How is this provision to be policed? Is there any reason why a man going 20 miles should get petrol and a man going five miles should not? I hope that an amendment of this sort will be made so as to impress on the Government that this Committee protests against the measure, that the whole thing wants re-drafting, that there is considerable opposition to it, and that the problem of the sale of petrol to the public is one which should receive full consideration. If members desire this amendment it should be altered so that the majority of the public can get petrol until such time as a proper finding is made as to how petrol can be obtained with justice to those who serve it as well as to those who purchase it. I hope Mr. Bolton will stick to his original word of "five."

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

Ayes	..	....	..	16
Noes	..	..	..	7
—				
Majority for	..	..	..	9
—				

AYES.

Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. R. M. Forrest	Hon. A. Thomson
Hon. F. E. Gibson	Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. W. J. Mann	Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. G. W. Miles	Hon. E. H. Hall
	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. W. R. Hall
Hon. E. M. Heenan	(Teller.)

Amendment thus passed.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I move an amendment—

That in lieu of the word struck out the word "ten" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed; the Assembly's amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Resolution reported, the report adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

BILL—HAIRDRESSERS REGISTRATION.

In Committee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—Short title and commencement:

Hon. A. THOMSON: Would I be in order in moving an amendment to provide that the Act shall not come into operation before the 1st January, 1950?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is at liberty to move such an amendment.

Hon. A. THOMSON: I move an amendment—

That in line 3 after the word "proclamation" the following words be added:—"but not before the first day of January, 1950."

I feel that not sufficient time has been given for the far-reaching effects of this measure to be realised. Clause 2 provides for the definition of the word "apprentice" and Sub-clause (2) of Clause 4 relates to the non-application of the Act to students at the Perth Technical College and apprentices under the direct personal control and supervision of a registered hairdresser. Some years ago this House dealt with a Bill the effect of which, when it became an Act, was to drive the commercial colleges out of the work of training girls for hairdressing and later on in order to provide for girls who desire to be trained in that vocation, the Education Department provided classes at the Technical College. I am sure it was not the intention of the Minister, but the interpretation I have had placed upon this sub-clause indicates that it is a definite breach of faith, and of the contract that had been entered into by those girls who had served two years or who had attended for two years at the Perth Technical College, paid the necessary fees and on passing the prescribed ex-

amination were granted a certificate of competency which enabled them to start in business as hairdressers.

It may be said that those girls will still be able to start in that business, but what about those who have only been studying for one year? I am informed that even those girls who have been at school for two years and have obtained a certificate of competency will, under the Bill, have to serve two or more years. The matter is of great importance to the well-being of those who desire to follow this occupation. We shall probably find that people who come from the Eastern States and abroad will take all the best positions and Australians will be doomed to occupy the lower jobs. Why is it necessary to bring down such a Bill granting to the employers such all-embracing power? There is nothing to prevent hairdressers from forming their own association if they so desire, but apparently they want to control the whole industry. The more I study the Bill, the more I am convinced that it will be detrimental to the workers.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I oppose the amendment. I should say that a four years' apprenticeship would be little enough for those concerned to enable them to learn this trade. I should like to know from Mr. Thomson the source of the information he gave to the Committee. The Legislative Assembly could not be expected to agree to the amendment, and if it were passed here the Bill would be shelved.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: There is some value in the amendment. One of the difficulties I foresee is that the Bill does not contemplate any schools of training. The Government has put into it nothing that will take the place of the colleges at which young women were at one time allowed to learn the trade. The Victorian legislation does cover several schools of training, but in this Bill only one is referred to. We should make some such provision here.

Hon. L. CRAIG: If we are going to kill the Bill let us do so decently. The amendment itself is a foolish one. If the Committee wants to reject the Bill let us move the Chairman out of the Chair instead of making a farce of it by prolonging the agony for three years. If the amendment is passed we will have to go through all the clauses

in the Bill knowing full well that the measure will not be proclaimed until 1950. If it has no merit let us chop its head off cleanly instead of killing it with slow poison.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2—Interpretation:

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That in line 4 of the definition of "hairdressing" the words "or other treatment be struck out.

It would be possible to allow, according to this measure, hairdressers to treat diseases of the hair but that would be too much power to give them. We would make a mistake to confine the operations of hairdressers too much.

Hon. G. FRASER: I hope the amendment will not be carried. Apart from the classes of hairdressing mentioned, there may be others, and if we eliminate these words, it might prevent hairdressers from doing that particular type of work.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	..	15
Noes	..	..	..	..	7
Majority for					8

AYES.

Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. R. M. Forrest	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. F. E. Gibson	Hon. A. Thomson
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. W. J. Mann	Hon. L. Craig
Hon. G. W. Miles	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. C. E. Williams
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. E. M. Heenan
Hon. W. R. Hall	(Teller.)

Amendment thus passed.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That in the definition of "hairdressing" the words "or the massage or other similar stimulative treatment of the face, scalp or neck of any person" be struck out.

I do not think the deletion of these words will affect the work of hairdressers, but it seems to me very unwise to include reference to massaging in this Bill when we do not register masseurs. There is nothing to prevent anybody setting up as a masseur

in this State; but, in spite of the fact that there are a number of individuals with the high qualifications necessary before one can become a masseur in the Eastern States, there are not any here. If we give to these people the exclusive right to do massaging, as set out in the definition, we will give them the opportunity to say they are skilled in this particular work. What hairdressers are really doing is just rubbing some harmless lotion into the skin. This provision is taken from the Victorian Act, word for word, but it is overlooked that in that State cosmeticians are mixed up with hairdressers, and probably rub some high-priced article into the face or scalp.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The fact that these words appear in the Victorian Act is an argument for their being included in this measure. The treatment of the scalp and neck of customers is a large part of the work done in these salons.

Hon. L. Craig: This will not stop it.

The HONORARY MINISTER: It is better to have the provision in the Act, so that the board will know exactly what it has to do.

Hon. L. CRAIG: The fact that this is in the Victorian Act does not cut any ice. If it is deleted, it will not prevent hairdressers from massaging the neck or face, or stimulating them both; but to me, as a layman, it would appear that this would allow other persons who set up as masseurs to do it, as well as hairdressers. If we leave these words in the Bill, it may be claimed that massaging is the exclusive right of hairdressers.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I take a contrary view to that of Mr. Craig. If the words are deleted, it will mean that the class referred to will be a law unto themselves. If the words are included in the definition of hairdressing, it will bring them within the province of this legislation, and they will have to comply with certain standards of hygiene and so forth, as provided in the Bill. That appears to me to be what we are striving to do.

Hon. L. Craig: What about licensing and examinations?

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: There again, that seems to me to be an advantage. If anyone sets up to do this class of work, he or she will require to have certain qualifications and to comply with certain standards of

hygiene; but if we delete the words, apparently anyone can set up in business and no control will be exercised over him.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: If the Committee had done its duty, it would have thrown the Bill out early in the piece. Where did these dames get their idea of being able to massage anybody's neck or hair? In the early days, a hairdresser was a medical man. He bled the people. If our womenfolk want an aid to beauty these days, we have to pay from £2 2s. to £4 4s. for it. I am very surprised that the Government brought down a Bill of this sort. When I was a lad, parents paid a premium to have their children taught hairdressing, and it took five years to learn. There is nobody with any commonsense that could not learn the profession in from 12 to 18 months. Why do we want to give some dames who know nothing about massaging the right to do it? They would probably massage my old grey hairs out of plumb! They know nothing about it.

The HONORARY MINISTER: These provisions are meant to cover all that is embraced in the trade of hairdressing. The nature of certain of the preparations used for the treatment of the scalp and skin should indicate to members that hairdressers require training. It is possible to use preparations that are highly detrimental in their effect. I ask the Committee to object to the amendment.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: If the Committee does what the Honorary Minister asks, it will be allowing the blind to lead the blind. Under the Bill the examiners will not have learnt massage, yet they are to set examinations for other people.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That at the end of the definition of "hairdressing" the words "whether engaged full-time or part-time" be added.

A number of those who have held qualifications in hairdressing are perturbed to think they may not be regarded as bona fide hairdressers under the measure. In the past a woman may have been possessed of the necessary qualifications, but may have married and left the profession. She may now be helping to make ends meet by exercising the calling on a number of personal friends, the

work being done in their own homes. My amendment would mean that she would be able to carry on that work and would be regarded as a bona fide hairdresser. Many girls, qualified in this occupation, were moved out of it to suit National Service needs during the war. The National Service office has informed me that when a survey was taken of this occupation in 1942 there were about 500 persons engaged in it in this State, and that perhaps one-fifth of them were moved because it was not an essential occupation; that some of them may have gone back to the occupation, while others, no doubt, have married. Some are carrying on the occupation part-time. I do not think those who in the past have been fully qualified should now be prevented from following this occupation. I have a letter which lays emphasis on the position. In it Mrs. Rischbieth asks—

Are the examinations to be set by the Hairdressers' Board, or by an independent body? Does the Bill only affect a 25 mile radius from the G.P.O., Perth? Does the power to de-register a hairdresser lie in the hands of two master hairdressers and two representatives of the employees' union?

I think we should remove such doubts, and make the position plain.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: I move—

That the Chairman do now leave the Chair.

Motion put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	5
Noes	16

Majority against	11
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AYES.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. A. Thomson	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. H. Tuckey	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. E. M. Heenan
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. J. G. Hislop
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. R. M. Forrest	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. F. E. Gibson
	(Teller.)

Motion thus negatived.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I do not quite understand the amendment. I would prefer that it be postponed until later on so that inquiries may be made.

The CHAIRMAN: The Honorary Minister may move that progress be reported, if he wishes.

The HONORARY MINISTER: It does not matter. The Bill can be recommitted later, if necessary.

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

Clause 3—agreed to.

Clause 4—Non-application of Act to medical practitioners, nurses or masseurs.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I suggest that Clause 4 be struck out.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: What is the meaning of the term "bona fide nurse or masseur"?

The Honorary Minister: It means qualified nurse.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Of what? Of dogs or children or might it be a nursemaid? It might mean anything.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have no objection to Subclause (1) being deleted, but we should retain Sub-clause (2).

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I accept the suggestion and move an amendment—

That Subclause (1) be struck out.

Hon. L. CRAIG: Dr. Hislop should hesitate before agreeing to the deletion of Sub-clause (1) because, if the words struck out of the definition are re-inserted after negotiation with another place, Subclause (1) will be needed.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: The retention of Subclause (1) can do no harm, its object being merely to exclude and protect the medical profession, nurses and masseurs. "Bona fide nurse" simply means a genuine or registered nurse. If I were representing the medical profession, I would ask for the retention of Subclause (1).

Hon. G. FRASER: Suppose this Chamber reversed its decision on Clause 2 after having accepted the proposed amendment to Clause 4, there would be no opportunity to re-insert Subclause (1).

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I want to obviate any risk of hairdressers conjuring in their minds that they have a right to do something

that is strictly within the province of the nursing or medical profession.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 5 and 6—agreed to.

Clause 7—Power and duties of board:

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment:

That in subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) the words "appoint examiners" be struck out and the words "submit to the Minister a panel of persons for appointment as examiners" inserted in lieu.

It would not be wise that the standard of examination, subject-matter, syllabus of training and appointment of examiners should be in the hands of the board, which, for all practical purposes, will consist of those in the industry. In the absence of colleges such as exist in Victoria, the Minister should have the right to approve of examiners, say, from the staff of the Technical College.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have no objection to the amendment. The Builders' Registration Board appoints its own examiners who, I understand, are obtained from the staff of the Technical College.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That at the end of Subclause (1) the following paragraph be added:—" (f) to recommend to the Commissioner of Public Health standards of hygiene and sanitation to be observed in premises where hairdressing is practised."

The acceptance of this amendment might require the deletion of paragraph (i) of Clause 20 dealing with the power to make regulations. The Commissioner might decide that some things suggested by the board are impracticable, but he should be the one to say what standards of hygiene should be observed in these premises.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The amendment is unnecessary. It would be the obvious duty of the board to set a standard and work in close collaboration with the Commissioner of Public Health.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Paragraph (i) of Clause 20 also provides for prescribing standards of safety to be observed in hairdressing premises, which reference should

be retained. The board would have a knowledge of the required standards and would collaborate with the Health Department.

Hon. L. CRAIG: Whether the words are inserted or not is immaterial. Power is given to inspect premises and cancel licenses, and no other power is necessary to ensure hygienic conditions. The health authorities must play a part in this matter.

Hon. A. THOMSON: I agree that the Commissioner should be the one to decide standards of hygiene and sanitation in any premises, whether hairdressing or other. I do not approve of handing over by Act of Parliament the right to an independent body to prescribe conditions relating to hygiene, nor do I approve of that body being at the same time outside the control of the Commissioner of Public Health. I oppose the amendment.

Hon. G. FRASER: I hope the Minister will cut the debate short by agreeing to accept the amendment. No great harm would be done by doing so and possibly much good would result. The Minister himself suggested that nothing would be done without the collaboration of the Commissioner of Public Health. Why not let him prescribe the standard?

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

Clauses 8 and 9—agreed to.

Clause 10—Who may be registered:

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: With regard to subparagraph (i) of paragraph (c) of Subclause (1), I suggest that the period of 12 months be altered to five years. This would make provision for persons who were not in the Defence Forces but who were put to some other occupation during the war period.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I point out that the Bill, if passed, will come into force on a date to be fixed by proclamation. That date may be, and probably will be, 1947; but if we agree to alter the period to five years, then the person who enlisted voluntarily in 1939 would not be covered by the amendment. I suggest that the period be fixed at seven years.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I agree. I move an amendment—

That in lines 1 and 2 of subparagraph (i) of paragraph (c) of Subclause (1) the words "twelve months" be struck out and the words "seven years" inserted in lieu.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That in line 4 of subparagraph (i) of paragraph (d) of Clause 1 the word "six" be struck out and the word "twelve" inserted in lieu.

There is no reason why these persons should hurry to register within six months from the commencement of the Act; twelve months from that date would be fair to all.

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

Clause 11—agreed to.

Clause 12—Fees and expenses:

The HONORARY MINISTER: There is a typographical error in Subclause (3). I move an amendment—

That in line 2 of Subclause (3) the word "nine" be struck out and the word "ten" inserted in lieu.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I would draw the Minister's attention to the question of fees. Certain fees are prescribed by this clause—£1 1s. for examination, £2 2s. for registration and 10s. 6d. for a certificate. In addition, the students may have to pay an additional £1 1s. during the course of their training. In view of the fact that the operation of the Bill is limited to a radius of 25 miles of the G.P.O., consideration might be given by the Minister to bringing the Bill into line with the Victorian legislation. The measure should be made to apply to the whole of the State. Later in the clause a sum of 5s. is extracted from each employee per annum. If the measure were made State-wide, the fees could be reduced.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have made inquiries on this point and it is absolutely essential that we should proceed a step at a time with legislation of this character. We cannot compare Victoria with Western Australia. The fees have been considered and both employer and worker are quite willing to pay the amounts prescribed by the Bill.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That in lines 5 to 7 of Subclause (4) the words "by the Metropolitan Hairdressers and Wigmakers Employees' Union of

Workers on behalf of each and everyone of its members" be struck out and the words "by each and every person" inserted in lieu.

By this amendment all I do is to put the onus on the individual to pay his annual registration fee. If the employer has to pay his fee individually there is no reason why the employee should call upon someone to pay his.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I oppose the amendment. The employees are eager and willing to pay the money, but they prefer to pay it into the union so that there will then be one payment made by the union secretary to the board. It is much more convenient to do that than to have a large number of men paying 5s. each.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: What is going to happen to the employee who is not a member of the union? Does he get off scot free?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I understand they are so eager to raise the status of their calling that they are all in the union, so there will be no trouble about paying the fee.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: I point out to the Committee that a worker would save 5s. a year if he did not join the union. That is the effect of the subclause.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That in line 8 of Subclause (4) the words "in respect of each such member" be struck out.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That in line 9 the words "or union" be struck out.

Hon. G. FRASER: I do not think that Dr. Hislop will achieve anything by this amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That in lines 10 and 11 of Subclause (4) the words "or member or members of such union" be struck out.

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

Clause 13—agreed to.

Clause 14—Penalties for obtaining certificate by false representations and for falsification of register:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I propose to vote against this clause because careful consideration was given to this type of offence in 1913 when the Criminal Code was enacted. It dealt extensively with this sort of crime, which is really that of forging and uttering. Furthermore, the Criminal Code provides far greater penalties than are included here. It also stipulates where such matters may be dealt with summarily or by indictment, whereas this clause means that such an offence must be dealt with by indictment and not summarily before justices. The Committee would be well advised to delete the clause and to rely on the ordinary law of the land in dealing with those people who commit frauds such as those mentioned.

The reason for this special provision is that it is a copy of the Victorian Act and that State is very far behind because it has not a code of the criminal law. Ours, although a copy of the Queensland code which was prepared by Sir Samuel Griffiths, the first Chief Justice of Australia, is most efficient and is a complete code of the criminal law. It seems wrong to put into a small measure like this a special clause simply because it is in the Victorian Act. By deleting the clause we will not be allowing any person to escape the consequence of his action in this direction; on the contrary, any such person could be dealt with under our present law.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I am not going to attempt to combat the argument about the penalties being in the Criminal Code, but it is necessary that in a measure of this nature any person who sets himself or herself out to defeat the Act should know what penalties he or she is up against. The effect of this would be to enforce discipline and to prevent any person from trying to defeat the objects of the Act.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: The advantage of this clause is that it provides a simple and speedy means of prosecution.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: It does not.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Under this clause a prosecution could be dealt with summarily in the police court. If a person committed an offence which went beyond the provisions of the clause and came within the scope of

the Criminal Code, he would undoubtedly be dealt with under the provisions of the code. This clause would apply to simple offences under the Act that could be dealt with summarily, without the delays that result from a prosecution under the Criminal Code. Some offences under the code can be dealt with summarily, but if a person charged elects to be charged before a jury that course has to be followed. That is an extravagant way of dealing with the offence envisaged by this clause.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: The weakness of Mr. Heenan's argument, to start with, is that a justice can only sentence an offender to upwards of six months' imprisonment, whereas the penalty for this class of offence under the Criminal Code is 12 months. Therefore this matter is outside the jurisdiction of a magistrate. Under the Criminal Code a magistrate could deal with such a case summarily under certain circumstances. I have never heard such an extraordinary argument put forward previously that, before a man commits an offence against this measure, he should be able to look up the Act with a view to ascertaining what penalty he was likely to incur. I have not yet encountered an intelligent Australian who is unaware of the fact that if he commits a fraud it is a criminal offence for which he can be severely punished. In recent times, the tendency has been to place in Acts what amount to provisions of the Criminal Code. Why not rely on the Criminal Code itself? The inclusion of such provisions in legislation tends to modify or alter the penalties set out in the Criminal Code. I want to assist the Minister to have these matters simplified, but I think Clause 14 ought to be deleted.

Clause put and negatived.

Clause 15—Cancellation of registration for fraud or on other grounds:

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That paragraph (c) be deleted.

It is not right that the power to deregister a person who has committed a breach of an industrial award or agreement or of the Factories and Shops Act should vest in the board. Such a breach should be dealt with in the ordinary course.

The HONORARY MINISTER: In the interests of the industry itself, any person who deliberately breaks an award or indus-

trial agreement or the provisions of the Factories and Shops Act should be dealt with as suggested in the clause. To delete the paragraph would weaken the power of the board to maintain discipline in the industry and respect for the law.

Hon. G. FRASER: If the board is given power to license, it should also have power to delicense or to suspend a license for the breaches set out. If a person felt aggrieved at any decision of the board, he would have the right of appeal to a magistrate.

Hon. A. THOMSON: Surely to goodness we do not expect the board to police the Arbitration Court and its awards! The union secretary will see that the award or industrial agreement is carried out. In my opinion, the paragraph is unnecessary.

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

Ayes	13
Noes	6

Majority for	7
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AYES.

Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. Sir. Dal. Colebatch	Hon. A. Thomson
Hon. R. M. Forrest	Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. W. J. Mann	Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. H. S. W. Parker	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. H. L. Roche	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. E. M. Heenan	Hon. E. H. H. Hall
	(Teller.)

Amendment thus passed.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Will the Honorary Minister explain if I am right in suggesting that the meaning of the clause is that if a license has been obtained by fraud that license cannot be cancelled for seven months? The proviso says that no such cancellation or suspension of a registration can take effect until after the expiration of one month from the making of the order and, in the event of an appeal therefrom, he may appeal to a stipendiary magistrate within six months after he has been notified of the decision of the board. That means he has seven months before the cancellation of his registration can take effect.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I think the clause means what it states, and I cannot read into it what Mr. Parker suggests.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: He has a perfect right to continue for a month and then

he has another six months within which he can appeal. Is that not so?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: There seems to be something contradictory about the provision.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: I think it must be the Victorian drafting again!

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I suggest that the clause be passed and it can be examined between now and the next sitting.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: I am not opposing it, but merely asking a question.

The Honorary Minister: We can recommend the Bill if necessary.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 16 to 19—agreed to.

Clause 20—Power to make regulations:

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: The two amendments appearing on the notice paper under my name are consequential. I move an amendment—

That in lines 1 and 2 of paragraph (g) the words "and prescribing the standard" be struck out.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That in line 1 of paragraph (i) the words "hygiene, sanitation and" be struck out.

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

New clause:

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I have two proposed new clauses which follow on the other amendments on the notice paper and are thus consequential. I move—

That a new clause be inserted as follows:—
"8. The Minister shall from time to time appoint examiners who shall be members of the staff of the Technical College or of the panel of persons nominated by the board for appointment as examiners."

This takes from the board some of the wide powers given under the Bill.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have no objection.

New clause put and passed.

New clause:

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move—

That a new clause be inserted as follows:—
"9. The board shall pay to the examiners

such fees as the Minister may from time to time direct."

New clause put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Hon. A. Thomson: Is the Bill to be recommitted?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I will make inquiries regarding the question asked by Mr. Parker and have the Bill recommitted if necessary.

Bill reported with amendments.

BILL—PURCHASERS' PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [8.6] in moving the second reading said: This Bill is designed to protect purchasers of land from the operations of certain unscrupulous land agents. Many cases have come under notice where ingenuous persons have entered into contracts for the purchase of subdivisinal land, the real value of which they subsequently have found to be either very little or nothing like the contract price. In many such cases the purchasers, after attempting without success to have their contracts terminated, did not make any further payments to the land agents.

After the war many of these purchasers were discharged from the Services, and the land agents concerned, apparently considering that those ex-Servicemen might have collected substantial sums by way of deferred pay, accumulated leave, etc., have been taking legal action for the recovery of the amounts owing on the blocks. At least 32 cases of this nature have come under notice, and in some instances hardship has been caused through bailiffs taking possession under writ of other property of the debtors in settlement of the debt. The R.S.L. is very perturbed over these occurrences and it has requested the Government to amend the Act so that steps can be taken for the cancellation of the contract where a valuation obtained from the local authority reveals that the present value of the land is less than 50 per cent. of the original purchase price. The Government was quite prepared to agree to this suggestion, which would give some added protection to ex-Servicemen and would also help to curb the rapacity of the unscrupulous land agents to whom I have referred.

May I state at this juncture that I feel

that the great majority of the land agents in Western Australia would not stoop to such a reprehensible activity. But this does not prevent a few from doing so. In order to give effect to the R.S.L.'s request, the Bill proposes to amend Section 10 of the Purchasers' Protection Act, 1933-36. That Act was passed for the purpose of preventing some of the abuses which had been prevalent in connection with the sale of subdivisinal land. Members will recall that 1933 was towards the end of the depression. Quite a lot of attention was given to this matter. It formed the subject of an inquiry by the present Chief Justice as a Royal Commissioner, and his recommendations and those of a Select Committee formed the basis of the Act.

Section 10 of the principal Act provides that where proceedings are taken in court for the recovery of purchase money, and the court is satisfied that insistence on the performance of the contract would inflict hardship on the purchaser by virtue of his poverty or other reasons, it may, on the application of the purchaser, order cancellation of the contract. Furthermore, any purchaser who is threatened with court proceedings or an execution of judgment may apply to court on the same grounds for the contract to be cancelled. The Bill proposes further to safeguard the purchaser on the lines suggested by the R.S.L. It provides that if the local authority values the land at less than 50 per cent. of the original purchase price and the purchaser applies to the court within three months of such valuation, the court may order cancellation of the contract. In all cases of cancellation the deposit paid by the purchaser will be forfeited to the vendor, and the court may award damages to the vendor in respect of the non-performance of the contract, such damages not to exceed one-quarter of the contracted purchase price.

Hon. W. J. Mann: Does that apply generally or just to Servicemen?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: It applies to everybody, but Servicemen have raised the question because they are the people who are being pushed by land agents to pay the full price of the land they contracted to purchase, in many cases before they went away to the war. Now that they have returned, most of them have drawn fairly considerable sums of money and these

land agents are apparently trying to enforce their contracts, knowing that the men have money for the time being. There are no fewer than 32 cases that have been brought to the notice of the authorities in which contracts of this kind are being enforced through the courts, showing that there is need for this further protection.

Hon. H. Tuckey: Is it intended to ask local authorities to make valuations?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Yes, if the local authorities have not such valuations.

Hon. H. Tuckey: What about annual values? They would hardly do for a purpose of this kind.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I take it that a local authority will have to give its decision as to the valuation of any particular piece of land for the purpose of purchase. If that valuation is 50 per cent. less than the contract purchase price, the court may cancel the contract. That is all there is in the Bill. It is designed to protect ex-Servicemen and others from the operations of what I might call the get-rich-quick agents of whom I have spoken, and I feel sure the House will approve of the measure. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. C. H. SIMPSON (Central) [8.15]: I am pleased to support the Bill. As the Minister has stated, it is in line with the wishes of the R.S.L. I took the opportunity of seeing the executive of that body regarding this matter, and it considers the provisions outlined in this Bill very desirable. I have had some experience, in the past month, in sighting road board valuations as to the ratable values of various blocks submitted to me for purchase and I found that, as a general rule, where a ratable value of £50 was placed by the road board on a block the price asked by the agent was double that value, which seems to be a fair value, and one that the Sub-Treasury has endorsed.

The object of this Bill is that where, for the sake of argument, a block has a ratable value of £50 and the vendor asks £100, which is reckoned to be a fair valuation, there is no question, but if the vendor asks £120 or £150 the purchaser will have the right to appeal, under the Bill, for the contract to be cancelled. The measure not only pro-

vides protection for ex-Servicemen, which is the point primarily in the mind of the league, but gives protection to anyone who may be misled into paying for land a higher price than it is worth. I have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

HON. J. A. DIMMITT (Metropolitan-Suburban) [8.16]: While I am in accord with the principles of the Bill, I wish to make one or two comments. It is unfortunate that in another place, when the Bill was introduced, the Minister should have used an expression that caused a great deal of misapprehension among licensed real estate people, those who belong to the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia. During the course of the debate the Minister used these words—I quote from yesterday's issue of "The West Australian"—

Now, however, with deferred pay, accumulated leave and other money saved, many of them had considerable funds and therefore land and estate agents apparently thought they were worth while taking to court.

Whilst it is admitted that there is a type of land agent that is taking advantage of the financial position of the returned soldiers, 90 per cent of the land and estate agents in Western Australia are members of this institute and are bound by a code of ethics, which is a safeguard. If any one of them breaches that code he is brought to book by the council of the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia. The council is very disturbed at the generalisation indulged in by the Minister when he said that the land and estate agents now thought it worth while taking these people to court.

Hon. G. Fraser: The Press may have omitted the word "some."

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: Had that word been included the result would have been entirely different.

The Chief Secretary: You should see "The West Australian" about that!

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: I hope the Minister did not use those words, which are a grave reflection on the land and estate agents. Contrary to the experience of Mr. Simpson, I find that something different is actually the case in many of the suburbs of Perth. The valuations that are placed on land by local governing authorities are not based on any scientific plan at all. Apparently road boards

and municipalities are set upon building up revenue to meet their requirements, and I do not know whether it is by hit-and-miss methods that they arrive at their values, but such values are frequently completely out of line with present-day values.

I propose to give the House some recent instances of the difference between values as stated by road boards and those allowable by the Sub-Treasury. Four blocks were recently sold in Scarborough Beach-road and the sworn valuation, which was accepted by the Sub-Treasury, and at which sales were made, was at the figure of £80 per block. The Perth Road Board valuation for those blocks was £30 each, so if the Bill becomes an Act the maximum price at which such blocks could be sold would be £60, whereas the valuation of the valuator was £80, to which the Sub-Treasury agreed. Five blocks were sold in Lakeview-terrace, Scarborough. The numbers are available if required. They were valued, by sworn valutors, at £65 per block, and the Sub-Treasury agreed to those valuations, sales being made at that figure. The road board books revealed a valuation by the Perth Road Board of £13 per block, so that the maximum price that could have been obtained under this Bill would have been £26 per block.

The Chief Secretary: Not necessarily.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: The measure is quite clear.

Hon. G. Fraser: This applies only when someone wants to get out of the contract.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: If there were a contract for £85, which is the price allowable by the Sub-Treasury, the person could get out of it.

Hon. G. Fraser: The contract would have been made before that.

The Chief Secretary: These contracts were entered into before the National Security Regulations came into force.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: This measure will operate as to any future contracts.

The Chief Secretary: That is so.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: Any contract made subsequent to the passing of this Bill will come under the operation of the measure.

The Chief Secretary: That is so.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: One can see how difficult the position will be. I propose to

submit an amendment to the Bill. It will be to strike out all the words after the word "that" in line 14 and insert the following words:—

Where the purchase price under the contract of sale of any land exceeds by 20 per cent. the present value of the land as determined by a valuation of two sworn valutors.

I trust that members will see the reasonableness of such an amendment. The sworn valuator is a reliable person and it is on his figure that the Sub-Treasury invariably bases a sale. If the Chief Secretary cares to hold the matter over until tomorrow, in order to look into my suggestion, I will be quite happy about it.

The Chief Secretary: I do not mind doing that, but have you given any thought to the cost of valuations by sworn valutors?

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: Yes, it would be cheap to get out of a contract in such a way, if it were unsound, from the returned soldiers' point of view. I have every sympathy for the returned soldier.

The Chief Secretary: It does not sound like it. You have more sympathy for the land agent. You want two valuations.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: I would be satisfied with one, as long as there is a sworn valuation instead of the present unsound method of road board valuations. I think the Minister will agree that the instances I have quoted—they are only some of many—indicate clearly the unscientific method of valuing under the Road Districts Act. I support the second reading, but will move the amendment that I have outlined when the Bill is in the Committee stage.

HON. E. M. HEENAN (North-East) [8.25]: I think the proposal outlined by Mr. Dimmitt will only involve extra costs on the unfortunate individual desiring to take advantage of the provisions of the Bill. If my memory serves me rightly, the proposal in the Bill simply gives an additional ground for making application to the court. I do not think it is to be mandatory on the court to cancel the contract.

The Chief Secretary: That is quite right.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: So the points of view outlined by Mr. Dimmitt—and for which I have some sympathy—are such as would be considered by a magistrate, if a

case of this sort came before him, and the road board valuation was an unreal one. In that case I think it is unlikely that the magistrate would act on it.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: He would have to, if the measure said so.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: The provision simply gives the purchaser of land the right to apply to the court for a cancellation of the contract. The magistrate need not necessarily grant cancellation and I do not think he would, if the valuation were absurd. He would want further evidence.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: But not if the measure said so.

HON. H. S. W. PARKER (Metropolitan-Suburban) [8.27]: I agree with the Bill, but I think the valuation of the local authority is a wrong basis, in all fairness to the parties concerned, because such valuations are excessively low in many road districts. I know of an instance recently where the valuations were only one-third of the taxation valuation. If this measure became law one could go round speculating and buying land in road board districts in anticipation of a rise. If the rise did not eventuate one could apply for a cancellation of the contract because the valuation was not 50 per cent. of the road board valuation. I think it should be a reasonable valuation and I agree with the amendment suggested.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [8.28]: I support the measure. Though this Bill will apply to all future sales, I take it the main purpose is to deal with some very bad contracts entered into prior to the war. Those will be the people mostly concerned with making applications under this measure. At the risk of saying that I agree with Mr. Dimmitt and Mr. Parker on the unsoundness of road board valuations, I must say that, in the case of some land in which I was interested on behalf of certain people, I have found the opposite to be the case, that people would not sell at the price fixed by the Sub-Treasury because the local government authority had assessed the values too high, at a value of £65 for land worth only £40.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: That is a good reason for the amendment.

Hon. G. FRASER: The vendor would not agree on the sale because he wanted the price set down at the municipal valuation.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: The purchaser would get no relief in such cases.

Hon. G. FRASER: That is so. The measure is not required to cover such people, because they could not purchase the land at such a price. One point overlooked by Mr. Parker and Mr. Dimmitt is that those who now want to take advantage of present-day prices were, through the war years paying road board rates only at the low valuation.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: Which is also unfair.

Hon. G. FRASER: Exactly, but the people the hon. member is now moving for want to get it both ways. Right through the years they have got away with a low rating value and now, when this measure proposes to give a little security to people who have made a bad deal, they want a high price. I support the second reading.

HON. H. TUCKEY (South-West) [8.30]: I should like an adjournment of the debate.

The Chief Secretary: Why adjourn a small Bill like this?

Hon. H. TUCKEY: I am not satisfied that the proposal in the Bill is the best one, and I believe Mr. Dimmitt would prefer to have it adjourned until tomorrow. I suggest that, instead of taking the road board valuation, the valuation of the Taxation Department should be adopted. Some road boards rate on the unimproved value and others on the annual value. In the case of townsites, the annual value is often low and because of this, the capital value is correspondingly low. I suggest that if the values of the Taxation Department were adopted—

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: How would you get the taxation values?

Hon. H. TUCKEY: From the department.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: No, the department will not give them to you.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: A number of road boards have adopted the values of the Taxation Department in order to bring their values up to date and make values generally more uniform.

HON. A. THOMSON (South-East) [8.33]: I think the suggestion by Mr. Dimmitt is worthy of serious consideration by the Minister. Those who have been associated with road board work for many years know that many of the valuations were made at the board meetings and without any inspection whatever.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: They thought of a number and put it down?

Hon. A. THOMSON: The boards wanted sufficient revenue to meet requirements and did not look for more. The argument seems to have been all one way. I have no desire to see a man who has made an unsatisfactory contract held to it, but the position is that a number of people would be quite satisfied to honour their contracts if the prices were increased. Many values have been kept down by the Treasury regulations. I do not think any sworn valuer would make a statement that could be proved to be absurd and, in the circumstances, it would be more fair and just to take his valuation than that of a road board. I could not honestly support many of the road board valuations as being a satisfactory basis for determining the value of land. I have frequently rung up road boards and asked the value of a particular block and in some instances it was in excess of what the land would bring on the market and the block had ultimately to be sold at considerably less than the value shown by the road board. However, there have been some cases of the opposite sort. I think Mr. Dimmitt's suggestion should be accepted.

Hon. G. Fraser: But the values of the sworn valuers might differ.

Hon. A. THOMSON: Nowadays sworn valuers fix the values for road boards. The Taxation Department has valuers.

The Chief Secretary: The department has its own valuers.

Hon. A. THOMSON: Yes, and most of the road boards have accepted the values of the department, as far as possible.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West—in reply) [8.36]: I feel sure that each member who has spoken is in sympathy with the object of the measure. It goes without saying that quite a number of cases have been disclosed recently where unscrupulous land agents have endeavoured to

force contracts on returned Servicemen because of the knowledge that these men have money. That is beyond all doubt. The result is that the R.S.L. is very anxious to protect those men as well as anyone else who is in a similar position.

I consider there is some merit in the suggestion made by Mr. Dimmitt, but I would certainly not agree to two sworn valuers valuing a piece of unimproved land which, at the outside, might be worth no more than £30 or £35. Some of these blocks, I understand, are really valueless. The purchaser might be blamed for not inspecting before signing the contract, but unfortunately we cannot drill into everyone the need for making an inspection and such foolish people have to be protected against themselves. I think it would be well if we adopted the system observed in the Old Country in regard to land and property sales which is, that before any sale may be finalised, it must be the subject of valuation by a sworn valuer. While I do not profess to know much about the subject, I believe that is the position.

In this State we have varying valuations. We have the local authority putting a value on unimproved land or subdivided land; the Taxation Department also puts a value on the land, and it may be that a local authority does not have a revaluation for many years, with the result that its values are quite inaccurate at a particular time, and then we have the Sub-Treasury which is inclined to put its own valuation on a block of land, sometimes based on the knowledge of the Taxation Department values and sometimes the values of other authorities.

So, if we take any particular set of valuations, the probability is that they will not be absolutely correct, but we have no need to worry about that, because this is only another ground upon which an aggrieved purchaser may appeal to the court for the cancellation of the contract. It will be left to the court to determine whether the case merits the cancellation of the contract. Therefore we need have no fear of passing the Bill, because any court would deal with the matter satisfactorily. I do not propose to take the Bill into Committee tonight. I prefer to have Mr. Dimmitt's suggestion examined, and we can then consider the Bill in Committee at our next sitting. If there is no objection to his suggestion or if some

variation of it might be acceptable, we can deal with it according to the circumstances.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

**BILL—GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
(PROMOTIONS APPEAL BOARD)
ACT AMENDMENT.**

Second Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. E. H. Gray—West) [8.41] in moving the second reading said: This Bill is introduced as a result of dissatisfaction that has been expressed for some time by the Metropolitan and Goldfields Water Supply Employees' Union in regard to the manner in which its members are affected by the provisions of the Act. This statute, which was approved by Parliament in 1945, provides for appeals in respect of promotions by persons permanently employed by or under the Crown; and for the establishment of a Promotions Appeal Board to hear and determine appeals. Any unsuccessful applicant for a position may appeal on the grounds of either superior efficiency to the person promoted, or equal efficiency and seniority.

It follows, therefore, that when applications for a position are being considered, the promoting authority recommends the appointment of the applicant he considers to be the most efficient, or if he cannot separate two or more persons on the score of efficiency, he selects the senior applicant. Under the Act seniority is determined by the rate of salary or wages received, or the length of service when two or more applicants receive the same rate of salary or wages. It is this definition of seniority that members of the Water Supply Employees' Union find fault with. Most of these men are switched from one type of work to another. One week, for instance, a man might be receiving a margin of 15s. above the basic wage, and the next week on a different class of work a margin of only 3s. I might add that many of these men have been employed by the Government for 15 and 20 years.

A position as a ganger or foreman might become available, and the engineer-in-charge cannot separate two or more applicants on the ground of efficiency. He therefore selects

the senior, which under the Act is the higher paid man. But the man who is the higher paid at that time might, owing to the change of work that I have explained, be the lowest paid the following week, and also be the junior applicant so far as length of service is concerned. Also, only about 10 to 15 per cent. of such employees are rated as permanent workers. These are the men who are employed on maintenance work continuously. The others, those who are placed on whatever job is available, are regarded as only temporary employees, although, as I have explained, they may have been employed for 20 years. These men would have no right of appeal under the Act if they did not secure the recommendation for a vacancy.

These circumstances have given rise to a great deal of unrest in the union, and recently a strike was only averted by the strenuous efforts of the Minister for Labour, who held a number of conferences with the engineers, the representatives of the union and the Solicitor General. Finally, it was decided that the only satisfactory solution would be to exempt the union, and any other union in a similar case, from the operation of the Act. All parties are unanimous that it would be far preferable to return to the position that applied prior to the passing of the Act; that is, the engineer-in-charge appoints to a vacancy the man he considers the most suitable. If any objection is lodged to the appointment, it is dealt with by an ordinary board or by an independent arbitrator. The employees desire this reversion; the engineers are very much in favour of it, and the Solicitor General agrees that it is the wisest policy.

Under this scheme, prior to the passing of the Act, there were very few appeals against appointments, the men apparently being content to accept the engineer's decisions. If any appeal were made, the Minister appointed an arbitrator to deal with it. Provision is made in the Bill for any union that has been removed from the operation of the Act to be reinstated again, if considered advisable. I submit the Bill to the House with every confidence. It will rectify an anomaly that was not foreseen when the Act was approved last year. Although the Act is providing most beneficial to the great majority of government employees, it is in this instance imposing hardship. As all of the parties concerned, including the Solicitor General,

support a reversion to the former procedure relating to appointments and appeals, I hope the House will offer no objection to the measure. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—New Section 2A.:

Hon. A. THOMSON: I have no idea what we are voting for. Would the Minister please supply me with some information?

The Honorary Minister: This is a very short Bill.

Hon. A. THOMSON: Yes. How will the insertion of this new clause overcome the difficulty under which apparently the employees in the Goldfields Water Supply Branch are labouring?

The HONORARY MINISTER: Many of those men are not permanently employed. They work on maintenance and construction.

Hon. A. Thomson: You said that some of them had been employed temporarily for 20 years.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Yes.

Hon. A. Thomson: Would that not be an injustice to many of the men?

The HONORARY MINISTER: We consider it better to revert to the old system.

Hon. A. Thomson: Who is responsible for what might be termed the line of demarcation, that is, for the difference in the marginal rates?

The HONORARY MINISTER: The Arbitration Court.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Will hon. members please address the Chair, instead of holding a conversation across the Chamber? The Honorary Minister!

The HONORARY MINISTER: The Arbitration Court has nothing to do with promotions. Our desire is to get over the trouble that has occurred with the temporary men.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Is not this the position? Any union can take advantage of

this measure as it likes. It can go to the Minister and say, "We do not want to take advantage of the Promotions Appeal Board Act," and the Minister will say, "All right." A fortnight later the union can approach the Minister again and say that its members do wish to take advantage of the measure.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I cannot imagine any such circumstances.

The Chief Secretary: It is hardly fair to say that the unions can do as they like.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Subject to the Minister.

The HONORARY MINISTER: If a union could present a case in the same way as the water supply workers did, it would be entitled to do so.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Subject to the Minister.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Yes.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

BILL—STATE FOREST ACCESS.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [8.53] in moving the second reading said: This Bill relates to the proposed establishment of two new sawmills, one by Bunning Bros. near Manjimup and the other by the State Saw Mills near Northcliffe, it being necessary to provide tramway access from the mills to the Government railway line. These new mills will be erected on selected sites in virgin forest and are expected to have a very long life, as regeneration and protection measures will be associated with the logging operations, this resulting in a regular cycle of cutting. One of the most important factors in determining the site for a mill is the presence of an adequate and permanent supply of good water, and therefore the two mills with which the Bill is concerned will be situated on suitable streams. Unfortunately, in surveying the routes for the proposed tramways it has been necessary to encroach to a limited extent on private property, al-

though every effort was made to avoid private property and to traverse Crown lands and reserves.

Hon. W. J. Mann: You said it would be necessary to encroach to a limited extent on private property. Have you any idea of the extent of the encroachment?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Yes. I will deal with that matter in a moment. This, however, was not always possible, owing to the topography of the land, and it will therefore be necessary to resume a strip of land two chains in width through the private properties concerned. Provision for such resumptions is contained in Section 22 of the Forests Act, which states:—

The Governor, subject to the consent of Parliament, may, under the Public Works Act, 1902, purchase, acquire, resume or appropriate land for the purpose of a State Forest or to provide access thereto, and such purchase, acquisition, resumption or appropriation shall be deemed to be an authorised work.

Resumption will be carried out under the Public Works Act, and compensation will be payable as provided by Part 3 thereof.

In the case of Bunning Bros.' new mill, the existing tramway running east from Manjimup to their mill at Nyamup, a distance of 15 miles, will be extended to the new site at Tone River, which is 14 miles from Nyamup. Of these 14 miles, only $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles traverse private property. The other line will run east from Northcliffe to the State Saw Mills' new site on the Shannon River, this being a distance of about 21 miles, only $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles of which will be through alienated land. It can be seen, therefore, that every effort has been made to avoid private property, and that the resumption that will occur will be on a small scale only. The resumptions will probably cost about £1,000, and this expense will be more than compensated for at an early date by the timber royalties from the new mills, which should approximate nearly £1,200 per month.

The sawmillers are anxious to commence construction of the tramlines and the mill sites immediately the resumptions have been completed, and these mills when in operation will make an important contribution towards the aim of an increased timber production. I understand there is no objection to the resumption of the areas concerned. They apply

to only a small proportion of the distance which these tramlines have to traverse, and unless tramlines are laid down there will be extreme difficulty in cutting the timber on these areas to the best advantage. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. W. J. MANN (South-West) [9.2]: I propose to support the second reading of the Bill. I am pleased to learn that the extent to which it will be necessary to encroach on alienated land is quite small. That part of the country is extremely difficult to clear and most of the land that is under production there has been brought to that state at a high cost. One of the fears we had in the first place was that the surveyors would not be able to secure the area necessary for the tram routes through the forest country, so there would be encroachment on property at present being worked successfully, mostly by way of dairy farming. We hoped that that would not be necessary.

One thing occurs to me: I notice that provision is made for compensation. I hope it will be on a generous scale, because the clearing and the bringing into production of that type of country are quite different from conditions that apply on country that members are more familiar with. It is some of the heaviest timbered land we have in the State, and the most difficult to clear. The Chief Secretary said that the mills were expected to have a long life, and we hope they will. It will consequently be necessary to alienate the land required for these tramlines. If the mills were to have only short life, some other means might have been adopted so that the land could revert to the owners when the mills cut out. But, from what I know of the areas and the forests there, together with the programme laid down by the Forests Department, which is controlling the cutting, the mills will be there for a long period, and I think the best method is being followed.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

BILL—CANNING DISTRICT SANITARY SITE.

Second Reading.

HON. E. M. HEENAN (North-East) [9.9] in moving the second reading said: This short Bill deals with a sanitary site situated at South Perth, its location being between Clontarf Orphanage and what is known as the Collier Pine Plantation. The site is referred to in the schedule of the Bill and it will be noted that it comprises 75 acres, or thereabouts. The purpose of the measure is to make it unlawful to use this as a sanitary site after the 1st January, 1950. In effect, the Bill gives notice to the Perth City Council that it has approximately three more years in which to use this site as a sanitary depot. It is felt that with the growth of this district the site is rapidly becoming unsuitable for its present purposes.

I am informed that in recent months the Workers' Homes Board has resumed land within approximately half a mile of the site, and that it proposes to build about a thousand homes in the locality. I am also told that at present about 150 houses are under construction, the nearest of which is within about half a mile of the depot. I am further informed that the district of South Perth is served by the deep sewerage and septic tank systems and that within two years—that is a short period—the whole of South Perth will be sewered by either one of these two methods. Deep sewerage is also being installed at Victoria Park and, with the extension of the scheme, the necessity for this site will vanish. The Bill will have the effect of making the responsible authorities go ahead with extension of sewerage installations in South Perth and Victoria Park. It is felt by the people interested in the two areas that this site constitutes a possible menace to the health of the community, and that within three years it should be removed altogether. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [9.13]: I support the Bill. I do so not because I desire to hand to the City Council any ultimatum that it must not use this land or must develop some other method within three years, but because I believe the time has arrived when we should have no sanitary

sites in the metropolitan area. The present methods of sanitation have gone beyond that, and I would like to see all houses that can be joined to deep sewerage so joined and, where that is not possible, septic tanks installed. I would like this Bill to go even further than is suggested because I believe there are in the City of Perth some areas which are still not joined to the deep sewerage system. But this is a step in the right direction and if it is productive of enabling the City Council, in conjunction with the Public Works Department, to join up and establish deep sewerage sanitation for this area, so much the better.

I recently inspected the site because there has been a move to allocate a portion of the land in the vicinity for the purposes of a hospital to meet the needs of the people living on the south side of the river. We inspected one site through the courtesy of the Workers' Homes Board. I may say that I accompanied the members of the South Perth Road Board on that occasion. Subsequently the Workers' Homes Board made another suggestion to the South Perth people who desire to join up with surrounding local authorities in order to have an adequate hospital site assigned to them. I believe the more recent site proposed is even closer to the sanitary site than the first one suggested.

The Workers' Homes Board has, I believe, practically allocated the whole of the area between the row of houses facing Albany-road and the Canning River as sites for workers' homes. If we allow this particular area to be retained as a sanitary site it will not be long before it is in the centre of a thickly populated locality with about 1,500 houses in the vicinity. We should determine that if there is to be a sanitary site at all it should not be there. I would prefer some arrangement to be arrived at with the City Council with respect to some other site. I shall certainly support the second reading of the Bill.

HON. W. J. MANN (South-West) [9.17]: I support the second reading. I was astonished when I learnt about the site proposed for a sanitary depot. It is in a portion of the metropolitan area that lends itself to building operations and when conditions in the trade are freer, there should be a very rapid advance in house building there. It is splendidly served by transport facilities and,

as Dr. Hislop said, it will not be very long before, should the proposition be gone on with, another outcry will arise for the removal of the depot. If we must have a sanitary site at all the one chosen is much too close to the metropolis. In my opinion, there is no justification whatever for the proposed site and I trust the Bill will be agreed to.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

BILL—COAL MINES REGULATION.

In Committee.

Resumed from the 6th December. Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Chief Secretary in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported after Clause 23 had been agreed to.

Clause 24—Who shall not be employed in mines:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That in line 2 of Subclause (4) the word "two" be struck out and the word "eight" inserted in lieu.

I have a series of amendments to the clause and I should like to refer to them generally so as to explain the position.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member can deal with the series of amendments but they will have to be moved separately.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: The Bill provides for a 42-hour week and a 7-hour day. I realise that the measure largely represents a consolidation of the Act but there are certain alterations, and this is one of them. The original Act provides for a 48-hour week and an 8-hour day, and I wish to retain those provisions in the new regulation. I want to leave matters in conformity with the regulations that have existed since the Coal Mines Regulation Act was passed in 1902 with the amendments that have been made from time to time. I understand that in the change-over of shifts it is necessary for some of the men to work the full eight hours, overtime being paid for the extra period.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Mr. Parker is perfectly correct in that this is one of the alterations embodied in the Bill, which largely is a consolidation measure. It is a long time since 48 hours were provided in the legislation for the week's work. The 7-hour day has been in operation for many years. I believe Collie was the first coalfield in the British Empire to establish the 7-hour bank to bank day. We merely seek to bring the measure into conformity with the practice that has been followed over the years and in conformity with the present Arbitration Court award. Why leave an obsolete provision in the Act? We should move with the times. I appreciate that it will not affect the workings of the Arbitration Court if we agree to Mr. Parker's amendment for the court will be able to prescribe what hours it considers right.

Hon. W. J. MANN: I disagree with Mr. Parker and regard his amendment as a retrograde step. I can see nothing but trouble if we were to provide in the Bill for a 48-hour week.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: It would not be compulsory.

Hon. W. J. MANN: That may be so, but matters in connection with the coalmining industry are proceeding satisfactorily at present. I understand that yesterday the output at Collie reached the highest level for 12 months and that the tonnage was the greatest in the history of the Collie mines. I was also told that yesterday 800 tons were taken from one of the open cuts, which is regarded as a most praiseworthy performance. It would appear that Collie has settled down to a fine working level. I understand that arrangements have been made to maintain the output throughout the Christmas holidays, the miners having been divided into two sections so that one will be on holidays while the other remains at work. If the amendment were agreed to it might engender a feeling among the miners that this House desires them to revert to conditions that long since have been altered.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: It has been pointed out to me that where there are two shifts, it is necessary to bring up the empties for the next shift, which requires overtime.

The Chief Secretary: That is met under the award. This is only complying with that.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I know it is met under the award. There is no objection to that, nor is it suggested that they shall work eight hours or 48 hours. But this Bill prohibits them from working more than seven hours a day or more than 42 hours a week. It prevents the Arbitration Court from allowing them to do overtime except in an emergency. I am asking that the provision be left as it is. I do not want the position disturbed.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY: My advice is that the amendment does not disturb the present practice in any shape or form; it simply brings the coalmine regulations up to date in accordance with the present practice and Arbitration Court awards. I did not want to use the arguments employed by Mr. Mann. I did not want it to be said that we were making this amendment as a reward for what was being done by the Collicie miners at present. The reputation of those miners will stand on its own apart from anything we do in this way.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: I am not questioning that.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I accept the hon. member's word. The reputation of the Collicie field is the best of any in the Commonwealth.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: I agree.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: If we insist on inserting 48 hours in this Bill, it may be inferred that there will be a possibility at some time of the hours that have been in existence since before 1926 being altered to the detriment of the miners. We should avoid that.

Hon. G. FRASER: I hope the amendment will not be carried. I, too, can see there is the possibility of a misinterpretation of our attitude should we make such an alteration. It may be construed that we consider the hours suggested are those which should be worked. I know the hon. member does not mean that, but that is the interpretation which could be placed on our action. I do not think anyone would suggest miners should work eight hours a day or 48 hours a week.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: No-one suggests they should; it is only permissive.

Hon. G. FRASER: The hon. member said he wanted what had been in existence previously to be retained. But when amending

an Act or regulations, why not insert what operates at present and so preserve what obtains in the industry?

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: I am told they often work eight hours in order to get in the empties.

Hon. Sir HAL COLEBATCH: I shall support the amendment because the clause amounts to Parliament fixing matters that should be attended to by the court. We have not the facts before us but the Arbitration Court hears evidence from both sides. The amendment will not tie the Arbitration Court, which can reduce hours to whatever extent it likes.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I thought it had been made very clear that the hours of employment in coalmines in this State had been fixed for many years at seven hours underground. Now we are amending the Act and consolidating measures so that everyone will know what are the conditions in coalmines. It is therefore only logical that we should bring this and other provisions up to date.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 25 to 30—agreed to.

Clause 31—Appointment on part of men and removal of check weigher:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That in line 3 of Subclause (9) after the word "by" the words "the owner or manager or" be inserted.

As the clause stands, only the miners will be able to complain concerning a weigher.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The weigher is the company's own employee. The check weigher is the one appointed by the men. So if it is a question of the removal of the weigher, who is the company's representative, the miners are in the position of being the complainant and they must provide support for their complaint to the court. This clause provides that where miners are dissatisfied and they want a weigher removed, they must give sufficient proof to the court in support of their contentions. I am assuming that this man, being the company's representative or employee, would be subject to removal at the will of the company if he were not satisfactory from its point of

view. However, I cannot see that it makes very much difference whether the words are inserted or not.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: It would please me quite a lot and save considerable time.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: It may be a question of reprinting the Bill, and I am concerned about that.

The CHAIRMAN: It will be.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: If it is going to please Mr. Parker to such an extent, I will not raise any objection to the insertion of the words, but I cannot give him an assurance they will be acceptable to another place.

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

Clauses 32 to 37—agreed to.

Clause 38—Coalminers accident relief fund:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That in line 12 of Subclause (1) the figure "1st" be struck out and the word "last" inserted in lieu.

I think this is a misprint. I would point out, too, that the marginal note "No. 36 of 1926, s. 21" is incorrect. I think it should be Section 67.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Yes, this is a misprint, and I have no objection to the amendment. I thank Mr. Parker, too, for drawing attention to the marginal note. I believe it should be Section 67.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I oppose the whole clause. The miners are already under the Workers' Compensation Act and have the pension fund legislation that was passed a couple of sessions ago. Apparently this provision was overlooked when the Workers' Compensation Act was brought in, and it is now obsolete. Why should the community pay an extra 1½d. per ton in order to give one class of industrial worker a special benefit?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Of course, it is an excellent thing for the coalminers, but I do not agree that it is obsolete. We are consolidating the Act and are including here what is the present practice. If Mr. Parker wishes to take responsibility for denying to the coalminers something they have had for 30 or 40 years, because he says it was over-

looked on a previous occasion, he is taking a risk that I would not be prepared to take. The attitude he has adopted is most unreasonable and illogical under present conditions.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 39 and 40—agreed to.

Clause 41—Certificate of competency:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That in lines 12 to 14 of Subclause (1) the words "such practical experience to include at least 12 months at the coal face as either a miner or shift man" be struck out.

Hon. W. J. Mann: Is there any reason why they should be struck out?

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: If they are to be left in the wording should read, "at or about the coal face."

Hon. W. J. Mann: A miner might be working 20 or 30ft. from the wall.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: If the Chief Secretary would agree to making the words read, "twelve months at or about the coal face," I would see no objection to that. I want the position made perfectly plain. If the Chief Secretary will agree to this last suggestion, I shall be willing to withdraw the amendment.

The Chief Secretary: I agree to that.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That in line 13 of Subclause (1) after the words "months at" the words "or about" be inserted.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I think the words "at" and "about" mean the same thing.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: I am advised that they do not.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: If that is so, I must oppose the amendment. Without further advice on the effect of the words "or about," I cannot agree to the amendment. One of the qualifications for a certificate of competency is that the candidate shall have had at least twelve months' experience at the face, which, I understand, is an expression understood by all associated with the industry. If the clause is left as it stands I will have the matter looked into and, if necessary, the Bill can be recommitted.

Everyone is in agreement that we must have the most highly qualified men possible for such positions.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I agree that we want the most highly qualified men possible. I understand that the first job men do in the mines is the hewing of coal at the face which, with all due respect, is the job requiring the least intelligence. There are not many who work 12 months actually at the face. They start there and then go on to various other jobs. I am told that "at or about the face" is the correct expression.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Then I will not object to the amendment. If necessary the Bill can be recommitted.

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

Clauses 42 to 48—agreed to.

Clause 49—General rules:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: This clause empowering the Governor to make general rules asks too much of the mine owners. Paragraph (zk) prescribes—

The providing of ambulance rooms with such attendants and such first-aid facilities as may be required by the Minister for use in case of accidents.

The Minister might decide that there should be attendants doing nothing day after day. I move an amendment—

That all the words after the word "of" in line 1 of paragraph (zk) be struck out and the words "stretchers and necessary ambulance and first-aid requisites approved by the Minister for use in case of accidents" inserted in lieu.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I hope the amendment will not be accepted. The number of men employed has increased and we hope it will increase still further. The paragraph will merely give the Governor power, if thought fit, to have these facilities brought into accord with what applies on the goldfields in the State and on the coalfields in other States. It does not necessarily mean that ambulance rooms will be provided or that attendants will be there twiddling their thumbs, but the Minister may insist upon adequate accommodation being provided to deal with accidents. If the time came when the provision of an ambulance room was considered necessary, we should not object. To provide these facilities would not involve great expense. The Government purchases

about 92 per cent. of the output of the Collie fields and expenditure under this heading should not affect the position. Only on the ground of expense should there be any objection; there could be none on the ground of humanity.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: I am satisfied with your explanation so long as you do not insist upon attendants.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The Minister is not likely to ask for anything that is not required.

Hon. W. J. MANN: The provision in the Bill will not entail much expense. If a man were seriously injured, there should be some room to which he could be taken in order that he might receive proper attention. Probably some members of the staff with first-aid qualifications would be detailed to render aid in case of an accident.

The Chief Secretary: Quite a percentage of the miners hold first aid qualifications.

Hon. W. J. Mann: That is so.

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Subclause (3) provides that all such general rules shall be published in the "Gazette" and shall take effect from a date to be named therein. The Governor may set out the methods of working mines and all other matters connected with the working and regulation of mines not expressly provided for in the measure. These are extremely wide powers, and if they are to be granted, Parliament should have a say. Regulations must be tabled within 14 days of the House meeting, but if regulations were promulgated in January, and the House did not meet till July, all those regulations might be enforced for months before Parliament could consider them. Therefore I ask that no regulations shall come into force until after they have been tabled for 14 days.

Hon. G. Fraser: A regulation might be held up for six months.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Yes, and properly so. Therefore I move an amendment—

That in lines 2 and 3 of Subclause (3) the words "from a date to be named therein" be struck out and the words "fourteen days after the same have been laid before both Houses of Parliament" inserted in lieu.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I strongly oppose the amendment. From time to time

it is necessary to amend regulations quickly, perhaps to prevent some dangerous practice from being carried on or for other important reasons, and it is unthinkable that we should not be able to amend the regulations simply because the House was not sitting. If a change in the regulations involves structural work, a future date from which it would take effect would be provided. A regulation might be promulgated early in the year and no great harm would result from its operating for a few months, after which Parliament would have an opportunity, if so desired, to disallow it.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I do not think it has ever been necessary to bring in a regulation quickly to avoid a dangerous practice because all mineowners do their utmost to avoid anything of that sort. If the Minister desires power to make such drastic regulations, Parliament should have a say before they are put into operation.

Hon. W. J. MANN: There are frequent developments underground that are quite unexpected. Several developments at the open-cut were considered to be hardly possible.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Can you name one regulation that has been so brought in?

Hon. W. J. MANN: Some serious development might occur underground and require the promulgation of a regulation immediately to prevent danger.

The Chief Secretary: We have brought open cuts within the scope of the Bill.

Hon. W. J. MANN: That is so. It is wrong to expect regulations to be brought down and then left in abeyance for any period up to seven or eight months.

Hon. G. FRASER: We are dealing with a hazardous occupation and it is undesirable that regulations be held up for as long as seven or eight months. I was in Collie in 1912 when a disaster occurred. Some three or four men were killed and many others injured. Mr. Mann may remember the accident, which was quite unforeseen. There had been no similar accident previously on the Collie coalfields. Should it be necessary to make regulations dealing with an accident of that kind, they might be held up for months.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Was any regulation necessary in the instance you mentioned?

Hon. G. FRASER: I do not know. I take it, however, that some regulation would have been required to deal with portions of the workings after the accident. I hope the amendment will be defeated.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: If a similar accident occurred, there would be no need to wait for regulations to rectify the position, as the men, quite obviously and correctly, would not work until everything was put in order. What is needed is ordinary common sense on the part of the management and the men.

Hon. Sir HAL COLEBATCH: Section 36 of the Interpretation Act provides—

When by any Act it is provided that regulations may or shall be made....

and then the section proceeds to set out what must be done in the way of making regulations and the power of Parliament to disallow them. In that section no reference whatever is made to rules or by-laws.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Subsection (5) of the Interpretation Act provides—

In this section the term "regulation" includes rule and by-law.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	..	9
Noes	..	..	..	..	12
Majority against					3

AYES.

Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. R. M. Forrest	Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. O. H. Simpson
Hon. J. G. Hislop	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. F. E. Gibson	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. E. M. Heenan	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. W. H. Kitson	Hon. L. Craig
	(Teller.)

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 50 to 59—agreed to.

Clause 60—Penalty for an offence against Act:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That at the end of Subclause (2) the following words be added: "after any conviction."

The law as it stands provides that if, after conviction, the continuing offence is not stopped, the person convicted shall be liable to a penalty of £5 for each day the offence continues; but the Bill provides for a further penalty for every day after notice that such offence continues to be committed. I do not quite know what is intended.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I have no objection to the amendment.

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

Clauses 61 to 69, Schedule, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

BILL—LOAN, £5,050,000.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [10.31] in moving the second reading said: I am anxious to make progress with the items on the notice paper, and for that reason I propose to introduce the Loan Bill even at this rather late hour. I do so in order that members, who so desire, may have an opportunity to examine the figures which I shall, as usual, quote. This is the customary Bill by which parliamentary sanction is sought each year to raise money for the carrying out of the programme of works detailed in the Loan Estimates.

This year's Bill is noteworthy as it represents the highest amount ever sought to give effect to any Loan Estimates. On this occasion Parliament is being requested to approve of the raising of £5,050,000 for requirements which are set out in the First Schedule to the Bill. This sum, together with the unexpended balance of previous authorisations, is estimated to be sufficient to enable expenditure to be carried on where necessary for six months after the end of the financial year. This is the usual practice which ensures that there is no break in the continuity of work through lack of parliamentary authority.

The measure is an indication that not only has a commencement been made to overcome the lag in works caused by the war, but that the Government does not intend to delay its plans for the development of the State. These plans, however, are handicapped by shortages of manpower and

materials, and these shortages are accentuated by the tremendous demand for all classes of materials. We may not be required during the current year to borrow all the money provided for by the Bill as our financial requirements will depend on the progress made with the programme of works. So far as obtaining the money is concerned, the Loan Council has undertaken to finance all our commitments up to next January, when the position will again be reviewed.

During the previous year our public debt increased from £95,894,885 on the 30th June, 1945, to £96,925,931 at the 30th June, 1946, and the average interest rate declined from £3 11s. 1d. per cent. to £3 6s. 5d. per cent. Contributions to the Sinking Fund for the current year will amount to approximately £970,000 which added to the balance of £504,000 brought forward from last year, will make nearly £1,500,000 available for debt redemption this year.

In stating that the amount represented by this Bill is the largest ever requested to implement the Loan Estimates, I would like to inform the House that a similar situation exists in other States, which also find it necessary to deal with work which has accumulated during the war years. The Loan Council approved of a programme of works for this year which is expected to cost £91,700,000. Of this sum £24,200,000 was allocated to local and semi-governmental authorities which are responsible in some States for a considerable amount of work. The balance of £67,500,000 was divided among the various Governments, as follows:—

	£
Commonwealth	16,750,000
New South Wales	20,600,000
Victoria	8,800,000
Queensland	6,400,000
South Australia	6,000,000
Western Australia	5,050,000
Tasmania	3,900,000

It is quite possible that shortages of manpower and materials will prevent the completion of much of the work included in the programme, and therefore the Loan Council, although approving of the entire programme, decided to sanction the immediate raising of 75 per cent. of the amount required, and in January to consider whether it would be necessary to raise the additional 25 per cent. Nearly two-thirds of the £91,700,000 approved by the Loan Coun-

oil will be spent on housing, transport, electricity, water and sewerage supplies. In this State the principal heads of expenditure are:—

	£
Transport	1,600,000
Electricity	904,000
Water Conservation	773,000
Water Supply	645,000
Health	450,000
Education	250,000

It will be noticed that I have not included housing. Practically all of the financial requirements this year in this regard will be provided by the Commonwealth Government under the terms of the Commonwealth-State Rental Housing Agreement. Also, the Workers' Homes Board has sufficient funds in hand to commence its ordinary operations this year if necessary, without requiring to borrow money.

Members will be interested to know that the Commonwealth Treasurer has given an assurance that, provided the States are capable of carrying out their loan programmes, the necessary finance will be forthcoming. This is in agreeable contrast to the days when the States were at the mercy of the Commonwealth Bank and often had to curtail seriously their programmes to keep within the limits imposed by the bank. It is an indication of the difficulties experienced during the war years that at no time since 1940 has the annual expenditure exceeded the Estimates. From 1941-42 to 1945-46 the average annual expenditure was £744,000, against an average estimate of £1,324,000.

Last financial year the estimate was £1,607,000 and the expenditure only totalled £1,082,000. Expenditure on railways amounted to £70,000 as against an estimate of £133,000. This was mainly caused by inability to obtain materials for the construction of six Diesel electric coaches and trailers, for which provision was made in the Estimates. Only £1,000 was spent on tramways, whereas £30,000 was provided for in the Estimates. It was estimated that £293,000 would be required for electricity supply. Included in this sum was £200,000 for the South-West power scheme, none of which was spent, and the total amount expended on electricity amounted to only £114,000.

One item of expenditure in which the Estimates were exceeded was under the heading of "Water Supply." Although £45,000 was provided it was found necessary to carry out

work costing £79,000. This excess was mainly caused through sufficient labour becoming available to recommence operations on the Stirling Dam, for which no provision had been made in the Estimates. The Government was very pleased to be able to start work again on the dam, which holds a high priority in importance. We are, however, handicapped in regard to this and other public works by the lack of manpower available. The expenditure incurred on public buildings was £105,000 as against an estimate of £196,000. Work carried out under this heading included additions at the Denmark Agricultural College and the Junior Technical School at Mt. Lawley, the erection of a hostel for workers at Barton's Mill prison and work costing £110,000 on the Royal Perth Hospital.

Provision was made for the expenditure of £230,000 on the alunite industry at Lake Campion and on charcoal-iron production at Wundowie, but the actual amount spent was £206,000, £80,000 of this being for Wundowie and £126,000 for Lake Campion. It is probable that the furnace and retort for the distillation of wood will commence activity during 1947, this being another step forward to what we confidently expect will prove to be a successful heavy iron and steel industry in Western Australia.

At Lake Campion many difficulties have been encountered and successfully overcome, and potash in quantity is now being produced. A large sum of money has been spent on the establishment of this project, but it must be realised that with the war-caused lull in the import of fertilisers it was essential to produce as much potash as possible. To achieve this, experimental work that would normally have been of the greatest importance had to be foregone.

Turning now to the expenditure embodied in this year's Estimates, this is made up as follows:—

	£
Railways and Tramways ..	1,250,000
Electricity Supply	952,000
Harbours and Rivers	120,000
Water Supply	1,681,000
Development of Goldfields and Mineral Resources ..	343,000
Development of Agriculture, etc.	75,000
Public Buildings, etc.	515,000
Other State Undertakings ..	114,000
	<hr/> 5,050,000

Members will agree that this is a truly representative and impressive range of works.

Dealing with railways, £636,000 has been allocated to carry out additions and improvements to existing services. This item includes £20,115 for the completion of facilities for the underwater stowage of coal, by which it is expected to improve the keeping quality of Collie coal; £52,530 for the re-organisation of buildings and the permanent way at Midland Junction connected with the regeneration of rolling stock and locomotives; and £10,000 to provide stabling accommodation and fuelling plants for Diesel electric rail cars, this being portion of the anticipated total cost of £28,600. The extension of canteen facilities at Midland Junction will cost £10,000; housing for railway staff £20,000; and amenities for the staff £10,000.

The duplication of the East Perth-Rivervale line will cost £76,000, and £50,000 of this is provided for in this year's Estimates. A sum of £100,000 is being made available towards the estimated cost of £343,000 for the duplication of the line from Armadale to Bunbury, including automatic signalling devices, while £54,000 is to be spent on a coal-blending plant at Collie, and £20,000 on automatic signalling at Spencer's Brook, Koojeda and Wooroloo. Other items are new yards and interlocking at Narrogin £18,000; improvements to the Northam Loco Depot £19,200; sewerage at Kalgoorlie Station £2,365; and a passenger platform at Meltham, which is between Bayswater and Maylands, £5,400. It is proposed to buy 15 additional road buses for use in districts where transport facilities require improvement, and the cost of these and incidental facilities will be £120,000.

Included in the Estimates is the sum of £338,000 for rollingstock, and £150,000 has been set aside as portion of the amount of £205,000 required for the purchase of six Diesel electric coaches and 12 trailers, which may be delivered during the present financial year. Again, £175,000 has been allotted for the purchase of 14 locomotives which are at present in the United Kingdom and which were originally destined for the Sudan. It is also proposed to complete five brakevans and ten VB vans at a cost of £4,000 and £5,250 respectively.

In regard to the tramways, provision has been made for an expenditure of £143,000.

The completion of the trolley-bus and motor bus garage will account for £20,655, and £100,000 has been allocated towards the cost of purchasing 50 new trolley-buses. Amenities at the car barn for the tramway staff will cost £13,000, and half the cost of a lavatory block at Barrack-street Jetty will be £630, the other half cost being charged to "Ferries."

Referring to electricity supply, £608,300 has been set aside for works in the metropolitan area, and the larger part of this—£400,000—will be utilised for the South Fremantle power scheme, which it is anticipated will eventually cost approximately £2,500,000. The foundations of the buildings at South Fremantle have been laid and it is probable that a good deal of constructional work will be carried out this year. The change of frequency at the East Perth power station from 40 to 50-cycle will cost £260,000 in all, and £50,000 of this has been provided for in this year's Estimates. Other metropolitan items are the continuation of the conversion of the Cottesloe transmission line to 20,000 volts at a cost of £11,500, and various system extensions, etc., costing £30,000. Work on the South-West power scheme, including the installation at a cost of £70,400 of temporary generating plant, will account for £236,700.

Dealing with harbours and rivers, £31,000 has been set aside for additions and improvements in the North West to jetties, etc. A new shed and equipment for handling asbestos at Point Sampson will cost £5,560. At Wyndham £6,000 is to be spent on a new goods shed near the meatworks, the road over the causeway to the township and the provision of handling facilities. Marine surveys will cost £2,000, and an additional locomotive for Onslow £4,000. So far as jetties are concerned, this is work which must be put in hand as early as possible.

Improvements to the harbour at Bunbury are expected to cost £10,000, and £65,800 is to be spent on Fremantle harbour works. The programme at Fremantle will include £7,000 for extensions to North Quay, £12,000 for the westward extension of Victoria Quay, £7,000 for additions to the breakwater in Fishboat Harbour, the total cost of which will be about £17,000; £7,500 will be spent on Bellmouth dredging, and £32,500 on the reconstruction of Berths 1, 2 and 3 on North Quay, which it

is expected will eventually cost £195,000. Reclamation work in connection with the new causeway at Perth will account this year for the expenditure of £25,000.

Water supply and sewerage are responsible for a very large sum, approximately £1,500,000. In giving some details of this I might state that £6,900 will be spent on the water supply at Pemberton; £8,700 at Margaret River; £5,000 at Waroona, being part of a £10,000 project; £8,000 and £16,000 on improvements at Albany and Geraldton respectively, and £5,000 on cement lining for mains at Brookton, Narrogin, Collie and Albany. Improvements to the Marble Bar and Derby water supplies will amount to £6,500, and reconstruction of the Pippingarra water supply at Port Hedland will cost £18,000. Channel lining and drainage improvements at Harvey, Collie and Waroona will account for £28,630.

Two very important projects will be those in the Harvey No. 3 Irrigation District and at Stirling Dam. The work at Harvey this year is estimated to cost £125,000 out of an anticipated total of £286,000. At Stirling Dam the expenditure will be £300,000 out of an estimated total of £360,000. Improvements to the water supply at Leonora-Gwalia will amount to £9,500, and £3,000 has been set aside for reticulation improvements at Cue and the sinking and equipping of a new well at Big Bell.

For work in connection with the Goldfields water supply £221,000 has been allowed, the main items in this regard being the raising of the retaining wall at Mundaring, £100,000, and the erection of houses at the various pumping stations for engineers and firemen. It may interest members to learn that the eventual cost of raising the wall at Mundaring Weir is expected to total £425,000.

Another project which will help to bring the amenities of the metropolis to residents in the country is the provision of sewerage facilities in country towns. For this scheme, £20,000 has been set aside and it is estimated that this will eventually cost £100,000. Included in the Estimates is the provision of £5,000 for the improvement of water supply on stock routes, this being an important item.

So far as the metropolitan area is concerned, it is proposed to spend £192,000 on sewerage and drainage works, and £301,000 on water supply. The latter sum includes

£50,000 for minor extensions, £25,000 for improvements, £15,000 for meters, and £14,500 for cement lining of pipes. Again, £55,000 will be spent on the reservoir at Mount Yokine which will ultimately cost about £130,000, and £7,000 will be required for land resumption in this connection. This year £61,500 will be required for the construction of a 42-inch main from Cannington to Victoria Park, the total cost of which will approximate £76,000, and £24,000 has been allotted to providing a 36-inch main from Belmont to Maylands at a total cost of £44,000. Also an 18-inch main is to be laid from Mount Hawthorn to Scarborough at a total expenditure of £24,000, £15,000 of which is to be provided this year.

Under the heading of Development of Goldfields and Mineral Resources it is proposed to expend £49,500 on mining development. This includes a loan to the Freney Kimberley Oil Coy. of £15,400 and loans amounting to £11,340 to other companies. The purchase of portable compressors and mobile drilling units for loan to prospectors will cost £10,000, and £8,000 has been set aside for the financing of prospectors. It is expected that coal investigation at Eradu will account for about £3,500. Members will be interested to learn that £16,000 has been provided towards the erection of plant to treat refractory ores, the total expenditure on which is expected to reach £36,000. Additional 5-head stamps and an increase to the power plant at Meekatharra will cost £6,000, and additions and improvements to tailing plants £4,000. Then again £150,000 has been set aside for the Wundowie Charcoal-Iron Works, and it is expected to complete that work this year. A sum of £45,000 has been provided for additional work at the Chandler Potash Works at Lake Campion.

Referring to agriculture, £74,000 has been set aside for abattoirs and cool stores, and of that amount £50,000 will be utilised for remodelling the Midland Junction Abattoirs, and £9,000 for completing a by-product building there. At Kalgoorlie £15,000 is to be spent on the erection of chillers which it is expected will cost £20,000 when completed. The completion of the veterinary laboratory at Hollywood will require an expenditure of £4,825, and it is proposed to spend £10,000 on buildings at research stations and £4,500 on additions at the Muresk Agricultural College. Other proposed expenditure under the

heading of Agriculture is £4,000 for Kimberley exploration and national mapping surveys, and £3,000 for Ord River surveys and diamond drilling.

It is proposed to spend £358,000 on public buildings apart from hospital requirements. Included in this sum are additions to the Perth Technical College, work on which will cost the Government approximately £30,000 this year. The work when completed will cost £150,000, towards which the Commonwealth Government has agreed to contribute £80,000. The sum of £25,000 will be spent on the Leederville Technical School, and the total expenditure in this regard is expected to amount to £48,000. Other new buildings which are on the programme include the new central Government offices, new chemical laboratories, a remand home for children and a receiving home for children at Point Heathcote. It is hoped that something can be done to commence these projects at a not too far distant date.

The sum of £442,000 has been allocated to hospital buildings, and £342,000 of this will be absorbed on the new Royal Perth Hospital. Other works on which it is hoped to make a start are additions and a nurses' home at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, a tubercular block at the Claremont Mental Hospital, and extensive remodelling at the Wooroloo Sanatorium. Also included on the programme are additions to and establishment of several country hospitals. Although these projects are contingent on the availability of manpower and materials, the Government considers that it should have its plans ready and work commenced where possible.

Other proposed expenditure is £31,800 for the completion of the bulk wheat handling shipping gallery at Fremantle, and £20,000 towards the construction of the working house track shed siding at the port. An amount of £55,000 is required for the purchase of machine tools and plant from the Welshpool Small Arms Ammunition Factory and the Bayswater Aircraft Production Factory. As members know, the Welshpool factory has been leased by the Government with the intention of its being utilised for secondary industries. New buildings at Moola Bulla and Udialla Native Cattle Stations are expected to cost £14,000, and £5,350 is to be spent on remodelling the Bruce Rock

and Corrigin State Hotels and on garage additions at Caves House.

It will be noticed that the Bill authorises the reappropriation of certain moneys totalling £390,355 which are not now required for the purposes for which they were originally approved, and which are detailed in the Second Schedule to the Bill. It is proposed that these moneys be applied to the items that are set out in the Third Schedule.

In addressing the House on this subject, I have endeavoured to cover the matter fully. I have dealt briefly with last year's operations and have detailed this year's programme. As I have said, it may not be possible, owing to matters outside our control, to give effect fully to this programme, but it is a pleasure to know that there will be finance available to meet all our needs. I feel sure that the House will agree that the plans I have outlined give a solid basis on which to work for the future and will be instrumental in ensuring the progress of the State. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. G. W. Miles, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.30 p.m. tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.3 p.m.