

take was made in the Mines Regulation Act and because of that we should not continue it in this Bill. I shall move to recommit the Bill in order to further reconsider the clause.

Question put and passed; the clause re-instated.

Bill again reported with further amendments.

Further Recommittal.

On motion by Hon. J. Nicholson, Bill further recommitting for the purpose of reconsidering Clause 19; Hon. J. Cornell in the Chair; the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill.

Clause 19—Prohibition of Sunday labour:

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I move an amendment—

That in line one of Subclause (2) the word "every" be struck out with a view to inserting another word.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I move—

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

The HONORARY MINISTER: I hope the Committee will not accept the amendment. The vote taken a few minutes ago naturally reflected the decision on this question. I shall be surprised if the Committee follow Mr. Nicholson. The question of Sunday work does not enter into the matter but merely the question of fixing the responsibility for the employment of men on Sundays. As the clause stands there will be some chance of fixing the liability but with the amendment the position will be made very difficult to pin someone down.

Hon. Sir WILLIAM LATHLAIN: Last week this question was raised in order to get a definite statement from the Minister as to whether one, or three or four individuals were to be liable. We have received a definite statement that one person only is to be made liable. I am content with that.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: All I desire is to make the clause clear. I have opened the Mines Regulation Act at random and I notice that Section 12 commences with the words "any person." That is what I suggest regarding the clause under discussion. In Section 31 again we get the same phrase, "shall be guilty of an offence against this Act." So I am not suggesting what is not to be found in other Acts of Parliament. I

hope the Honorary Minister will accept the amendment, which I am offering in a perfectly friendly spirit. All I am seeking to do is to fix the liability on the person who employs the individual.

The HONORARY MINISTER: We are all in accord with Mr. Nicholson in his proposal to fix the liability on the person who may be responsible. However, there seems to be some shadow of doubt in the minds of hon. members, and in order that it may be cleared up I will report progress and, when we resume, I will produce the authority of the Crown Solicitor to back up my assertion that this thing is quite correct.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 10.4 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 19th October, 1926.

	PAGE
Bills: Road Districts Act Amendment, 3R. ...	1459
Timber Industry Regulation, 2R., Com. ...	1459
Inspection of Scaffolding Act Amendment, re-	
turned	1494
Justices Act Amendment, returned ...	1494
Brooms Loan Validation, returned ...	1494

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

BILL—ROAD DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

BILL—TIMBER INDUSTRY REGULA- TION.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 14th October.

HON. SIR JAMES MITCHELL (Nor-
tham) [4.35]: We all recognise the magni-
tude of the timber industry, and its value to
the State. We know the dangers of the

occupations connected with it. The Minister expressed surprise that some such Bill as this had not been passed into law long ago. No one has any objection to the passing of legislation that will mean adequate and proper protection to the worker. Everyone wants the worker in the timber industry to be able to work safely and to avoid accident. The Minister for Works appears to have based this Bill largely on the Mines Regulation Act. Whilst this is a dangerous industry and accidents do occur in it with greater frequency than we would like, there is not the danger to the health of the people working in the timber industry, such as we find in other industries. Whilst we should provide reasonable, adequate, and proper protection for the workers, we should guard against going to extremes. The Minister will find, if he wants the industry to continue and the men to receive employment, that a Bill of this nature should be absolutely fair to all concerned. We should see that every part of the Bill is reasonable to the extent that it does not go further than is necessary to protect the worker. I have seen numbers of people working in the bush, but am not so well acquainted with mill working. Work on a mill is different to-day from what it was 20 years ago. Everything used to be done by man power, whereas to-day it is done by engine power. That to some extent limits the risk men run. Whilst we should provide adequate protection there is no need for the Minister to take entire control of the industry as is proposed by the Bill. No doubt the Minister's speech was carefully prepared by people who know more about the industry than most members do. With the exception of the member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. George) and the member for Nelson (Mr. J. H. Smith), very few members can be said to be closely acquainted with the ramifications of the industry. The Minister provides for an army of inspectors. First there are to be district inspectors. I do not know what their duties will be. Then there are to be special inspectors, and on top of this there are to be workmen's inspectors, much after the style of those connected with the mining industry. The terms and conditions of the appointment of inspectors and their salaries are to rest entirely with the Minister, not, as is usual, with the Governor in Council. That is neither advisable nor right. The appointments should be made in the usual way, but the Minister is keeping

the whole question entirely in his own hands, subject to regulations. It is with regard to the regulations that the Minister will control every detail of the work of the industry, if he desires to do so. No fewer than 20 different matters are specially mentioned in the Bill as being under the control of the Minister. It is further provided that regulations may be made for any other purpose, so far as regulations may be necessary, to give effect to the Bill.

The Minister for Works: That is a general provision.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: It is not usually expressed in this way. These questions range from the duties of inspectors to the general working of the industry, and to any other matter the Minister may think necessary. In Committee we shall have an opportunity to discuss the question relating to the regulations. The regulations need not be uniform. One can understand that in some minor matters the same conditions cannot be applied to the industry in all its phases. This Bill will cover the whole industry and all the timber workers whether they are on mills or in the bush, whether they are on permit areas for jarrah milling or are timber workers in any degree whatsoever. I suppose the Bill will even apply to sandalwood pullers. It is necessary that the Governor should approve of the regulations, but that is as far as the Bill goes in that respect. Except for this proviso, the Minister will have entire control. The inspectors will have control of all the workers in the forests and on the mills, everywhere that men are to be found connected with the industry. They will be in charge of the drainage of building sites and water supplies. They will be required to say whether railways can be run safely, and will be responsible for the sanitary work. The conditions of the men working on the mills will be taken entirely away from the department ordinarily empowered to look after the health and lives of the people. What does the Minister for Health say to that? Inside the timber areas he will have no control. The Minister in charge of the machinery legislation will be in the same position. These inspectors are to be wonderful men, all round men. Even the Minister for Justice will be ousted from the timber areas, for coroners' inquiries and the conditions appertaining to them are to be dealt with as set forth in the Bill. The Minister for Justice will have to go by the

board. There will be one set of conditions for timber areas, and another set for people living outside them. Even the people who are to sit as jurors are to be dictated to under this Bill.

The Minister for Railways: They will be the same conditions as apply to the mining industry.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL. The two industries are not in the same category. Furthermore, the Minister for Works will be the master of everything connected with the industry. That is wholly undesirable and unnecessary. In all these matters we must be reasonable. We cannot afford, and are not well enough off, to pay two people to do the one job. If the health of the people at Bridgetown can be looked after by the Health Department, that authority should be capable of looking after the health of the people at Pemberton. We do not want two sets of officials to look after a matter of that sort. When it comes to the inspection of machinery, surely people are required who are experts in such work. Not any person should be appointed an inspector to deal with such matters. I do not know what salary it is proposed to pay to these inspectors. The Minister does not say; the matter rests with him entirely. If we agree to his doing this and men are to be appointed to undertake such varied work, we shall have to pay them very well indeed. The inspection of machinery has to be controlled by capable men, who are fully acquainted with machinery. On the other hand, those inspectors are not expected to know all about sanitary work and health work generally. They are not expected to attend coroners' inquiries to cross-examine witnesses, and to do the hundred and one other things the Minister will expect them to do. In such legislation as this we should do all that is necessary for the safety and proper protection of the men engaged in the timber industry. That is what we should set out to do. We do not pass a separate Workers' Compensation Act or a special Arbitration Act to deal with this particular industry. It comes within the scope of the ordinary general laws of the land. It is a pity that by means of the class of legislation we have had before us recently we have drifted into the way of taking work away from specially trained and highly paid officials, and handing the duties over to inspectors in the manner suggested in the Bill

now before us. I agree that provision should be made for the proper and safe working of the industry, especially as the timber industry is a particularly dangerous one. To do that is quite right, but I consider that when the Minister for Works turns all other Ministers away from his particular arena, then he is entirely wrong. This class of legislation will make bad law; it will lead to confusion and increased costs. The Minister says he is a democrat. Never before was there such an autocratic man in this House! I do not know whether the member for Forrest (Miss Holman) had any hand in drafting the Bill, or whether she gave ideas that led to the introduction of the measure. If she did, she is now well out of the picture, and there is no one in it except the autocrat who represents the Works Department in this House. Will the Minister not consider that in the preparation and passing of a Bill of this description, we should do what is right by all the people, and we should not in any way lessen employment in the industry by setting up conditions that are unnecessary for the protection of the men? Is it not a fact that we have people who want employment? The member for Fremantle (Mr. Sleeman) frequently asks about the prospects of work for men at Fremantle, who are out of employment. There are men out of work at the present day. We can do what is necessary and achieve our desires, without setting up conditions that will do no one any good and may be calculated to do a lot of harm. Of course I know it is impossible to persuade the Minister that he is wrong. We have found by experience that it has not been possible, unless the Minister himself is willing, to alter a word in a Bill of his. The previous Minister for Works (Mr. George), who has been engaged in the timber industry all his life will not be able to persuade the Minister to abate his attitude one jot.

The Minister for Works: It is not fair to prejudice the case of the member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. George) like that.

Mr. George: I am enjoying this because I used to be called an autocrat.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Neither the experience of the former Minister for Works nor the representations of the member for Nelson (Mr. J. H. Smith), who represents an electorate where timber interests are important, nor yet the member for Collie (Mr. Wilson) will be able to persuade the Minister that the Bill contains unnece-

sary provisions and provides unnecessary powers for the Minister. All power will rest with the Minister and with no one else. The Minister must realise that the timber industry is a wide-spread one, and it will be impossible for any Minister to know what is happening all over the south-western portions of the State. I do not suppose we are ever again likely to have a Minister for Works who has managed timber mills as did the previous Minister for Works. Certainly it cannot be claimed by many of us that we have an intimate acquaintance with the industry. Then, too, the Minister must realise that in passing legislation of this description we may, quite unconsciously, do a great deal of harm. Often that harm is not done by the legislation itself but by the language used in introducing the measure. People do not know the contents of the legislation but hear about the Minister's objectives. They get scared. You, Mr. Speaker, know better than anyone else in this Chamber how easy it is for people who are in doubt about legislation to become scared. Then unemployment follows. Industry is inclined to wilt at times, because of something done in Parliament. Then we find from experience that the legislation does not work in the direction people anticipated, not even in the way people were led to believe because of the language used when that legislation was introduced. But the point is that such legislation does cause industry to wilt. Now we are to have another army of inspectors. I want the Minister to realise that every time someone is appointed to a position in the Government service, some people outside have to be found to pay for that work. Thus it is that we should not have more inspectors than are absolutely necessary. If we are to have inspectors, they should be highly qualified men. In the timber industry, as in the mining industry, it is necessary to have men occupying the positions of inspectors who can see where danger lies, and guard against it. We should not appoint men who have to wait for accidents before they can see where the possibilities arose. So it is that it is useless to take ordinary men for these positions. The provision that a man must have been engaged for five years in the industry before he can receive an appointment as inspector, does not mean that such a man may have a real knowledge of the matters he will have to deal with. In fact a man who has been working for five years in the industry may know

nothing at all about its conditions. It may be possible for such a man to have been engaged in work about a small spot mill or at some other occupation in connection with the industry, and yet know absolutely nothing about the machinery in use at the large mills. I hope the Minister will be content to take the powers that are necessary to safeguard the workers. That is all we are entitled to agree to. Certainly the House would be wise if it stopped there, and saw to it that the interests of the men in the timber industry were properly safeguarded. That is all that the Bill, according to its title, is intended to achieve. On the other hand, the Minister goes further and proposes to take power to concern himself with the management of a hundred and one things that have nothing to do with the safety of the men engaged in the industry, quite apart from the fact that many of the activities covered are already under the control of other Ministers. If I were in the position of those Ministers, I should revolt! If I, for instance, were the Minister for Justice I would not allow the Minister for Works to interfere with the police or with coroners' inquiries. I would say to him, "Tell me what amendments to the existing legislation you require, and I will see that they are attended to." The Minister for Works wants to take charge of the industrial magistrates; he will not have anything to do with justices of the peace. They have to "keep off the grass" when it comes to matters connected with the timber industry. The Minister proposes that special magistrates shall be appointed to deal with matters that come under the scope of the Bill before us. Has the Minister for Justice been consulted about that?

The Minister for Justice: I will whisper the answer, "Yes."

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Then the Minister for Justice will become the assistant Minister for Justice! He will be the Minister for Justice—unless the Minister for Works otherwise directs. It is necessary to have officers qualified in railway construction, but when it comes to a question of bush lines on which are used the trucks under the control of the Minister for Railways, the Minister for Works is to be a law unto himself.

The Minister for Works: Government trucks are not used on the bush lines.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Of course they are; they are used for sleepers.

The Minister for Works: Not at all.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Minister was not consulted; that is obvious! I advise the Minister for Railways to take a hand in this matter. It is not right to have one law for the territory controlled by the Minister for Works and another law for other Ministers. I know the Minister for Works will tell us that what he proposes will make for economy, seeing that the inspectors will be already on the job.

The Minister for Works: You are beginning to see your own inconsistency.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I was hoping to draw the Minister, and I have succeeded. Of course he will tell us so, but it is not so at all. I have already warned the Minister that these activities are controlled by other Ministers; that their departments are represented at Bridgetown, Pinjarra, Bunbury and Busselton, all centres near timber mills in the several districts concerned. The inspectors' duties take them all over the State, and they can attend to these things. I knew the Minister would agree to my suggestion as to the reason for the proposal. These ill-qualified and ill-equipped people are to be expected to undertake the work I have indicated. I have heard the Minister for Health discuss the importance of health control, both inside and outside the House, on many occasions.

Mr. Heron: After his illness, he has returned to the House to-night to oppose this Bill!

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I am prepared to bet a bit that he will not do so and that if he did raise his voice in protest, he would not get any support from Ministerial members. There has never before been a period in the history of this House when members on the Government side of the House have stuck so rigidly by their Minister's proposals. I do not know what it is in the Minister for Works that results in his getting his party behind him in all his proposals. The making of legislation controlling the timber industry is very important and ought to be well considered. Let us do the things that are necessary, and avoid the unnecessary things. After all, under all our laws for the benefit of the worker, he benefits only while he works; when he ceases to work he is not benefited in the least. The safe-working conditions that we imposed in respect of mining are of no benefit to the man not working; neither will these later conditions be of any use to

him except when he is working. I do not regret the introduction of a Bill to provide for the safe working of the industry—nobody could object to that—but I do resent the method the Minister has of attaching to this proposal, and every other proposal he brings down, conditions foreign to the object he has in view, not necessary to the carrying out of the main object. I do not know how the Minister's legislation is prepared. Apparently the Minister sets out to put a Bill together. Some idea strikes him; down it goes. Then some further idea comes along, and down it goes. I do not quite know how it is done.

The Minister for Works: How did you do it when you were over here?

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The other Ministers, at any rate, are not consulted by the Minister for Works. I did it by thinking out everything carefully, and by doing only those things that were necessary and right. It is of no use scaring a number of people unnecessarily when you set out to help the men engaged in the industry. There is no need for the Minister to assume before he starts that everybody concerned with the control or ownership of the industry is not a fit and proper person to sit on an inquiry. In Committee we will deal with that. I hope the Committee will realise that it will not be serving the workers if it does more than pass a measure that will give adequate and proper protection to the men whilst at work. I know that the great delight of the Minister for Works is to put together what he calls socialistic legislation. Somebody asked a Japanese professor what was the greatest social need of his nation to-day. He unhesitatingly replied that it was for somebody to grow food for the ever-increasing population. What is the greatest need in this State to-day? Of course, for somebody to provide work for the people out of work. In this Bill we are dealing with safety and conditions that make for safety. But we are deserting that to a great extent and doing a dozen other things. I hope the things we do will not result in the great harm that might follow the giving of the extraordinary powers that are sought. I beg all those who come from the timber areas and are interested in the industry to give the Bill earnest and serious consideration, to the end that we might do the things that will mean good to the worker, without indulging in the visionary things that may do him harm. And, above all, let us make the

Bill as simple and easily understood as possible. Too often it happens that all that is known of a measure by the people outside is such brief reports of the discussion here that they may read in the Press. And so misunderstandings are possible. But worse even than the misunderstandings is the deliberate putting into the measure of unnecessary things likely to work against the employment of people in this great industry.

MR. GEORGE (Murray - Wellington) [5.5]: Whilst I appreciate the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition respecting me, he is quite incorrect, for I have not been managing timber mills all my life. Yet I have had a great deal of experience of those mills. As I view it, the unfortunate thing in respect of Bills such as this one is that, if criticism be offered, those who criticise may be attacked as being adverse to the taking of proper precautions for the protection of the workers in the industry. Legislation of this sort is justifiable when it has for its object the protection of human life, including protection against injury, both as to persons and as to the industry itself. When first I read the Bill through and heard the speech of the Minister, I could not quite grasp it all. It seemed to me that while the thread running through the Bill was one with which we all agree, namely, protection, the Bill was somewhat of a medley. In some of the instances mentioned by the Minister one thought he was referring to the larger mills. Yet, the instances he gave could scarcely apply to such mills. If, on the other hand, he was referring to the smaller mills, a lot of the conditions could not apply to them either. The smaller mills do not run log lines; their timber is brought in by whips, or in winter time the logs are skidded. Then there is the jockeying of logs referred to by the Minister as being 12ft. high. That could not be done, for the smaller mills have not the machinery with which to do it; it would take a tremendous lot of power and could only be done by the big log haulers. I beg to differ from the Minister's remarks as to inspections by the inspectors of machinery. I have had a good deal to do with the machinery department, and all the inspectors I have met have been men who won general respect, not only because of their knowledge of the work, but also because they were men of ideas and quite prepared to assist others instead of endeavouring to glorify themselves. One such officer is Inspector Scott, who has ever been ready to advise people to

their good. Again, the Minister said the inspectors inspected only boilers. But they have to inspect machinery as well. In the mill I erected at Brunswick the inspector of machinery pointed out to us where the safeguards for the protection of the men could be improved. We took his advice and, in consequence, we never had anything like a serious accident. I mention that because I should not like it to go out that we thought those gentlemen employed in the machinery department did not do their work properly. Then the Minister said it was alleged that if an accident occurred the safeguards would be there when the inspector reached the place, but that as soon as he went away again they would be taken off. I do not think there is any foundation for that statement. Moreover, it carries its own refutation; because if such a thing were done it would be reported to the Timber Workers' Union, the secretary of which would attend to it at once. The Minister spoke of trees left too close to tramlines for safety. He must have been referring to big companies, such as Millars. For some years past I have not been over Millars' forests, but I know Mr. Munro, their supervisor over the mills, and I know that he travels over their lines. I am sure that, if he saw any unsafe tree standing too close to the lines, he would do as I did when I was in charge of the State mills, namely, have it down. No man would allow dangerous trees to remain near the line. But when it comes to the making of regulations under which the whole line must be cleared to a prescribed width and patrolled, it means that the industry is going to be interfered with in a very costly manner. Moreover, I do not know that the result would be any better than the existing conditions in respect of the big mills. What would be the prescribed width of a line through the forest? If it is to be such a width as would prevent any tree that might fall from touching the line, it would mean clearing 60ft. or 70ft. on either side of the line, or even more. If we are going to lay down a prescribed width that would mean such a clearing, we are going to put upon the work a cost that it would be impossible for the industry to stand. A good deal has been made of the smoke nuisance. I had to do with the Jarrahdale mills in 1890, and have conducted other mills since then, including my own mill. I suppose smoke could be described as a nuisance, but I have never seen it so bad as to cause any of the troubles suggested by the Minister, who said the

smoke was so thick that the sawyer could not see how to do his work, and so forth. It may be so, but I have never seen it. Yet I ran mills in Tasmania and Victoria before I came to this State. Of course it may have happened, but only, I am sure, in isolated instances.

Mr. Panton: It is a much improved smoke since your time.

Mr. GEORGE: Smoke from the starting of the world has been the same as it is now, and when the hon. member goes hence he will probably find that it does not differ there. The Minister said the smoke becomes so bad that the sawyers cannot see the saws. Well, I have heard many statements made, but never have I heard one like that. According to the Bill, a weekly examination of machinery is to be made. I should not object to that in itself, but any man managing a mill and responsible for the machinery does not require a weekly examination. If he knows his job he is on the lookout all the time for anything that may be wrong with the machinery, and the men working in the mill will soon let the foreman or manager know if there is anything wrong. The weekly examination is to be a special affair covering the whole of the job and probably it will occupy the best part of a day for the manager, who must then return to his office and make a record of it in the books. If Parliament passes that provision, it will have to be observed, but I hope it will not be passed, because it is unnecessary and will mean an undue interference with the ordinary running of the mills. The giving of notice of accidents, I presume, is carried out now. Reference is made to the action to be taken after an accident. An accident may occur in a mill, but as I interjected when the Minister was speaking, no one would wish in any way to interfere with the evidence of the cause of the accident. The various men in the mill would form their opinion, and the manager would have his opinion and would take notes. The manager has to do that owing to possible claims under the Workers' Compensation Act. If the mill is to be absolutely stopped until the district inspector can get to the place, which may be a day, two days, three days, or sometimes a week, how are the workmen going to fare for their wages meanwhile? How will this provision fit in with the awards of the court, which provide that the men be paid wages during the stoppage of a mill? An accident in a mill is bad enough of itself, but to throw

the whole mill out of employment, probably for days, when all the information necessary can be gathered and recorded at the time, is neither to the interests of the men nor to the interests of the employer. This is one matter in respect of which the interests of the employer as well as the men are identical. The men require employment in order to earn wages upon which they may be able to keep their homes going and the mill owners require the mill to continue to cut the timber so that they may earn money with which to pay the men's wages and meet other outgoings. Anything that would cause a stoppage longer than the accident itself rendered necessary would be interfering with the industry in a way that should not be permitted. I agree that an ambulance, a stretcher and the necessary requisites for first-aid should be kept at the mill and I believe they are kept at most mills. It seems to me that they would be kept as a matter of course, just as one, going out for an evening, would put a few shillings in one's pockets. It is a matter of course to have a cabinet of first-aid materials at every one of the mills. We had one when we started our little mill, and we ordered it without being told to do so. In all the big mills I believe the same thing is done. If a man is hurt, it does not matter what his religion or politics may be, he must be attended to as quickly as possible, regardless of the expense. The Minister has considered it necessary to include in the Bill one thing that surprised me greatly—prohibition of the employment of men who cannot speak English. That is quite right, but I thought such men were not allowed to come into the country.

Mr. Sleeman: They are not supposed to.

Mr. Sampson: In Queensland notices are posted in the Italian language so the workers may be able to read them.

Mr. GEORGE: We in Western Australia have not got so far as that and I hope we never shall. If we cannot keep the foreigners out, I hope we shall be able to keep our own language and make them employ it so that we shall know what they are about. The Minister referred to the houses provided for mill employees. I do not suppose he was referring to such mills as those of Millars, the Lumber Company, or the State Sawmills. I was under the impression that the timber workers' award compelled mill owners to put up dwellings of a certain type for married men and for bachelors. I know that the houses provided by Millars were good, just

as I know that those I myself built were good. When I first came to Western Australia I did not have as good a house to live in as is found in the mill areas to-day. It may be that the Minister was referring to the little spot mills, owned by men working a thousand acres or so and employing up to 20 hands. Such a mill owner has not the means to erect cottages similar to those provided by the big timber companies. The cottages cost, as a rule, anything up to £150 apiece, and if we insisted on a man who put through only five to 10 loads per day, providing for his married employees houses of the quality built by the big timber companies, he would be unable to comply for the simple reason that he would not have the money with which to do it. Consequently the men he would employ must be bachelors, or they must provide their own shacks. years ago the Jarrahdale company did not provide houses for employees. The men obtained face cuts from the timber heap and built shacks for themselves. I do not say it was right that they had to do that; I mention it to illustrate the condition of the industry in those days. No one made any money out of Jarrahdale prior to the nineties. The shacks were built of timber facings and, though they possessed little architectural beauty, they were quite comfortable for the man and his family. The big companies need no compulsion to provide decent houses for their employees, and the little man has not the money to do it. Many small sawmillers whom I have known started with a few hundred pounds and had to grow. If such men are to be compelled to incur the expense that must result if this Bill be passed, the day of the small man has gone, and I unhesitatingly say, as I have said before, that we would have had a more forceful class of people to build up this State if we had insisted upon small mills rather than by having big mills. The big mills reduce the business to a system and there is not the same initiative or the same influence exerted by the head as is the case with a small mill. If anyone wants good men to work a mill for him, he selects men with experience of small mills where they have had to turn their hand to everything. I fear that the effect of the measure will be to prevent the small man from entering into the business, and to interfere unduly with the bigger concerns. There is another aspect that I should like to commend to the Minister's consideration.

He knows that the days of sawmilling in this State are gradually coming to a close. The Forests Department will not allow anything like a large area of forest country to be alienated for the purpose of milling, and the areas they have been alienating during the last few years are propositions rather for hewing than for milling. That is to say, they are not large enough to pay for the providing, erecting and running of a mill. A man with broad axe, American axe, wedges, crosscut saw and maul can go into one of those areas and get a living out of it, but when we consider the production of timber, I say unhesitatingly that we get more out of a log in the mill than under the broad axe. There are good hewers who can break up a log with comparatively little waste, but taking it by and large, the mill can beat the hewer by 20 per cent. in the product from a log. Therefore I say we should be careful that we do not make the timber business one into which the small man cannot enter because he has not the means, or one in which only the axeman can engage. There is no chance of large mills being erected in this State now because the Forests Department would not be likely to alienate the requisite areas of country, and there is but little forest country belonging to private persons. The various concessions—Millars', Whittaker's and others—are gradually being worked out. To do so will take a long while, but as sure as fate they will be worked out, and then the day of the big mills will be gone. This measure will prevent the small miller from providing the cash to go on, and the Forests Department may then find it necessary to deal with the hewers. I note that under the Bill there are district and special inspectors with full powers, and also workmen's inspectors

who shall in accordance with the regulations be elected by the majority of persons bona fide employed as workers in the timber industry in the several districts; but no person shall be eligible for such appointment unless he has been engaged in general practical work in the industry for at least five years.

Who is to be the judge of that? As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, a man might be engaged in the timber industry for years without gaining a knowledge of anything except the particular job he was on. A man might be a tallyman or an axeman or a benchman, but very few men are to be found with such general knowledge of the work as would enable them to pass from one job to another, such knowledge as would

almost fit them to take the management of a mill. Clause 8 sets forth the powers of inspectors, and Subclause 2 of that clause reads—

A workmen's inspector may exercise the powers of a district inspector

The Bill therefore proposes to appoint an expert special inspector on the ground that he possesses certain knowledge without which he cannot take the position, and then the measure proposes that the workmen's inspector, who is not required to have the qualifications of the special inspector, may exercise the special inspector's powers. A little explanation from the Minister as to that feature would not be at all amiss. The clause referring to inquests makes certain prohibitions as to selection of jurors. I should have thought the coroner was the best judge of the persons likely to be of value as jurors. Yet Subclause 1 of Clause 21 provides—

A person having a personal interest in, or in the management of, the timber holding in which the accident occurred shall not be qualified to serve on the jury empanelled on the inquest . .

Perhaps the prohibition is justified, because it might be argued that if an interested person sat on the jury and the inquiry was likely to lead to trouble for his firm or himself, he would be biased. But I find jurors may be chosen from the men working in the mill. Is it not quite fair to suggest—I do not do it offensively—that those workmen might be biased not only in favour of the man killed, but especially in favour of those belonging to him? It is just as fair to suggest that a worker would be biased as that a person having a share in the mill would be biased. For my part I do not consider that anyone connected with a mill, either as employer or as employee, should be a juror in such a case. I hold that jurors should be drawn entirely from outside sources, where there could not possibly be any allegation of bias.

Mr. Wilson: It is not a question of bias at all, but a question of knowledge.

Mr. GEORGE: That is all right. But is there no knowledge on the part of the employer or his representative? I hope the hon. member does not misunderstand me. I look upon the clause as casting, not intentionally but still actually, a reflection upon the fairness of the persons interested on the side of the employers. If it is fair to pass such a provision affecting employers, there should be a similar provision affecting men

working in the mill. If there has been a fatal accident and knowledge of the working of mill machinery is not only desirable but necessary, the knowledge of persons accustomed to the working of a mill must be made available. If that information is obtained from workers appearing as witnesses, the jury should be able, under the coroner's direction, to ascertain exactly how things stand. The only other clause I wish to comment on is Clause 22, under Subclause 21 of which the Governor may make regulations.

For such other purposes, not expressly provided for, so far as regulations are necessary to give effect to this Act.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to this matter, but I wish to amplify his remarks by saying that such a power should be exercised only after due consultation with both the employers and the employees. In my opinion, every employer in the timber trade of this State would welcome from his employees any bona fide suggestion for the benefit of the work or for the better protection of human life; but the wording of this subclause makes me fear that the Minister will consult only one side before making further regulations. I should like to see representatives of the employers in the timber industry and of the timber workers meeting with the idea of considering what the daily practical work of the men teaches them and what the commonsense of the employers tells them should be dealt with; but if the industry is to be made like a feather bed all round, its days will be numbered and the workers, instead of benefiting, will find that their employment has vanished.

MR. J. H. SMITH (Nelson) [5.39]: I agree with the Minister that the time is ripe for the introduction of a Bill having for its object the protection of timber workers. That protection in the past has been afforded through boiler inspectors and factories and shops inspectors. Those inspectors have visited every timber mill in Western Australia. The unfortunate feature of the Bill is its lack of discrimination between large and small mills. Many of the clauses will not be practicable in the case of small mills. Therefore, some amendments will have to be moved in Committee. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that much of the matter in the Bill could well be omitted. For example, I do not think it is necessary to have two sets of inspectors going round to inspect the one set of machinery. Inspectors

are appointed by the Government irrespective of class or section, irrespective alike of employers and employees; and those inspectors must do their work thoroughly or be removed from their positions. Therefore, I fail to see the necessity for workmen's inspectors. The Minister has shown thoroughness in making the measure applicable to every section of the timber trade—yards, log landings, bush landings, and so forth—but he has not gone deeply into the subject of tram lines, although one part of the Bill provides that bush lines must be cleared of all dangerous trees. The Minister and his advisers should know that in the extreme South-West, more especially in the karri forest, it is impossible to have all bush lines cleared of all dangerous trees. The thing would be too costly. The matter of clearing should be left largely to the discretion of inspectors or managers. Many bush landings are laid down for only two or three months, just to cut the timber out of one gully. If the provisions of the measure are to be rigidly enforced, bush tramways will cost fortunes. In Committee I shall move an amendment on this point. Again, with regard to the removal of trees overhanging house sites, the Minister should know through his advisers that many fallers and other bush workers select their own house sites. There are no surveyed sites for such workers to reside on. One bush worker may be camped in one spot, and another worker may be camped with his wife and children in another spot a few hundred yards off, living in a two-roomed shack. Even if the inspectors require the removal of all timber overhanging house sites, it will never be done. It has never yet been done in the history of bush work. The bush worker has common-sense, and he may be trusted not to jeopardise the lives of his wife and children, because of an overhanging tree. A smoke screen cannot be fixed in a particular direction, for the simple reason that the wind blows from every quarter. It may blow for five minutes from the east, and for the rest of the day it may blow from the south or north. Therefore, fire chutes must be put up in the place most convenient for the working of the mill, in the place where the waste timber can be run out from behind the bench by friction gear. Nobody knows which way the smoke will go. I have had experience of various mills, and have never yet known smoke to be so bad that the benchman could not see where to place his pins. On the occasion to which the Minister in his

second reading speech referred, there must have been something radically wrong; perhaps a hurricane was blowing the smoke into the mill. I do not know how the Minister can compel mill managers to erect smoke screens.

Miss Holman: Not so long ago smoke screens were erected at Mornington.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: How do they work when the wind is blowing from the opposite direction?

Miss Holman: I do not know. However, they have been erected at Mornington.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I am glad to learn that Mornington keeps up with the times and has smoke screens. I know, however, that in many mills, they have not been erected and that the smoke has not affected the men. I have never heard complaints on the score of smoke at the mills I have visited. In view of the Factories and Shops Act I do not know that the introduction of this Bill is necessary. The Act in question provides, by regulation, for sufficient space behind the bench and generally for sufficient room to enable the men to work safely. For the protection of life and limb, inspectors under the Factories and Shops Act are visiting the mills continually, just as they visit every little factory. They see that belting and machinery are furnished with guards so that the safety of employees may not be jeopardised. If that is not done it is the fault of the inspector, not of the Act. I cannot see that the Bill will do much good; it is altogether too cumbersome. I do not consider that there is any necessity for many of the regulations, and when we reach the Committee stage I will endeavour to have some of the clauses deleted or radically amended. I have no wish to oppose the second reading because the time is ripe when we should have some such legislation. I am aware that the existing Factories and Shops Act is unsatisfactory. Although there is nothing wrong with that Act, the fact remains that there are not sufficient inspectors to see that the lives of the workmen in the outback timber centres are adequately safeguarded. In respect of some mills, as soon as you look at them you realise the danger that exists to life and limb. I know of small and big mills where it is possible to see danger. That danger is avoided only by the care and energy as well as the years of experience of the employees. In the Committee stage I shall endeavour to secure an amendment to the clause that makes it com-

pulsory for every mill to have on hand sufficient bandages and first-aid equipment. Where a hospital exists at a mill, such a provision should not be necessary because the hospital is generally up to date in all respects.

The Minister for Lands: If the hospital is at the mill, the bandages will be available.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: The Bill does not make provision for that; it says that the management shall provide the bandages and equipment. I contend that is not necessary where a hospital is on a mill site. The principal objection I have is regard to the tramway lines. It will be almost impossible to observe the suggested provision in the case of a tramline that is in a gully where it is intended to cut out the timber in a month or perhaps six weeks. If the removal of what may be said to be dangerous trees is made obligatory, a great deal of unnecessary expense will be involved.

The Minister for Lands: And if a man is killed by a falling tree, what about the expense then?

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Accidents will happen at any time; an accident may happen to anyone whilst walking along the road.

Miss Holman: A woman and a baby were killed by a tree falling in the Pemberton bush.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I remember that occurrence; I was not far away at the time. The unfortunate woman was camped in a tent by that tree. Still, accidents may happen to anyone travelling along the road down South, or even while sitting underneath a tree having afternoon tea or lunch. At any time a tree might fall and kill someone.

Miss Holman: That is no reason why precautions should not be taken.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: This is going beyond the extreme line altogether. Why not make the provision general, and say that the whole of the population in the State must be protected, or that road boards must clear overhanging or dangerous trees from either side of the road? It will not be possible for me or anyone else to go out into the bush and pitch my tent or build my home right on the job, if the inspector says that before doing so I must remove 30 or 40 trees that may be overhanging my tent. Is such a proposition just or reasonable?

The Minister for Lands: You would be foolish to pitch your tent there.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Then where is one to put it? The Minister for Lands himself visits the group settlements, and I have seen him sitting in his car having lunch beneath overhanging trees.

The Minister for Lands: But not dangerous ones. I have looked out for them.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: How does the Minister define a dangerous tree? It is impossible to do so. The Bill goes too far. The Minister was led away by enthusiasm when he inserted the clauses applying to dangerous trees close to tramlines. I believe that better inspection should be provided; it has been long wanted. The timber workers are entitled to more protection, if only for their own sake, as they are known to be a careless section of the community. At the present time an inspector goes along only once in a way and has a casual look around. But I cannot see why we should have two sets of inspectors. Does the Minister desire it to be inferred that the present-day inspectors are incapable?

The Minister for Works: To which class of inspector do you object?

Mr. J. H. SMITH: The Minister could have workers' inspectors if he chose; I do not care whether they be appointed by the workers or by the Government, but why have a duplicate lot of inspectors? The Government, who represent the timber workers, could appoint their own inspectors. There is no need for others. So sure as we have two sets of inspectors, so sure will there be friction. If the two lots are appointed, and one lot says everything is correct and the other says the reverse, who is to arbitrate? Will the Minister decide? That is another provision in the Bill that I shall endeavour to amend in Committee. I have no intention of opposing the Bill and I shall vote for the second reading.

MISS HOLMAN (Forrest) [5.53]: I have first of all to congratulate the Government on bringing down this Bill. Contrary to what the Leader of the Opposition says, that none of us is in the picture with the Minister for Works, my duty is to do something for the people I represent. If the Minister for Works, on representations made by myself and others, proposes to do something for those employed in the timber industry then I congratulate him. Soon after I came into this House, consequent upon information left by my late father, I asked the Government to introduce a Bill on these lines

and for 18 months I have been gathering information as to what has been done for this industry in other States and countries. I am pleased to say that the Minister for Works took up the matter and submitted the Bill we now have before us. The member for Nelson (Mr. J. H. Smith) treated the subject in a more serious vein than did the Leader of the Opposition. He at least thinks that we should have more inspection. The Leader of the Opposition admitted that we wanted something for the protection of the workers in the industry, but in my opinion he did not give the Bill the serious consideration it deserves. For years past every conference of timber workers has asked for better inspection to be carried out. The member for Nelson referred to the smoke nuisance. I will quote a paragraph from the report of our last conference—

A great nuisance at Mornington, as at many other centres, is the smoke nuisance. Some time ago we made representations to the local manager that something should be done to mitigate the evil. He promised to do his best, and shortly before I left for this conference the erection of smoke screens was being undertaken.

Mr. George: That was one of Millar's mills.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Has it been a success?

Miss HOLMAN: The report says that it was being carried out. I have had no complaints from Mornington since then. The member for Nelson said he had never heard of such a thing as the smoke nuisance. As a matter of fact, a request for special consideration in this regard came from his own district.

Mr. J. H. Smith: I said I had heard of it.

Miss HOLMAN: It is being attended to in the timber districts.

Mr. George: That shows that when Millars know of a thing to be wrong, they put it right.

Miss HOLMAN: It has taken a long time to put it right. The conference report from which I quoted is dated 1925, and I understand that the timber industry has existed in this State since 1844. The first shipment of timber left for England in that year, and between 1844 and the present day is a far cry. The number of men engaged in the industry is very large. In the Australian Timber Workers' Union there are 3,500 men, without counting others employed in the industry. The number indirectly affected is anything up to 15,000. I would like to read the remarks of Mr. Justice Higgins on the

risks connected with the industry, remarks which show that the subject has been left for legislation. On page 10 of "A New Province for Law and Order" Mr. Justice Higgins writes—

The court will not prescribe extra wages to compensate for unnecessary risks to the life or health of the employees or unnecessary dirt. No employer is entitled to purchase by wages the right to endanger life or to treat men as pigs.

He also says in the case of the marine cooks versus the Commonwealth Steamship Owners' Association—

Unhealthy conditions under which individual employees suffer, if the conditions are not necessarily incidental to their employment, are to be ignored in framing a scale of wages, and may be left to parliamentary regulation. If he submits to unnecessarily injurious and degrading conditions for the sake of higher wages, he soon finds that such conditions become permanent, and that any increase of wages based thereon is temporary. Such grievances, if they exist, would be best dealt with by regulation in or under an Act of Parliament.

He further says in the case of the Federated Seamen's Union of Australia against the Commonwealth steamship owners and others "That is a matter for Parliament to regulate." In the matter of providing safety and protection for the workers in the timber industry, Western Australia, according to the inquiries I have made, is absolutely last on the list. In every other State of the Commonwealth and in other countries concerning which I have made inquiries, special regulations are promulgated and in some of them the conditions are far more stringent than they are in the Bill before us. In the arbitration case in Melbourne, in which I took part with my father in 1923, Mr. Justice Webb said—

Neither will the court, by making a provision in a wage, countenance carelessness on the part of an employer. You are not going to pay a man an extra wage because his employer put him in a position of unnecessary danger.

The production of sawn and hewn timber in Western Australia is, for the last year quoted in the "Official Year Book," second only to New South Wales amongst the States of the Commonwealth. For the year 1923-24 New South Wales produced 167,493,000 super feet of timber and Western Australia produced 161,749,000 super feet. For the years 1921-22 and 1922-23 Western Australia headed the list. The "Official Handbook" for 1925 says that the value of timbers exported, since the first shipment left for England in 1844, was £22,000,000. The forestry

revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1925, was £160,000. Three-fifths of this, according to the Forests Act, 1918, may be applied to the reforestation of State forests and the development of the industry. The exports from Western Australia were the largest in the Commonwealth for the year ended 30th June, 1925, namely, 11,126,861 super feet valued at £1,379,000. When I say that Western Australia is behind the other States and other countries in respect of its timber industry, I am not saying something I have not good reason to believe. So far as I have been able to ascertain from the various timber centres in this State, no man employed in the industry has ever known of an inspection of machinery except in the case of boilers. Perhaps in the first instance when the mill is erected an inspector may visit it and give a certificate. Additions may be made to the mill, and nothing is done. It is ridiculous to say that machinery is inspected by the boiler inspector. Firstly the machinery inspector sends word that he intends to visit a mill. Before a boiler can be examined, the mill has to be stopped. The inspector has no chance of examining the running of machinery when the mill is not in operation, or saying whether it is dangerous or not to the employees should he arrive, say, on the Saturday afternoon, or during the week when the mill would have to be stopped to permit him to examine the boiler.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Sometimes he would inspect the machinery first.

Miss HOLMAN: I understand from men who have had 28 years of experience in the industry that no inspector ever inspects the machinery other than the boiler or the engine. In New Zealand the Factories Act governs the inspection of mills. In that Act there are some very stringent sections dealing with accidents. They deal with all kinds of preventive measures and safeguards, such as where belts or pulleys are used the factory shall be furnished with belt shifters or other safe mechanical contrivances. The Act says:

The safeguard shall not be removed whilst the appliance to which it relates is in use, unless for the purpose of making immediate repairs, and in such case the safeguard shall be replaced as soon as the repairs are effected. If the inspector considers any appliance to be unsafe, he may prohibit its use by affixing to it a notice under his hand containing the words, 'The use of this is prohibited as being unsafe.' Such notice shall not be removed except by the inspector, nor until he is satisfied that the appliance has been rendered safe, and

until the notice has been removed by him the appliance shall not be used.

They go much further in New Zealand than we are endeavouring to do. They set out the accommodation to be provided by employers for the flax mill workers and saw mill workers. The member for Nelson (Mr. J. H. Smith) says that the award in this State specifically deals with what shall be built for married men or single men engaged in the industry.

Mr. J. H. Smith: I did not make that statement.

Miss HOLMAN: It was the member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. George) who stated that the award specified the buildings to be put up for workers on the mills or landings. The award merely deals with the size of the hut, and how many men shall occupy the hut. It does not deal with the specific style of hut. The "New Zealand Gazette" of the 12th June, 1923, sets out what the flooring boards of the accommodation for workers shall consist of. It states how the walls and ceilings shall be lined, and says that the roof of every room that is not ceiled shall, if covered with iron, be lined with felt, paper or sacking, to the satisfaction of the inspector. Not more than two persons shall be required to sleep in any one room, and each bunk shall be provided with a spring mattress. Separate rooms shall in all cases be provided for sleeping and for meals. No person shall be required, or permitted, to sleep in any room where food is usually kept, or in any place insufficiently shut off from such room. It goes on to say—

There shall be provided to the satisfaction of the district health officer or inspector an ample supply of clean and wholesome water for drinking, culinary and washing purposes. Suitable ambulance appliances to the satisfaction of the district health officer shall be provided at every flax mill and at every saw mill.

There are some 15 regulations dealing with the accommodation for saw mill workers. In the New Zealand timber workers' award the following is stated:—

Accommodation: Proper and sufficient accommodation shall be provided for all workers at the mills. Employers shall provide a grindstone for workers employed in the bush. All saw mills shall be equipped with an ambulance chest containing lint, bandages, splints, and antiseptics, and a printed card of instructions how to proceed in dealing with the more common and serious accidents. Where necessary a shower bath and facilities for drying clothes shall be provided.

Bush huts: Where required a weather-proof hut shall be provided at every bush winch for

the convenience of the workers at lunch time, and to provide shelter and a safe keeping place for tools and clothes.

The last-mentioned item is practically unknown in Western Australia.

Mr. Mann: New Zealand is a wet country.

Miss HOLMAN: So is our South-West in the winter. Many of our bushmen have to put up with rheumatics and other afflictions through having to eat their lunch in the open during the winter. In New Zealand there are special Dominion inspectors dealing with accommodation at sawmills. This is an extract from the "Southland Times," 28th June, 1926—

The writer added that the Dominion inspector of accommodation at sawmills, who was at present in the north island, would shortly be visiting the mills.

In New Zealand notices are posted such as "First-aid appliances required in factories," "Be Careful! Safety Notice, Machinists and Assistants," "Be Careful, Safety Notice, Report unsafe places to your foreman or manager, do not leave a trap for others," "Ambulance Appliances." In all the time I have been connected with the timber industry I have never seen anything like this posted up around the mills.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Do you think the employees would take any notice of them if these things were posted?

Miss HOLMAN: Later on I will refer to a statement which says that the safety of the people is a matter of harmony between the employer and employee, and a matter of protection on the part of the employer and education on the part of the employee. Because some people in the industry may be careless, that is no reason why we should risk the lives and limbs of all the workers in it. One section of the Inspection of Machinery Act of New Zealand says—

Every inspector shall keep full minutes of all his proceedings, and shall from time to time report the same to the Chief Inspector, with such particulars and information as the Chief Inspector requires.

It would be a good idea if this could be embodied in the Bill before us. In South Australia the proper inspection of timber mills is carried out under the Industrial Code. Division 14 of Part V. of that Code refers to the fencing of machinery, and Division 18, No. 329, refers to notice. We have the same clause in this Bill. If an employee is incapacitated for work for more than 24 hours, notice shall be sent in. In Queens-

land there is no special Act. I believe the work is carried out there under the Machinery Act. The regulations made under the State insurance scheme have an indirect bearing on the safety of the industry in the State. In Victoria the inspection is very effective and comprehensive. The inspectors are empowered to issue what amounts to orders to the proprietors. The inspection of that State applies to the bush as well as to the metropolitan area. The Forest Commission of Victoria issued regulations under which they provide for the safety of forest tramways. I believe the employers in that State are more or less under the jurisdiction of the Forests Department for their licenses or permits, or concessions. Something should be done to see that the railways and tram tracks are kept in order. The Victoria Act says that the licensee shall be personally responsible for the proper protection and maintenance in good and safe order and condition of such tramway, and of every part thereof, including bridges, culverts, points and crossings, and also its rolling stock, including locomotives and trucks for the regular transport of forest produce, etc. etc.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Miss HOLMAN: Before the tea adjournment I was reading the regulations under the Forests Acts in operation in Victoria. These dealt with tramways laid down in the forests and include the following:—

The licensee shall be personally responsible for the proper construction and maintenance in good and safe order and condition of such tramway, and of every part thereof, including its loop-lines, bridges, culverts, make-up points and crossings, and also of its rolling stock, including locomotives and trucks for the regular transport of forest produce and other authorised produce, as well as of authorised persons employed in the forest or in the service of the Commission.

Further regulations read—

Every tramway and every part thereof shall be kept and maintained in good order and repair for the purpose of transporting forest produce and any other freight which may be authorised, and for the safety of persons and animals employed thereon in the traction, maintenance or running thereof.

Licensees shall be personally responsible for seeing that every mill truck used for the transport of forest produce on the licensed tramway is (a) strongly and properly made, and is provided with proper and efficient brake gear for regulating and controlling its speed and running power; (b) kept and maintained in good order and condition for the transport of forest

produce and for the safety of persons and animals employed in operating it.

These regulations are very stringent but are very necessary. Under the Shops and Factories Acts in Victoria there are also notices posted in every factory and mill. These notices provide warnings about belts and ropes used for transmitting power. Then there are a number of regulations under those Acts dealing with sawmills. The latter set of regulations are headed "Regulations regarding certain dangerous plant; guarding machinery." It sets out regulations dealing with belts and ropes used in factories for transmitting power and refers to chaff-cutting machines, mincing machines, tannery (shaving and crop rolling) machines, and then deals with woodworking machines. The first regulation under the last-mentioned heading deals with chain mortising machines and the next one deals with band saws. Then circular saws are dealt with, and the regulation under this heading reads—

The occupiers of all factories in which circular saws (except saws which move towards the timber) are used shall so guard the top, back, and lower portion of each saw that accidental contact therewith will not be possible. The guards must conform to the following conditions:—(a) All guards shall be readily adjustable to the different sized saws used in the bench; (b) the top guard shall be kept as close to the top of the saw as is practicable; (c) the back guard shall at all times cover the back of the saw and extend from the top of the bench to the underside of the top guard, and at the bench level be not more than five-eighths of an inch distant from the saw teeth; this condition not to apply to firewood saws guarded with flat strap guard; (d) the portion of the saw beneath the bench shall (if not completely enclosed in a dust-collecting hood) be enclosed by means of boards or sheet iron; the enclosure must extend at least two inches below the saw teeth, and the opening therein through which the sawdust passes shall not exceed three inches in width; (e) guards shall be kept in an efficient state, securely fixed, and may only be removed when the nature of the work renders their use impracticable.

The next regulation deals with pendulum or swinging cross cut saws, and this regulation reads—

The occupiers of all factories in which pendulum or swinging crosscut saws are used shall guard same as follows:—(a) All teeth above the centre line shall be covered with a hood made of metal or other suitable material; (b) the back of the bench is in such a position that operatives may come in contact with the saw, the back of the saw shall be completely enclosed; (c) a check chain shall be attached. The said chain shall be made of not less than quarter-inch welded steel links, and be securely bolted at one end to the saw frame, and at the other end to a permanent fixture.

It shall be of such a length that it will at all times prevent the projection of any portion of the saw past the front edge of the saw bench.

I would like to explain that in practically every instance in this State the pendulum or swinging crosscut saws are called dockers saws. At one of the mills from which I received some information it would appear that the check weight was attached to the saw by means of a rope. There were two dockers that were dealt with in that way. Hon. members can imagine what friction is developed when the saw is constantly swinging backwards and forwards and they will therefore appreciate the danger such a provision would mean to those working the saw. I have drawings supplied by a worker at a Holyoake mill. Some years ago an accident occurred there. The check weight, which weighed about 140lbs., was attached to the saw by a bit of fencing wire. The friction caused the wire to fray with the result that when the worker caught hold of the handle to pull the saw out, the wire broke and the saw was pulled right over the rollers and cut the man through and killed him. Regulations should be framed to guard against such accidents and as such regulations are already in existence in Victoria and other States of the Commonwealth it is not unfair that we should ask for similar regulations here. The Victorian Department of Labour issues pamphlets dealing with various types of machinery. There is one dealing with the surface planer or buzzer plane. I can give instances of employees losing several fingers because of the slippery floors and planers not being properly looked after. In the pamphlet dealing with surface planing machines that was issued by the Victorian Department of Labour and was compiled by F. J. Pemberton, inspector of machinery there, it is said—

There having been many accidents in connection with this machine, which is regarded in this department as one of the most dangerous of the wood-working appliances. In the year 1920, owners of surface planers were compelled to equip their machines with the "Bridge" guard. This had to be adjusted by hand, and accidents were frequent owing to the operators failing to properly adjust the guard, and, in some cases, removing it altogether. On the 5th April, 1921 the following order was made in lieu of the order previously in force:—"The occupiers of all factories in which wood-working surface planing machines, commonly known as buzzer planes, are used, shall (1) fit circular head cutters to such wood-working surface planing machines in all cases where circular head cutters are not already fitted; (2) provide, adjust, and keep properly

adjusted to such machines an approved automatic guard; (3) keep the edges of the opening in which the cutter head revolves adjusted as near together as possible consistent with the proper working of the machine." The beneficial effect of this regulation is shown by the following table:—

Year.	Number of Accidents.	Number of Finger Joints Lost.
1919	23	53
1920	25	42
1921	21	13
1922	10	4

Of the four finger joints lost in 1922, two were due to a machine with a square head, and the others to a machine which had the edges of the table broken at the throat.

These results effectively show what may be expected when proper precautions are taken. In circular No. 5 issued by the same department and compiled by the same officer, he deals with circular saws. He says—

The circular saw is very dangerous, and is the cause of more industrial accidents than any other machine. The more serious accidents can be divided into two classes—those due to timber being caught by the back or top of the saw and those due to contact with the bottom of the saw. In the first case the timber is thrown back with terrific force, and unless the sawyer is quick enough to avoid it, he is either killed or sustains serious injury.

Then the writer goes on to deal with the different types of guards that should be used and illustrations are included in the pamphlet giving views of actual guards installed in different factories. For instance, there is a side view and front view of a guard installed by the firm of James Moore & Sons of Victoria for use in their factory. The pendulum or swinging crosscut saw that I mentioned before is also illustrated in the pamphlet and shows the guard installed by James Moore and Sons of Melbourne. I have a paper mentioning that the proprietors of the Rubicon Lumber Company, of Victoria, have been prosecuted by the Factories Department of that State and been found guilty of having an unguarded saw. I have not heard of any similar prosecution in this State. In New South Wales the mills are dealt with under the Shops and Factories Act and the section dealing with guards of dangerous machinery" is set out in full as in the other States. I have received from the Bureau of Labour Statistics, U.S.A., a copy of the publication setting out the labour laws of the United States, with decisions of courts

relating thereto. The timber industry is included in the list of hazardous occupations. In the State of Arizona very strict regulations are in force in order to ensure the safety of the workers in that industry. They set out that—

All work in mills, shops, works, yards, plants and factories where steam, electricity, or any other mechanical power is used to operate machinery and appliances in and about such premises, etc., is subject to certain provisions. In Vermont there are also regulations provided setting out the powers and duties of inspectors. These include the following:—

The commissioner of industries may enter a factory, mill, workshop, private works, or State institution which has shops or factories, when the same are open or in operation, for the purpose of examining into the methods of protection from danger to employees and into the sanitary condition in and around such buildings and places and to make a record of such inspection. In case said commissioner finds upon such inspection that the heating, lighting, ventilating, or sanitary arrangement of a workshop or factory is such as to be injurious to the health of the persons employed or residing therein or that the means of egress in case of fire or other disaster is insufficient, or that the belting, shafting, gearing, elevators, drums, saws, cogs, or machinery in such workshop or factory are located or are in such a condition as to be dangerous to employees and not sufficiently guarded, or that vats, pans, or any other structures filled with molten metal or hot liquids are not surrounded with sufficient safeguards to prevent accident or injury to those employed at or near them.

The regulations also provide for penalties. Washington laws say—

Also responsible safeguards for all vats, pans, trimmers, cut-off gang edger, and other saws, planers, cogs, gearings, belting, shafting, coupling, set screws, live rollers, conveyors, mangles in laundries, and machinery of other or similar description which it is practicable to guard and which can be effectively guarded, with due regard to the ordinary use of such machinery and appliances and the dangers to employees therefrom, and with which the employees of any such factory, mill, or workshop are liable to come in contact while in the performance of their duties; and if any machine or any part thereof is in a defective condition and its operation would be hazardous because of such defect, or if any machine is not safeguarded as provided in this Act, the use thereof is prohibited.

It goes on to say that what shall be done and what the penalty is. I have received a letter from the Commissioner of Labour Statistics, who says—

The need of more specific regulations has been recognised by the industry, and a suggested code on the subject has been formulated. In States which have commissions or departments authorised to establish safety re-

gulations, this code can be adopted without legislative action; but in most States the Legislatures would have to act to make it effective. You will note that the form was formulated only recently, so that not sufficient time has elapsed for its embodiment in legislation, if such steps would be taken; but inasmuch as the code was drawn up in collaboration with the parties in interest, fortunately its application to the mills does not necessarily depend on legal action.

To-day a copy of the safety code for wood working plants has also come to hand. I have not yet had time to study this, but it seems from that letter and this code that far from being a side line in America, the timber industry is recognised as being a dangerous industry and worthy of inquiry for special code and regulations. Those present at the conference that drew up the code represented the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions; the National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters; the makers of safeguards; the Department of Commerce; the manufacturers of wood-working machinery; the users of wood-working machinery; the workmen; the Federal Compensation Commission; the National Association of Mutual Casualty Companies; the Electric Power Club, and the National Safety Council. The introduction to the work states—

This wood-working safety code is primarily intended to cover the hazards at the "point of operation" in wood-working machinery from the crude lumber to the finished product.

It deals with all sorts of saws and with the machine layout. For instance, it says—

Machines should be so located that each operator will have sufficient space in which to handle the material with the least possible interference from or to other workmen or machines. Machines should be so placed that it will not be necessary for the operator to stand in or so near an aisle as to be a hazard.

On the keeping of floors repaired it says—

All floors shall be kept in good repair and shall be free from protruding nails, splinters, holes, unevenness and loose boards.

As to non-slip floors, it is prescribed—

Floors where operators stand to operate machines such as wood shapers, jointers, saws and wood-turning lathes shall be provided with effective means to prevent slipping.

A rule is given dealing with counterweights on swing saws and prescribing how they shall be put on. Another rule directs that all woodworking machinery shall be inspected at intervals not exceeding 60 days, that is the official inspection. Then there is an index occupying four columns in very small type. That is just to cover the same

industry as we have here. In England this matter has been gone into very thoroughly. There they have the Factory and Workshop Act, which deals with the draining of floors, the power to make orders as to dangerous machines, inquest in case of death by accident in factory or workshop, washing conveniences where arsenic or other poisonous substances are used. "Woodworking machinery, use of," is quoted as a dangerous trade. Then we have the publication of penalties. The powers of inspectors are very full. At common law a workman can take action if the employer is guilty of negligence in neglecting to provide and maintain proper appliances. Mill gearing is almost of the same description as in our present Bill. And there is a Workmen's Compensation Act dealing with notice of accidents. First-aid ambulance and safety appliances are dealt with. It is provided that in any factory where there are 25 or more operatives, there shall be a first-aid box. In the same Act it is provided under the regulations gazetted in September, 1906, that the use of locomotives, wagons, and other rolling stock on lines of rail or sidings in any factory or workshop or any place to which the provisions of Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act are applied by that Act, or on lines of rail or sidings used in connection with any factory or workshop or any place as aforesaid and not being part of a railway within the meaning of the Railway Employment (Prevention of Accidents) Act—the use of these is governed by schedules and parts. For instance, we get—

The occupier of any line of rails or sidings used in connection with a factory or workshop or with any place to which any of the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act are applied, shall comply with Part I of these regulations.

Then it is provided that lines of rails and points shall be periodically examined and kept in efficient order having regard to the nature of the traffic. The Home Office has issued a special pamphlet, Safety Pamphlet No. 8 entitled "Fencing and other safety precautions for woodworking machinery." They have issued regulations dealing with the dangerous and unhealthy industries. Under these regulations "woodworking machine" means a circular saw, plain band saw, planing machine, vertical spindle, moulding machine or chain mortising machine operating on wood. The duties of occupiers in regard to every woodworking machine are stated. "Such machines shall be provided

with an efficient stopping and starting appliance, and the control of this appliance shall be in such a position as to be readily and conveniently operated by the person in charge of the machine." "Sufficient clear and unobstructed space shall be maintained at every woodworking machine while in motion to enable the work to be carried on without unnecessary risk." "The floor surrounding every woodworking machine shall be maintained in good and level condition and as far as practicable free from chips or other loose material and shall not be allowed to become slippery." "Where the natural light at a woodworking machine is inadequate, and can be improved by the provision of additional or better windows not involving serious structural alteration, or by whitening the walls or tops of the factory, or by any other reasonable means, the occupier shall take steps to improve the natural light at the machine." A further clause deals with artificial lights. Then it deals with the fencing of a circular saw. There is half a page of regulations dealing with that, and the rest of the regulations are concerned with planing machines. Let me quote this from the introductory page of the pamphlet No. 8 mentioned before—

The long list of accidents, including many fatalities, which are reported year by year as being due to wood-working machinery affords ample evidence of the need for special precautions and for a specially high standard of fencing in connection with these machines.

This pamphlet was issued by the Home Office. My copy came from the Under Secretary for State. It deals with the easy manipulation of safeguards, with warning notices, with secure footholds, with machine starting gear, with illumination, with mill gearing, and with circular saws. In connection with circular saws the pamphlet states—

It should be understood before going further that there is no single fitment which is universally applicable to every aspect of such a variable tool. There is however no sawing operation for which it is not possible to provide reasonable safeguards or safe methods of working. Injuries are occasioned by contact with some part of the blade whether above or below the bench and by objects thrown off the saw either because some loose piece of wood has become entangled in the teeth or because the half cut timber has closed in and caught upon the saw. This projection of timber due to the wood pinching on the saw blade is exceedingly dangerous as the timber is flung back with great violence. The fatal accidents at circular saws are usually occasioned in this fashion and a

piece of parquetry no larger than a brick thrown back by the saw has caused death.

The paragraph concludes—

There is practically no sawing operation at which one form or another of this safeguard cannot be used.

On page 66 there is a long article dealing with exhaust ventilation for the removal of dust, and the different appliances in use for that purpose. On page 80 we get as an appendix an order dated 8th November, 1918, in regard to ambulance and first-aid arrangements at sawmills and factories in which articles of wood are manufactured. The first regulation of this order states—

In every factory to which this order applies and in which the total number of persons employed is 25 or more, the occupier shall provide in readily accessible positions first-aid boxes or cupboards in the proportion of at least one to every 150 persons.

It is further ordered that in each first aid box there shall be a copy of the First Aid Leaflet issued by the Factory Department of the Home Office; and it recites a number of other things that shall be contained in each box. Then there is a publication issued by the International Labour Office of Geneva dealing with safety devices for wood working machinery both in Great Britain and in Switzerland. It says this about Great Britain—

Under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, the Home Secretary is empowered to issue special regulations for the protection of workers employed in dangerous trades. That wood working falls into this category is proved by the number of recorded accidents, which totalled 2,424 in 1921, including seven fatal, 2,604 in 1922 (six fatal), and 3,187 (eight fatal) in 1923. The authorities consider these figures high, but a considerable improvement in the situation should result from the issue of special regulations drawn up in 1922 and brought into force on the 1st January, 1923.

I will not go through the articles dealing with England as I have already touched upon them directly in the English works; but in Switzerland the principles on which safety work is based differ somewhat from those generally adopted elsewhere. Section 65 of the Act of 1911 on sickness and accident insurance contains the following provision:—

In any undertaking specified in Section 60, the employer or his representative shall take all such steps for the prevention of sickness and accidents as have been proved necessary by experience in so far as the circumstances and the results of scientific progress permit. The

National office may order any measure it considers necessary after consulting the persons concerned and the latter may appeal to the Federal Council within 20 days. Thus measures for the prevention of accidents in undertakings subject to Federal legislation or to sickness or accident insurance are entrusted to the National Accident Insurance Office at Lucerne. Since its establishment in 1919 the Accident Prevention Department has been obliged to pay very close attention to wood-working machinery. The use of such machinery is very general in Switzerland, it being estimated that not less than 20,000 or 25,000 circular saws are employed in undertakings subject to compulsory insurance (about 35,000). The wood industry proper is a very important one in this country. According to the 1919 census of a total of 809,114 persons employed in industry, 56,090 or 6.8 per cent. were engaged in wood working.

Then there follows a table giving some idea of the relative gravity of the accidents due to various kinds of wood working machines. It mentions the proportion of all accidents on wood working machines notified under the compulsory insurance system. Those figures show that the average proportion of permanent disablement is high and that circular saws, band saws, frame saws, overhead planing machines, spindle moulders and horizontal moulding machines are the most dangerous types of machine. Under the heading "preventive measures" is the following—

The Accident Prevention Department is, of course, in entire agreement with the British authorities as to the need for all the general precautions described in the previous chapter. Careful installation of the machines in the workshop, the lighting of premises, etc., are everywhere of the same importance. . . . In the vast majority of cases the guarding of the machinery itself is the chief question, and in this respect the National Office has introduced a most interesting innovation, itself devising adequate safeguards, manufacturing them wholesale, and supplying them at cost price to manufacturers who apply for them If an employer prefers himself to construct the guard prescribed by the office, the latter supplies the necessary designs and patterns, and will even lend one of its own appliances in order to facilitate his work. In theory the employer is even entitled to devise an appliance of his own, but since such a device must satisfy very strict conditions, often the only acceptable pattern is that of the National Office. The latter is prepared to lend the heads of undertakings the sums needed for carrying out the prescribed measures on very advantageous terms, the interest charged being only four per cent., and repayment being spread over five years. This makes it easier for the Accident Prevention Department to obtain material results. It is thanks to its position as part of the compulsory insurance system that it is able to make such an offer. The management of the National Office has decided

to profit by any reduction in industrial activity such as the recent depression in Swiss industry to enforce all suitable preventive measures. Under normal conditions the manufacturer would rather pay fines than interrupt urgent work, and indefinitely postpones the execution of improvements ordered on the plea that there has been no time for it. In a period of depression he cannot advance this excuse, and he then raises financial obligations which the National Office can meet only by advancing funds. It has already been seen that under the law the head of an undertaking must take all necessary steps for the prevention of accidents, which implies that he is under an obligation to provide guards for his machines. If he fails to do this he is liable to have his premium due to the National Office raised, quite apart from the possibility of prosecution. The Act does not expressly lay down that the workers must use the guards supplied by their employer, but under Section 98, if an accident is due to serious negligence on the part of the insured person, the benefit paid by the National Office is reduced according to the degree of negligence.

In conclusion, this work compares the British idea with the Swiss idea as follows:—

This is characteristic of the spirit of British legislation which always respects individual ideas and actions as much as possible. In Switzerland the administrative body responsible for industrial safety is able to go further It endeavours to design such a standard model and then aims at getting it adopted everywhere. It is with that end in view that it manufactures the model whole sale, and sells it at cost price If the worker finds the same type of safeguard in all undertakings, he becomes used to it, and ends by employing it constantly, but it makes a very much greater call on his goodwill if he has continually to accustom himself to new appliances.

Coming to the Commonwealth, we have the work of Dr. D. G. Robertson, Director of Industrial Hygiene, Commonwealth Department of Health who, dealing with industrial accident prevention, says—

If industrial accidents are to be prevented or even materially reduced in number, efforts must be directed by well-studied plans, and they must be continuous and persistent The States of Western Australia and Tasmania, in their annual reports on the operations of their respective Factories and Shops Acts, furnish no particulars whatever as regards accidents.

He gives a table of accidents in Victoria which shows that the timber trades have a total of 780 accidents out of 15,924. That works out at about 5 per cent., even under the strict supervision of which I spoke a while ago. He says—

The human factor is of paramount importance, and this is shown by the experience in England and America, where 10 per cent. is regarded as the maximum reduction of acci-

dents obtainable by the better safeguarding of machinery.

If we can reduce our accident list by only 10 per cent., it will mean a great saving in life and limb among the timber workers. As I have said on a previous occasion in this Chamber, there are very few workers in the timber industry who do not show in some way traces of their occupation. I dare say hardly any man who has been employed in a mill for any length of time has not met with an accident and lost a joint of a finger or a toe or some portion of a limb. Dr. Robertson continues—

Shops should be laid out according to a plan which gives ample room between machines. A workman should never be in fear of getting caught in his own or a neighbour's machine because of lack of moving space. Aisles should be kept clear, and rubbish should not be allowed to collect around machines or in waste places where men pass The use of goggles should be required of the men engaged in various classes of work.

Amongst these classes he includes men engaged in grinding metals on emery wheels. Continuing he says—

The reduction of accidents depends first of all upon the attitude of the employer. It is of little use to preach safety to men who work about unsafe machinery and in unsafe factories. Of course, guards cost money, but the compensation paid for a life or an eye would buy numerous guards for belts and gears. . . . Necessity can usually find a way of substituting an equally good and a safe practice for a dangerous one. It has not been infrequent in the past for employers to issue instructions forbidding the performance of certain dangerous practices, and then not seeing that these instructions are enforced, even in some cases virtually encouraging their infraction.

He lays great stress upon the keeping of records and upon the loss of time through accidents. Speaking of first-aid boxes and ambulance rooms, he says—

In any scheme of organised accident prevention, it is essential that measures for giving prompt attention to the injured worker be available. The Queensland Government recognise the value of this, as in their Workmen's Compensation Regulations it is stated, "If the Commissioner is satisfied that an ambulance service approved by him is permanently maintained by the employer on his premises, the Commissioner may, if he thinks fit, allow to the employer a discount not exceeding 5 per cent. of the premium charged in respect of the workers employed by the employers in any premises in which such ambulance is so maintained." To emphasise the importance of cleanliness and qualified first-aid in cases of accident, the Queensland State Government Insurance Office publishes records of all injuries which have subsequently become infected, and

the amount of compensation incurred thereby. It has been found that a large number of minor injuries become septic through neglect in the early stages, and instead of resulting in a few days' disablement, develop into serious, and often extremely painful cases, sometimes causing permanent disablement, and even death.

It was said by one of the speakers this afternoon that the proposed regulations, if enforced, would result in the closing down of many of the smaller mills and in increased costs. I have read the regulations dealing with the industry in Victoria, in which many small men are engaged as sawmillers, and I have not heard of any of them having had to close down through being compelled to make their mills safer for the workers. Dr. Robertson also quoted Lord Leverhulme, at whose Port Sunlight Works was made one of the first recorded applications of the scientific principles of accident prevention. He said—

The humanitarian aspect of the "Safety First" movement it is hardly necessary to stress. The saving of thousands of homes from suffering and sorrow is so obvious a blessing that it does not require argument. But as it seems probable that many firms have hesitated to enter upon a "Safety First" campaign from an impression that it would involve them in increased costs, it is important to point out that the very opposite is the invariable result, namely, economies and decreased works cost. Our experience at Port Sunlight fully demonstrates that expenditure upon an efficient "Safety First" organisation is repaid many times over in resulting economies, apart altogether from one's duty to the employee, which is rightly the first consideration.

The position is summed up in an article "Are accidents a legitimate operating expense?" by H. W. Webber, of the Bell Telephone Company, which appeared in the "National Safety News," January, 1923. He states—

Not one unbiased business executive will dispute that the following consequences of accidents, among others, directly affect the expense of operating an industry:—(1) Increased labour turnover; (2) Disorganisation of working force accompanied by lowering of morale; (3) Decreased efficiency; (4) Lowered production; (5) Greater spoilage of material. Practical, continuous, and reasonably intensive safety activities not only produce the reversal of these conditions, but serve better than any other medium to engender and maintain a proper spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding between management and man: a condition which is certain to be favourably reflected in the operating sheet. . . . Very striking achievements have resulted from properly organised and maintained accident prevention campaigns. In the case of the Port Sunlight

Works, England, the number of accidents reported to the Home Office in 1916 amounted to 36.7 per 1,000 employees. With the institution of a "Safety First" campaign, a steady drop was reported each subsequent year; and in 1920 the corresponding figure was only 7.8, a reduction of 80 per cent., approximately.

At a conference of Commonwealth and States on industrial hygiene held in Sydney on the 12th September, 1922, it was stated—

Definite standards regarding ventilation (with particular reference to temperature, humidity, and air movement), lighting, dust prevention (exhaust systems), seats, rest room, ambulance and first aid facilities are wanting. It was also stated that Victoria and Western Australia required that first aid ambulance chests should be provided in every factory where mechanical power was used, but no mention was made of an attendant skilled in first-aid to take charge. Dealing with factory inspection the report states that factory inspectors have to be well informed regarding machinery and to be able to advise on methods of safeguarding against accidents. Another quotation from Collis in the same report states—

Modern industry wrought by progress on the anvil of utility is a tool intended for welfare; and the first duty each industry owes to the community is to provide for those whom it employs conditions of life as good as modern knowledge can insure. Few, if any, familiar with the conditions of modern industrial life will maintain that this duty has been placed first and before the requirements of the process and the machine. Where the machine has required space, the worker has shared it; where the process has required light, the worker has been allowed it; where dust spoilt the product, the worker has breathed a clean atmosphere; but the provision of space, light, or clean air for the worker, as a delicate living organism, has not been a first consideration, and he has been expected to live where less delicate vegetable life would decline to exist.

In a further work by Dr. Robertson, entitled "The Scope of Industrial Hygiene," publication No. 20 of the Commonwealth Department of Health, it is stated—

The longer a wound, even a very small one, is left untreated, the greater is the risk of infection; and every step must be taken to induce workers to seek treatment at once for every injury, however slight.

An appendix sets out the instructions issued by the Factory Department of the Home Office as an example. Another work issued by the Commonwealth Department of Health deals with "Industrial Hygiene with particular reference to Conditions in Australia." The author is A. J. Lanza, M.D., and he states—

Hand in hand with satisfactory standards of hygiene goes factory inspection. Factory inspection calls for a much higher grade of training and education than is commonly realised. He deals with the high standard of factory inspection required. Still another work issued by the Advisory Council of Science and Industry is entitled "Welfare Work." It states—

Mr. R. Meeker, United States Commissioner of Labour Statistics, in 1917, advanced the thesis that the labour force of his country was employed at much less than the maximum of its potential efficiency. He declared that the output per man could gradually be increased, perhaps by as much as 60 per cent., by a rational system of management which gave due regard to health and safety, short hours and facilities for recreation.

"Welfare Work" also contains the following passage:—

The first step towards eliminating accidents lies in answering the question, "How are accidents caused?" Employers of the old school regarded them as a normal, inevitable part of the day's work, or laid the responsibility entirely at the feet of the workers. "Carelessness" explained everything. To-day we know that the problem is much more complex. To solve it we must realise that while human factors play their part in piling up a big casualty list, questions of environment, of guards and fences, and of structural details are equally important, and may account for the majority of really serious cases. In 1917 an investigation into the causes of accidents in the American iron and steel industry revealed the fact that "fatal and serious accidents are primarily due to fundamental engineering or structural defects," and not to any neglect on the part of the worker himself The really serious casualties are more likely to be caused by some flaw in working conditions or equipment The equipment of the factory itself with a view to the prevention of accidents is of the utmost importance, and neglect in this respect is responsible for some of the most frightful calamities as well as for hosts of minor injuries. Neglect to supply guards at all places where machinery is working not merely creates danger in itself, but increases the risk due to unsuitable clothing or carelessness on the part of the worker The American investigation into the causes of accidents in the iron and steel industry showed that out of 372 fatalities, 212, i.e., 57 per cent., could be explained as being due to some engineering defect or unsafe equipment.

That is the result of the investigations and inquiries I have made in other States and countries relatively to the timber industry. It shows, I consider, that although Western Australia has neglected safety regulations so far, they have not been neglected in other countries. Instead of continuing on the old road and keeping back effective legislation, members should give the Minister for Works every support in his endeavour to put the

Bill through. Coming back to our own State, I wish to quote some statistics that I have been able to collect through the reports of the Timber Workers' Union. I may say that I have just received the following notification from the office of the union:—

An accident occurred at Argyle Mill on 16/10/26. While one of the men was docking some timber on the main dock, the saw flew back, and while removing the timber he cut the sinews of his hand. From the report just received, the bones are shattered. No guard. Many dockers are not properly balanced.

That is an up-to-date illustration. As stated by Dr. Robertson's book there are no complete accident returns kept for the timber industry in Western Australia. Even the union office does not receive a report of every accident that occurs. We certainly have the full number of members in the union, but here is another way by which we can obtain an indication of the seriousness of accidents in the timber industry. There is an accident fund into which members may or may not pay, and I contend that the number of accidents which happen to members of the accident fund is a fair indication of the percentage of accidents throughout the industry. There is no reason to suppose that the number of accidents would not show the same percentage among members not contributing to the accident fund as among members so contributing. For the last nine years the percentage of accidents to the number of men employed works out at 24.19. No payment, I should mention, is made for a disablement of less than three days. For the year 1918 the percentage was 24.6, for the year 1919 it was 27.77, for 1920 it was 22.9, for 1921 it was 25.8, for 1922 it was 26, for 1923 it was 22.18, for 1924 it was 18.7, for 1925 it was 22.4, and for 1926, on the figures up to date, it is 27.4. The total number of accidents for those years is 2,271. In 1913 Millar's Timber and Trading Company Limited submitted to the State Arbitration Court a return of accidents, which return included the whole of their employees including the staff, over 2,000 in number, and the percentage of accidents was 10. Although a full comparison with the mining industry is not available, I wish to quote a few extracts on that aspect from the report of the Commonwealth Royal Commission on National Insurance. Giving evidence in this State on the 3rd March, 1924, Mr. Herbert Walter Jones, grand sec-

retary of the United Ancient Order of Oddfellows, was asked—

Will you give the Commission what details you have?—In 1922 the sick pay per member throughout the coastal areas, including the metropolitan area, averaged 19s.; on the goldfields—we cannot differentiate between the miner and the worker in a shop, for instance—the average sick pay per member was 22s. 8d.; in the agricultural areas the average was 11s. 8d.; and in the timber districts 23s. 1d. For 1923 there was a slight alteration. In the metropolitan or coastal area, the average sick pay per member was 21s. 6d.; on the goldfields it was 24s. 9d.; in the agricultural areas 10s. 4d.; and in the timber areas 25s. 3d.

Would not a lot of that sick pay be on account of accidents which are common among some of the workers?—The payments in the timber districts were mostly on account of accidents, such as cuts from saws at the timber mills, and so on.

Before the same Commission Mr. John William Tyson, grand secretary of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, stated—

A lot of our sickness claims come from the timber and mining areas, and a large proportion of those claims is in respect of accidents with which the question of age has little to do.

The friendly societies' figures clearly prove, therefore, that the timber districts have a greater percentage of accidents than any other districts. For reasons which I have already stated, I have been unable to make up the returns on an equal basis. The mining returns, I submit, are as per official tables 26 and 27 supplied by the Mines Department. The timber returns are in accordance with the records of the accident fund of the Australian Timber Workers' Union. The statistics are as follows:—

Statistics of Killed and Injured.

Mining, as per Official Tables 26 and 27.

Timber, as per A.T.W.U. Accident Records.

MINING.

Year.	Number Killed and Injured.	Total number Men Employed.	Percentage.
1919 ...	622	8,346	7.4
1920 ...	559	8,498	6.5
1921 ...	362	7,084	5.1
1922 ...	346	6,776	5.5
1923 ...	318	6,497	4.9
1924 ...	241	6,289	3.8
1925 ...	395	6,011	6.5

Serious injury = 2 weeks or more.

TIMBER.

Year.	No. Killed and Injured for whom Benefits were paid under Accident Fund.	Average Membership Accident Fund.	Percentage.
1916 ...	285	1,021	27.77
1920 ...	304	1,321	22.9
1921 ...	423	1,635	25.8
1922 ...	306	1,177	26.0
1923 ...	217	978	22.18
1924 ...	178	951	18.7
1925 ...	210	936	22.4

No accidents under three days reported.

In the mining industry serious injuries must be reported. Serious injury there means an injury which prevents a worker going to his employment for two weeks or more. In connection with the timber industry accidents that do not keep a man away from his work for more than three days are not compensated out of the Accident Fund. A comparison between the figures I have quoted is thus rendered difficult. There were six fatal accidents in the timber industry during the last 12 months and the compensation recovered direct by the Australian Timber Workers' Union from the 1st August, 1925, to the 19th October, 1926, was £14,628. That does not include the cases dealt with by members themselves. An hon. member speaking before tea referred to housing. In a recent issue of the *Leonora "Miner,"* reference is made to the Wiluna Gold Mining Company at Wiluna erecting homes for the workers. That newspaper congratulated the company on showing so much consideration for the welfare of their men. The Bill provides for the appointment of inspectors of five years' experience. I do not think there can be any argument against the appointment of these inspectors. There will be sufficient to occupy their time, and the Minister is to be congratulated on the inclusion of this provision in the Bill. Here is a quotation from a letter that I received—

The present inspector of machinery pays visits to this centre, but all we see of him is walking about with the manager. I am given to understand that when a serious accident occurs he writes to the employee who has met with the accident, for a report, as to whether faulty machinery was the cause of the accident.

In all of the correspondence and information supplied to me there is not one instance

where any worker in the industry has been able to tell me that there has been an inspection of saws. Several hon. members referred to the clearing of timber from railway lines. I have been on some of the bush lines in the State and I can mention Treesville, where the bush was cleared for not more than 10 inches from the side of the line. I put out my hands and was able to pull a piece of bark off the trunk of a tree while the train was travelling slowly. That is not a safe way to have a bush line. So far as Millars are concerned, up to Mornington landing and at other places, their lines have been cleared for a safe distance, and the engine-drivers on going round curves can see what is ahead of them. The trees that are cut down are not wasted; they are used in the mill.

Mr. J. H. Smith: All of them?

Miss HOLMAN: Perhaps not all, but most of them. At Holyoake landing the line is not cleared sufficiently. There was an instance where new huts were broken up on the way to the bush because it was not possible to convey them through the cutting. In another instance, a man injured his leg by hitting a tree on the side of the road while travelling on a train. One suggestion is that saw benches work on the loose pulley so that in the event of an employee being caught in the packing box it would not be necessary for him to have to wait for the mill to be stopped. The clause dealing with the aid to injured persons is not quite as we would wish it. It says that first-aid equipment shall be kept at the mill, but sometimes the mill is 25 miles from the landing, and again the mill may be nowhere near the sleeper cutters' camp. One can easily guess that with the equipment so far away, an injured man might easily die. An accident occurred at Treesville bush landing and there was no first aid. A man had his leg caught in the check rail and crushed at 8 o'clock in the morning and it was nearly 11 o'clock before it was possible to get him to the mill. All that could be done in that interval was to bind him up with linen and handkerchiefs, nothing else being available at the scene of the accident. One hon. member said that any company worthy of the name would provide medical chests. I assure him that in many cases, where the medical chests are provided, provision is made out of the pockets of the workers themselves. I know that because while I was in the timber workers' office amounts

came in for the purchase of the chests, and these were forwarded on. In other instances these chests are purchased out of the medical funds. At Lowden there is no medical fund and consequently there is no medical chest. At Palgarup the management donated £10 towards the £50 which was the cost of the chest. The balance came from the medical fund. Dealing with first aid, I would like to quote the case of Mr. Shallot, known as "Frenchy" Shallot. He was injured with a broad axe at the sleeper cutters' camp between Pemberton and Jarnadup and eventually lost a leg. There were no first-aid requisites at the camp. At the sleeper cutters' camp at Hedge's Paddock, Maroondah, there are 60 cutters and no sanitary conveniences or first-aid outfit. The work there is very dangerous. Men often meet with accidents and they are taken to the hospital before receiving first aid. At Young and McIntyre's camp between Tullis and Holyoake Bush the conditions are just as bad. There are 200 men in that camp. We would like telephonic communication between the landings and the mills. Between Jarrahdale and Jarrahdale landing, the distance is 25 miles and I can quote an instance where a boy broke his knee at the landing at 3.30 in the afternoon and it was not set until 11.30, the reason for the delay being that it was necessary to get the navvies' pump trolley and four men had to pump it with sticks into the mill, a distance of 20 miles. There is not a tricycle on this line that could be used for quicker communication, and there is not even a telephone. I have asked Millars to provide telephone communication. I can quote another instance of an accident at a bush landing. A faller had his head cut and back hurt from a falling limb. When his mate managed to take him into the camp, a hunt had to be made to find something with which to bandage the head. The workers at that landing pay into a medical fund, but they have no medical chest. In order to take the man to the hospital about 24 miles away, a chair had to be strapped to the motor trolley and the injured man propped up with cushions. I have quoted a good deal of information on the subject of guards on saws and I would also like to refer to a fatal accident that occurred at Plavins' mill last year, where there was no guard on the bench. The manager said he did not think a guard was necessary. However, a man lost his life and it might have been saved if there had been

a guard on the bench. Then there was the accident referred to by the Minister the other night, where a man was crushed by a log at the mill landing. The jury found that Herman Ditton Ladiges met his death while working at Plavin's Mill Landing by a log rolling back and crushing him against an earthen embankment. In the opinion of the jury, the embankment should be removed. I visited that mill some time after the accident occurred and found that the company had not removed the embankment. They simply dug spaces in it. If a man happened to be in one of those spaces when a log rolled off the truck his life would be saved, but if not, then there would be the possibility of a similar fatal accident. This mill has since closed. There is a case of a man who lost his eyesight through a piece of timber coming back off the saw at the Hoffman Mill. Since that happened the mill is using larger saws on that bench. We do not want these things to be rectified after a serious accident has occurred. We want them to be rectified before. Qualified men should see whether these places are dangerous or not, and compel the companies to erect safeguards. I think it is well known that the powellising treatment is productive of many sores, and needs special consideration. Indeed, some special consideration is now being given. In September, 1922, at Pemberton a young man 26 years of age, named W. Davis, was working on the No. 4 bench cutting wood piping. A piece of timber got on to the tail of the saw and shot at the sawyer, piercing his head. This accident could have been avoided. It occurred at about 10 a.m. on Saturday, and on Monday morning guards were placed on the benches. There have been no accidents there since. We should like to see a provision making it the duty of any person employed on a timber holding to report any accident that comes to his knowledge as soon as possible after it occurs. We think that would cover cases where men do not report immediately, and perhaps in the case of foreigners it might help them to get compensation, which is denied to them because they cannot speak English and therefore are unable to report accidents. The timber industry has been going on for a good many years, but has not improved very much. There is a new mill being built at Nannup by the Kauri Timber Company. This has been a wealthy company which has made good profits. They have built a new mill, and yet from the 1st July, 1925, to the 20th

June, 1926, there have been no less than 61 accidents there, 27 of them in the mill. The total number employed is 70. This gives a percentage of 38.5. The new mill is not yet completed. It has been working about 18 months, but not up to its full strength. As the benches are put in they are worked. The General Secretary of the union found that there was no saw that had a guard upon it. The most dangerous bench was the small picket bench. The main shaftings were all under the mill. The oiler and greaser who attends to the oiling and greasing of the bearings and other parts of the machinery, and who generally attends to the smooth running of the mill, has to get under the mill between the belt races. One driving belt is approximately 40ft. long, and there is no protection for the man who has to attend to it. One shaft is 60ft. long by about 4ins. Another shaft is approximately 80ft. long. There is a counter shaft which runs through the race, the race being about 4ft. wide and 6ft. deep and 30ft. long. The greaser has to crawl through this to do his oiling up.

Mr. Sampson: Should that be done while the mill is working?

Miss HOLMAN: The oiling is done then. There is another case at Pindalup. A man was working in the sawdust race when the belt hit him on the head and he was killed.

Mr. Sampson: Some men will infringe the regulations. Is that the case of O'Hanlon?

Miss HOLMAN: No; but where O'Hanlon was killed. A platform has now been erected around the engines. That particular man was struck by the clips of the driving belt. A sawdust race should be at least 5½ feet high. At Argyle the sawdust race is called the Black Hole of Calcutta. A man has to crawl on his hands and knees in order to do the cleaning up. I could enumerate dozens of accidents. Regulations are very necessary. One suggestion about the layout of mills is that no saw bench should be allowed to be in a direct line with another, because the timber from one bench will perhaps injure the man on another. When I was at Nanga Brook I saw the marks of the timber on the solid beams above. They have a swinging punkah as a guard with which to stop the timber. Such a punkah would not, in my opinion, be of very much assistance. It might deflect the timber, but it might fall on the assistants at another bench close by. Lighting is very necessary. In some of the

mills the artificial lighting system was installed some years ago when the mills—Jarrahdale, and I think, also Mornington—were working two shifts. This system only needs overhauling to be in proper order. At Jarrahdale in the morning the men have often had to wait until they could see before starting work, and on one occasion wasted 10 minutes in doing so. At the Wuraming old mill morning after morning the men held slush lamps up to the gauge pins. At Nanga Brook the mist sometimes does not rise until noon. With regard to dangerous trees, there have been instances at mills where trees have fallen across the yard. I could show members snapshots of a large tree that had fallen across a yard. If we had proper inspection the officers would make sure that the landings were cleaned up of bark, especially in the winter. At one particular mill there is a man cleaning up the bark now, but it took a death to awaken the management to have this done. With regard to landings sloping away from the trucks, men are on their hands and knees getting a log up, and when the hook is taken out to get another hold the log may roll backwards. We have many complaints about uncertificated drivers, and drivers under age. Serious accidents have occurred because of these things. There is one instance in which a boy was left in charge of a winch, and a serious accident occurred. It may be said that it is a matter for the boiler inspector to look after the winches and engines, but he goes when the machinery is stopped and cold and he cannot see who is driving it. I took a snapshot at one of the mills of an engine driver acting as hook-man, while the engine was being attended to by an uncertificated man. The water supply is bad in some places, and something should be done on this account. We had a hard fight last year with regard to the sanitary arrangements at Jarrahdale bush landing. Thanks to the Minister for Health we were able to get a proper system inaugurated at that landing. I believe this landing has been established for 40 years, but up to last year there was no proper sanitary system. Inspectors should be allowed to say whether these things are being carried out, and make recommendations accordingly. With regard to dust, here is an extract from a letter I have received—

To give you some idea of the fineness of the dust of this machine when dressing timber, there was some considerable quantity of chaff stacked next to the machine, and the dust pene-

trated right through the bags, so you can judge what effect it has on the system of anybody working alongside it all day.

The member for Murray-Wellington quoted his mill. I have a report which says that there are no guards on the saws. There is one unguarded belt on the board bench. The mill landing could be improved. The official making the report does not remember any inspection other than the boiler and health inspections. Faulty skids and deckings are quoted in the regulations. They get very rough work. It is very easy for a man to break his leg or to get badly injured through faulty skids. At the old Wuraming mill the decking had been made of second-class timber. Two or three of the skids collapsed when they had a load on them, just missing men working about. With regard to house sites, trees have been known to fall into a man's backyard. As to the running of rakes, this will be covered by the regulations. On many of the timber holdings and mills the rakes are run without any system. On some of Millars' mills they have a staff system, but on many of the other mills there is none. A serious accident occurred two years ago resulting in the loss of three lives at Holyoake when the train refused to go up the rise and the Kalamazoo ran into it. When a mill is built it should be inspected, and benches should only be allowed to cut a certain length of timber. One mill was cutting timber 30ft. to 34ft. long, when it should only have cut up to 27ft. or 28ft. with safety to the men. In that mill I noticed that the timber was too long and that the men were up against the belt near the engine. That is another case of exposed belts. When long timber is being cut the tailers-out are against the main driving belt, which in my opinion is very unsafe. With regard to the sawdust hole, on the same mill, this allowed a man to walk half way upright, but the rest of the way he was on his hands and knees. The drainage system should be fixed so as to allow the water to run off the landings and tram lines. At the present the landings on some mills become boggy and the small galloping-out line becomes a young river. Men work in the slush all through the winter. The bush landing should be levelled with a slight incline towards the trucks. This should be done for the protection of the men. The water supplies at some of the mills are disgraceful. The bottle I am holding up in my hand contains a sample of the water at one of the mills. In this instance, the well was sunk below

the mill and below the camp, with the result that all the drainage soaked into the well. That trouble could have been avoided had the well been sunk on the other side of the camp.

Mr. Sampson: That water is clearer than some we get at North Perth.

Miss HOLMAN: I do not think the residents of North Perth would like to drink water such as is contained in this bottle.

The Minister for Railways: It looks like beer!

Mr. Sampson: At any rate, it is clearer than the water we got at North Perth this morning.

Miss HOLMAN: The hon. member has not had a look at it! In the Palgarup district there is not one mill where the landings are being kept clear of bark and other refuse that accumulates. The hookman and swamper have to carry out their work under conditions that are very dangerous at the best of times. They are likely to be caught up through being tripped by the loose bark. There are no guards provided. At Argyle there is a chimney with a large hole in the side of it. It is likely to come down at any time. At the Landing the mill is very dangerous and the accumulation of rubbish prevents even logs from rolling at times, without being pulled by a winch. An instance is known of where a log has been set in motion and, coming to a heap of bark, the hook flew out and the log rolled back on the hookman. At Boyanup no guards are provided, and provision is made only regarding the docker's saw. There are dangerous stacks at Barton's mill and the only inspection the workmen can remember is an occasion when the union inspector looked over the place. There are no guards. At Carlisle there was a bad case, the particulars of which I have, and I had a look at the place myself. The floor was very slippery around the machine and when the worker slipped he got his fingers cut off. There have been 12 accidents in three or four months in the Collie Land and Timber Coy.'s mill, and there has been no inspection that the workers can remember. At Ellis' Creek there were faulty skids. This mill has since been closed. At Geraldton a man got his fingers cut off by the buzzer. At Holyoake the accident percentage is very high. Returns put in to the Arbitration Court showed that over one particular period there were 51 accidents within 12 months, among the 104 men who were employed there. There are

records of accidents in which the men's hands were caught in ropes or their legs were jammed. I have a full description of the accident I mentioned previously which occurred with the swing pendulum saw. At Holyoake also there is a bad stretch of line. It was badly laid and on one occasion the men had to get off the train and pack the sleepers with bark. On Monday mornings when the locomotive leaves Holyoake, it is pitch dark during the winter months. During stormy weather, trees may fall across the line or washaways may occur. At Hoffman an accident occurred, as the result of which a man lost his sight in one eye. Following upon that accident the size of the saw used on that bench has been altered. At Hoffman Landing a large number of accidents have occurred. The Jarrahdale mill is regarded as a good one with respect to guards on saws. There are approximately 200 workers there and in seven months there were 22 accidents, representing a percentage of 18.8. The accident to O'Hanlon mentioned by the member for Swan (Mr. Sampson) happened at the Jarrahdale mill, but since that time a platform has been erected. At Lowden there is no medical provision or first-aid equipment. There are several dangerous stacks at that centre and there are no guards on the saws. The most dangerous portion of the mill is to be found in the construction of the two benches, now classed as No. 4. They are situated too close together, there being approximately 6ft. between the benches, and the space between is used for throwing the edgings from the bench to be removed by the fire-chute man when he has the opportunity. On account of the defective nature of the plant there, two serious accidents, including broken legs, have occurred. At Marrinup there have been a number of accidents. Cause of complaint arose regarding the belts. Two of them were unguarded and the conditions were dangerous to the men working beside them. There is also a dangerous pulley near the twin saws. The traveller is worked by wire ropes and pulleys. One of these is close to where the sawyer stands, and he is liable to step back in a hurry. Requests have been made for the plant to be covered, but nothing has been done to date. In the recollection of the men there, there has been no inspection of any part of the mill or yard. The decking where the skids are located in the yard

has in it holes everywhere. At Mumballup no guards are provided for the saws and the docker belt is unguarded. The men cannot remember any inspection of the mill having taken place. I have details of many fatal accidents that have occurred in the past. These have been compiled by Mr. D. Jones who has gone right back through the history of the industry. He has sent me a list of the fatal accidents and also of accidents in connection with the whims, including a fatal accident caused by a faulty brake. At Nanga Brook there were 16 accidents in five months among the 80 men employed there, giving a percentage of 47. At Nanga Brook bush landing seven accidents occurred within four months among the 45 men employed there. Regarding the accidents at Pemberton, the details I have were, I understand, compiled from the doctor's figures. These show that from March 1925 to May 1926 there were 83 accidents, including thirteen on the group settlements, seven on railway construction, and 63 at the mill. There are about 200 men employed on the mill, and the percentage of accidents worked out at 25. The small benches have guards and covers for the saws, but the big benches have not. The sawdust races are in good condition and the belt repairers have practically a free hand in looking after them. The timber stacks are built too high for their width and some of them are toppling over. It would be much better if they were built considerably wider at the base. The men at that centre consider that an inspector should be appointed to look into these matters, and if hon. members desire to see them, I can show photographs of the timber stacks I refer to.

Mr. Brown: Is that at a State mill?

Mr. Panton: The stack was put there by the previous Government.

Miss HOLMAN: Yes. That is only one instance. At North Dandalup I have seen a stack that was almost toppling over. It was near the track where the children passed on their way to school. The danger was pointed out at the time, but for some time nothing was done to shift it. At Pemberton bush landing there is some cause for complaint, and the suggestion has been made that no horse or bullock yards should be built within a given distance of the camps or on the upstream side of camps, when water is taken from the creeks. The men at that centre also ask for the provision of a complete first-aid outfit. At No. 2

Railway Mill there have been a fair number of accidents. The men there cannot remember any inspection having been made apart from that dealing with boilers. At the Railway bush landing the inspection of winches, ropes and landings is desired. At the Sussex mill about 45 men are employed, and there have been a number of accidents. The mill apparently is well protected and guards have been provided on the dockers, and for belts on the benches. The men there cannot call to mind any inspection of the mill or the landing. At Treesville the accidents at one time averaged one per fortnight. The only saws that have guards there are the dockers. The greatest danger in saw milling, in the opinion of some of those engaged in the industry, arises from timber getting on the tail of the saw and being thrown back on the benchman. Three fatal accidents were caused within the last 12 months in that manner. At Mornington a serious accident occurred not long ago when a stack of timber fell on a man and fatally injured him, while the man who was working with him was crippled. At Wilga there are no guards on the saws and the men there do not remember any inspection taking place apart from the boilers. At the Wellington Mill there are no guards at all on the saws. The line there is generally in bad repair and trucks have run off the line three times within a few weeks. There has never been any inspection of the mill there apart from the boilers. I mentioned the stack at Whitaker's Mill, and I took the opportunity to inspect the stack myself. Regarding the accident to T. L. O'Hanlon, to which the member for Swan referred, I understand the man was hit on the head by the belt clip. I made it my business to get hold of a belt clip in order to show hon. members what type of connection it provides. The clip projects over the edge and this has been responsible for many accidents. I have two accounts regarding men whose hands were cut by these clips when working on the docker saws. Unless those saws are guarded they are considered to be very dangerous.

Mr. Sampson: Unfortunately Mr. O'Hanlon suffered from bad eyesight, and I understood him to say that what he did was contrary to the regulations.

Miss HOLMAN: He had never been warned regarding the regulations, and the engine-driver did not know there were any such regulations.

Mr. Sampson: O'Hanlon told me previously that he had done it contrary to the regulations. At any rate, I believe he was nearly blind in one eye.

Miss HOLMAN: The engine-driver on duty did not warn him that he was acting against machinery regulations, and when he was coming out backwards from underneath the engine he was struck on the head by the belt clip. At Yarloop, where there are 75 employed, there have been seven accidents in five months or a percentage of 22.4. Now all this, Mr. Speaker, is the result of the inquiries I have made about the necessity for such a Bill as the Minister has introduced. I do not consider this is a party measure at all. Members on both sides should be willing to support it. It has been said that the wealth of a country is the lives of its citizens. Surely it is not too much to expect that those who are making big profits out of the industry should do something towards saving the lives of those who work for them. I am indebted to the officials and members of the Timber Workers' Union and to the executive of that union for a very great deal of assistance in my effort to put the case for the men whom I represent. Finally, I should like to quote the words of the then Minister for Mines, Mr. Gregory, in moving the second reading of the Mines Regulation Bill in 1906, as follows:—

Under no circumstances should this be looked upon in the slightest sense as a party measure; and I look for assistance from all sides to send this Bill out as far as possible a perfect measure I ask especially the very kind consideration and earnest attention to the Bill, the chief object of which is to ensure greater safeguards and to make the work of the miner more free from danger and more healthy and wholesome than has been the case in the past.

I consider these words apply also to this Bill dealing with timber and I think I have conclusively proved, as the Minister proved the other night, that the inspection of machinery in this industry is practically nil, and that there is no protection for the men who operate the saws and woodworking machinery. Any member who considers the terrible percentage of accidents in this industry will, I am sure, not refuse his assistance to get those men a small measure of protection.

MR. WILSON (Collie) [9.18]: After the eloquent and able speech of the member for Forrest (Miss Holman), who has given us such a wealth of detail, it would ill-become

me to address the House at any length. However, as I am going to support the Bill, I wish to give my reasons for so doing. In my electorate are to be found a large number of mills and, perhaps, one-fourth the workers in the industry. At one time I was closely identified with the timber industry, in so far as I was one of the active members of the Co-operative Society's concession. I saw a great deal of the workings there and, incidentally, I acquired some experience. The Bill by no means goes too far. It is long overdue, for it should have been here many years ago. No concern in Western Australia is making more money for its shareholders than is the timber industry. The price per load of timber has risen 100 per cent. within the last ten years, but the wages paid have not risen in anything like the same degree. In making provision for inspection, the Bill is only taking a leaf out of the book of the mining industry. The gold miners at Kalgoorlie and the coal miners at Collie have benefited by inspections for the past 20 years. There are workmen's inspectors on the goldfields, and there is no reason why there should not be workmen's inspectors in the timber industry. The member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. George) objected to the powers proposed to be vested in the workmen's inspectors. After all, the only object is to see that the provisions of the Act are complied with. Is not that a fair thing? Power is given to the workmen's inspector to enter, inspect and examine any timber holding at all times, with such assistance as may be reasonably necessary but not so as to unnecessarily impede the working of the industry. That is only fair. Those inspectors will not obstruct or impede any of the operations, notwithstanding which the hon. member takes exception to the provision. He went on to deal with workshops and the examining of the officials. That is done in practically every mine in this State, and has been done in the Old Country from time immemorial. Yet, when an attempt is made to introduce it into the timber industry, the hon. member contends that it is a step in the wrong direction.

Hon. G. Taylor: Irritation is sometimes caused, not by the administration but by the inspector himself.

Mr. WILSON: I have not found that. I have always found that those inspectors are a big asset to the employers, for they can see when trouble is brewing, and they

inform the management who, as level-headed men, take heed of what they are told.

Hon. G. Taylor: But when complaints are made it is generally the fault, not so much of the administration, as of the inspector.

Mr. WILSON: The trouble is that so many men make of themselves tattle hunters, with the result that there are flying around rumours that, when investigated, are found to be baseless. The workmen's inspector will see to that and will give the management just as fair a deal as he will give the men who employ him. Then we have the provision for notice of accident. That has been in operation for long past, but has not been too well carried out. It is not the good managers, but the bad managers who will get into trouble under this provision. Then there is the question of representatives of the union viewing the scene of the accident. That has been in operation for the past 20 years. If an accident has been caused by the carelessness of the company, the scene should be viewed by the representatives of the men as soon as possible. I have known cases, especially in mines, where the first thing done by the manager after the accident was to order the clearing away of all evidence of his carelessness, so that the responsibility could be thrown on the poor unfortunate victim. Incidentally by such means the widow and children of the victim of the accident have been deprived of compensation that should have been theirs. No company with any sense of honour will object to such a provision in the Bill. The member for Murray-Wellington asked why should not anybody at all be eligible as a jurymen at a coroner's inquest. In my opinion such jurymen should have a practical knowledge of the industry.

Mr. Lindsay: You want to make them a special jury?

Mr. WILSON: Not so much a special jury as a practical jury, men with a general practical experience of the industry. There is nothing in the Bill to prevent an ex-manager being one of the jury, provided he has a practical experience of the industry.

Mr. J. H. Smith: The Bill debars a manager from sitting on the jury.

Mr. WILSON: And quite right. But there are plenty of ex-managers working in the mills to-day. I suggest to the Minister that when in Committee he should provide that of the five years' practical experience,

so much should relate to the mill and so much to the bush. I have a friend who has been working in the bush for the past 20 years, but who knows nothing about a mill. Alternatively, it would be easy to find men with long experience of the mill and no knowledge whatever of the bush. Moreover, I would provide for six years', instead of five years', experience and would make it consist of three years in the mill and three in the bush. A man of such experience would know what he was talking about at the inquest. The member for Forrest spoke of the lack of inspection. In that she was telling the strict truth. I have known instances in which the department were practically told about certain things and the only result was that the news of the inspector's visit leaked out and, of course, everything was found to be all right when he went there. I do not know who gave the information to the company. When an inspector is going out to inspect, it should be kept secret. I remember an instance in New South Wales of the men being told off by the management to manipulate the trap-doors and allow the ventilation to go around certain quarters when the check inspectors were expected. When they came to certain parts of the mine, the door was closed and another door was opened so that the supply of air was manipulated and a plentiful supply was registered on the anemometer. The same sort of thing is done to-day and unfortunately there are companies who take advantage of it. There is a good deal to be said against the scandalous state of some of the houses. This does not apply to every district. There are some districts where the houses are fit for habitation, and in fact as good as any person could desire, but there are also small mills where the houses provided are not fit for the proverbial pig to live in, and the system of charging exorbitant royalties is largely to blame for it. The royalty rate on timber is going up almost daily and the Government department is as much responsible for it as are the timber land owners. Instead of asking a fair price per load of timber they charge more than a fair price, and the result is that the small mill-owner is compelled to cut down expenses to the utmost in order to make a living. I have it on reliable authority that timber has been sold as high as 35s. per load in the round. Who is going to pay for that? The small mill-owner has to cut down his expenses to the absolute

minimum, and the result is that he is not able to build decent shacks for the men he employs. He has to pay so much to the Forests Department or to the man who owns the ground that he must economise at the expense of the workers' comfort. I know men who are getting an extraordinarily high price for the timber on their land. We have men in this House who know that that is true. That should not be permitted. The royalty on timber should be regulated so that only a fair price could be charged. Then if there was anything left over, the housing conditions of the workers should be improved. A man having a small mill is able to get only 500 or 1,000 acres of country, and by reason of his being charged too much for the concession, he cannot afford to build decent houses for the men.

Mr. Sampson: Are you condemning the Government for charging the same prices as are charged by the private companies?

Mr. WILSON: The Government do not, and the hon. member knows it.

Mr. Sampson: There is a uniform charge for timber.

Mr. WILSON: The hon. member should speak of what he knows. Competition forces the prices up. Certain areas are submitted at an upset price of so much per load. Various mill-owners compete and the areas go to those who offer the highest prices.

Mr. Sampson: I was referring to the selling price of timber. I misunderstood you.

Mr. WILSON: What has that to do with the question? The selling price is the price obtained in the open market in India and South Africa. Royalties have been increased and men holding 3,000 or 4,000 acres of country have received up to £2 per acre for the timber in the round.

Mr. J. H. Smith: And the State gets 35s. in the square.

Mr. WILSON: A minimum charge should be fixed for Government areas as well as for paddocks held by private owners, and the difference should go to increasing the comfort of the workers by providing decent shacks for them. A company holding an area here and another area there can always build good shacks and should be able to do so. They could build them on the portable system so that, after serving their purpose in one area, they might be taken down in sections and re-erected elsewhere. That has not been done. I commend the Government for having introduced the Bill, which is long overdue.

Hon. G. Taylor: That is the fault of members representing the timber districts.

Mr. WILSON: It would be wise to say nothing about that. It is sometimes unwise to jump another man's claim. Some members might take exception to my jumping into the gold mining business.

Hon. G. Taylor: We take your word for that.

Mr. WILSON: There are nearly 20 timber mills in my district which is almost as many as are to be found in any other electorate. Consequently, I represent a fairly large number of timber workers. The Bill, taken right through, is fair, and there should be no difficulty in getting it passed by this House. I congratulate the Minister on having introduced it.

MR. SAMPSON (Swan) [9.35]: I support the Bill whereby protection will be afforded to men engaged in the timber industry. It is somewhat of a coincidence that the Bill should have been introduced by a Minister with whom I attended the same school. After school hours I was compelled, owing to the unfortunate circumstances in which the family were placed, to hurry home and work at a circular saw and deliver wood. It is somewhat remarkable that, after the passage of 35 years or so, both of us should be here interested in this measure. In those days there was no inspection that I can recollect, and no objection was raised to school boys engaging in that kind of work. I readily agree that the men engaged in the timber industry should be afforded similar protection to that prescribed under the Factories and Shops Act. Indeed it would be difficult to find anybody who would oppose the measure. Reference was made by the member for Forrest (Miss Holman) to an accident that befell Mr. Tom O'Hanlon. I was a close friend of Mr. O'Hanlon, having known him intimately for several years. For that accident the timber company could not be blamed. O'Hanlon's eyesight was very bad, but he persisted in carrying out the work of oiling and attending to belts, and I am advised that he did it even when the machinery was in motion. I do not think it would be possible for any legislation to prevent an accident such as that. The Bill probably requires to be amended in certain directions, and no doubt will be amended in Committee. The protection that will be afforded is in many instances already provided, particularly in the mills controlled by Millars' Timber and Trading Company. The uni-

form charges made for timber might perhaps be referred to under this measure. I have wondered how it is that those engaged in producing timber for sale should be able to establish one price, irrespective of whether the timber is produced by private companies or by the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is not in order in pursuing that subject.

Mr. SAMPSON: Then I shall content myself by supporting the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time

In Committee.

Mr. Lutey in the Chair; the Minister for Works in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Clause 2—Appointment of inspectors:

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Minister proposes to appoint the inspectors. Will they be temporary appointments or will the appointees come under the Public Service Act?

The Minister for Works: They will not be under the Public Service Act.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Will they be temporary appointments?

The Minister for Works: Yes.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The whole of them?

The Minister for Works: Yes.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: That is an extraordinary position. The inspectors will be officers of the Public Service just as much as are other officers in the Minister's Department. I am referring now not to the workmen's inspectors, but to the other inspectors. I do not see why the Minister should make appointments of that kind. It would give him absolute control of appointments. I would like to hear what the Minister has to say in justification of this unusual way of making appointments.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Leader of the Opposition knows there is nothing unusual about the proposal. The clause is copied from the Factories and Shops Act which provides that the Minister may appoint officers of either sex to be inspectors. That measure was introduced by the hon. member's Government. This is quite the usual thing. I do not know who should do the appointing if the Minister is not to do it. Are there persons who may be better trusted than the Minister to make these appointments?

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Yes; the Public Service Commissioner.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Minister's responsibility to the community is far greater than the Public Service Commissioner's. Why should so much more suspicion surround Ministers now than was the case when the Opposition Leader was in office?

Hon. G. TAYLOR: As the Bill sets out the qualifications of inspectors, there will not be much difficulty in making the appointments. The measure, however, does not provide the salaries.

Mr. Wilson: Salaries are never provided in Bills.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Yes, where there are new appointments.

The Minister for Works: Never.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: A man might be qualified to inspect the work inside the mill and have no knowledge of bush work, while a man qualified to inspect outside work might be utterly without knowledge of mill machinery. I do not think the stipulation as to five years' work in the industry is quite right.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I realise that the Minister must be empowered to appoint the inspectors. An applicant, however, might have had experience in the industry 20 years ago, and, again, might have had experience of mill work but not of bush work. On what basis does the Minister propose to make the appointments? Must the five years' experience have been obtained during the five years preceding the date of appointment?

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: In the Factories and Shops Act, to which the Minister has referred, the appointment of the chief inspector rests with the Governor, otherwise the Public Service Commissioner, while the other inspectors are appointed as proposed in this Bill, and may be men employed by the Government for other duties. Here the whole of the inspectors are to be appointed by the Minister.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 4—Control:

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Minister does not propose to have, as is usual, a chief inspector, but a controlling officer, who I suppose will be someone in Perth.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: The idea is that the administration of the measure shall be placed under the Chief Inspector of Factories in the same way as

is the inspection of scaffolding. This course avoids the creation of a new department.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 5—Classification of Inspectors:

Mr. WILSON: This clause represents the crux of the position regarding inspectors. After the words "practical experience" in line 4 of paragraph (a), relating to district inspectors, there should be inserted "in the mill and in the bush." Otherwise a man employed as a clerk in a mill office might come within the qualification. This applies also to workmen's inspectors.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I agree with the member for Collie. Perhaps the case would be met by requiring "five years' practical experience in the timber industry generally."

The CHAIRMAN: The words "timber industry" in themselves are very wide.

Miss HOLMAN: I do not think the addition of the words "in the mill and in the bush" would meet the position. I know a man of 28 years' experience who is well qualified in all operations of the timber industry and yet has never worked in the bush. Other men have worked in the bush practically all their lives, but have never worked in a mill.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I presume the district inspectors will be continuously employed.

The Minister for Works: They will be whole-time men.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: And I presume the special inspectors will be appointed only for special occasions.

The Minister for Works: Yes.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Further, I presume the workmen's inspectors will be elected by the men, appointed by the Minister, and controlled by the Chief Inspector of Factories.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: District inspectors will be whole-time men confined to certain districts. Special inspectors will be appointed because of the nature of some special inquiry, and will be selected on account of the possession of special knowledge required for the examination of a particular happening. They will be appointed merely for the job. Workmen's inspectors under this Bill will be on the same footing as workmen's inspectors under the Mines Regulation Act, and will be appointed for a period of two years. The appointment of district inspectors is best left to the Minister, who will look for the type of man with wide experience of the

industry. The workers can safely be left to choose as workmen's inspectors men of wide experience. Paragraph (c), referring to workmen's inspectors, might include a reference to both bush and mill work.

Mr. Sampson: Must inspectors have had both bush and mill experience?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: In my opinion that is not necessary for district inspectors. The matter can be left to the Minister.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: The choice should not be limited.

Mr. J. H. Smith: The addition of the word "generally" would cover everything.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The men engaged in the industry will choose workmen's inspectors by ballot.

Mr. J. H. Smith: I am referring to paragraph (a) which deals with district inspectors.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I do not favour any restriction as to district inspectors. If the words are needed at all, they are needed in paragraph (c). As regards the workmen's inspectors, there is this drawback: as there are more men in the mill than in the bush, the mill vote might dominate the choice.

Mr. WILSON: I have seen men pitchforked into such positions and they did not have the necessary qualifications. If I am assured that everything is properly guarded, I shall let it go.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: The position will be safeguarded if we insert the word "generally" at the end of paragraph (a). I move an amendment—

That at the end of paragraph (a) "generally" be inserted.

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

Clause 6—Conditions of appointment of special workmen's inspectors:

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I notice by this clause that the Minister will fix all the terms and conditions of appointment of special inspectors and workmen's inspectors. By whom will the workmen's inspectors be appointed?

The Minister for Works: By all engaged in the timber industry.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Will their authority be limited, or will it be as it is in the Mining Act?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This copies the Mines Regulation Act and there cannot be any doubt about it. There only

remains now the question of salary and that has not been considered. I have no idea what salary will be paid. The salaries will compare with those of other officers doing similar work. Inspectors under the Factories and Shops Act receive about £350 a year.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Are they qualified men?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: They have a knowledge of machinery and must stand up to an examination.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I would like some information as to how it is proposed to appoint the workmen's inspectors.

The Minister for Works: I am not appointing them.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: How will they be appointed; what machinery will be put into motion? Will it be done by the members of the Timber Workers' Union; will they conduct a ballot and make the appointment, or will the Minister frame regulations?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The matter will be in the hands of the men engaged in the industry and regulations will be framed to govern the election. The same procedure will be adopted as is followed in the selection of inspectors of mines.

Hon. G. Taylor: By the unions on the fields?

The Minister for Mines: By all engaged in the industry.

Hon. S. W. Munsie: A ballot is conducted and all the men engaged in the industry vote.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Electoral Department lay down the machinery and a ballot is taken.

Mr. Wilson: Provision is made for that in the regulations.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: But we want to know what the regulations will be.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 7—agreed to.

Clause 8—Powers of inspectors:

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Subclause 2 provides that a workmen's inspector may exercise the powers of a district inspector. If the workmen's inspector has equal powers, where will the district inspector come in? I thought the workmen's inspector would report to the district inspector if something was required for the safe working of a mill.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The two inspectors will report to the administrator, who, I suggest, shall be the Chief

Inspector of Factories, and all prosecutions will rest with that officer. Under the Mines Regulation Act the district inspector can institute prosecutions. There can be no objection to putting the workmen's inspector on the same footing as the district inspector in the matter of inspecting, reporting and advising what should be done. The workmen's inspector is merely a check on the district inspector, and will be there to give the men confidence that the inspection is carried out properly.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: The district inspector is supposed to be the chief inspector apart from the head of the department. Then we are to have a special inspector and a workmen's inspector. The workmen's inspector is to have the same power as the district inspector. Thus, we shall have three sets of inspectors reporting to the chief in Perth on the one subject. The district and special inspectors might be of opinion that a mill is satisfactory, but the workmen's inspector might consider everything wrong. The position is very confusing.

Miss HOLMAN: Under the Mines Regulation Act a workmen's inspector has more power than a similar inspector under this measure will have. With the authority of the district inspector, a workmen's inspector on the goldfields may initiate prosecutions, and where the district inspector is not available may take statements of witnesses. I would like the Minister to explain why lessened powers are proposed under this measure.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: A workmen's inspector will have all the powers of a district inspector, except in the matter of initiating prosecutions or taking statements of witnesses. He will need to be more than an ordinary man to do all that is provided in this clause. His duties will be to examine into and make inquiry respecting the state and condition of any timber holding—I thought that was the work of the Forests Department—sawmill, workshop, building, structure, yard, bush landing, or mill landing, and of all matters or things connected with or relating to the safety or well-being of the persons employed therein in connection with the industry; and to examine into and make inquiries respecting the condition of the mill, mill-gearing, machinery, plant and appliances, tram and train lines and rolling stock. To carry out all those duties he will need to be a specially qualified man selected by the Minister.

The Minister for Works: Those powers will also be exercised by the district inspector.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: But the workmen's inspector is to have all the power that may be exercised by the district inspector. The Minister is placing great power in the hands of the workmen's inspector, a power that he should not be permitted to exercise.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I do not think the workmen's inspector can do any harm by examining into and making inquiry respecting the matters mentioned. After that he would submit a report.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: And a prosecution would follow on his report.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: But he will not have power to initiate prosecutions. That power will rest with the head office. I have not gone as far as the mines regulations go. Under the latter a workman's inspector can carry out a prosecution with the consent of the district inspector. We want to keep an organisation of this kind within the control of the head office. It is, therefore, better that power to prosecute should rest with headquarters. If the reports proved unreliable they would be checked by the district inspector.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: The Minister should appoint all workmen's inspectors.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: In that case they would be officers of the department. The moment the choice is taken out of the hands of the men in the industry the workmen's inspector ceases to represent them. The Government will find the salary of these inspectors, but they will be free from departmental domination.

Miss HOLMAN: Would the Minister consider it necessary to add such words as these—"And shall forward reports to the controlling officer after each inspection"? It does not appear that the inspector is instructed as to how to forward his reports.

The Minister for Lands: That is provided for.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: If the employees are to have the right to appoint their own inspectors, it must be done by the vote of those concerned. Such inspectors must not be under the control of the Minister, who must accept the recommendation of the employees, and find the money for the salary. The Government inspectors will look after the interests of the industry in general. The workmen's inspector will be able to report

direct to his chief, who will act accordingly. I do not anticipate any trouble in this regard.

Mr. CHESON: The matter can well be left to the employees. The system works well on the goldfields, where these inspectors are found to be of great assistance to the Mines Department officials.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Under paragraph (d) three inspectors will have power to summon witnesses to examinations or inquiries. This triplication of inspectors is highly objectionable. The workmen's inspector seems to me in the nature of a sop.

The Minister for Works: It is quite evident you have not read the Bill.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: What I say is perfectly clear from paragraph (d).

The Minister for Works: You have not read the other clauses.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I have read the Bill from cover to cover. To test the feeling of the Committee I move an amendment—

That Subclause (2) be struck out.

This subclause gives to the workmen's inspector most of the powers of a district inspector.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: A single mine covers a small area, while a single mill covers a large area. A workman on a timber holding may be a great distance from the mill site. If workmen are to be called up by inspectors frequently, great inconvenience may be caused. The position is quite different on a mine covering, say, 20 acres. I agree with the member for Nelson that all these powers ought not to be given to so many inspectors. The Minister might well appoint all inspectors under this measure as he does under the Factories and Shops Act. Presumably all the inspectors would exercise their powers fairly.

The Minister for Works: If they did not, they would not hold their jobs long.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I mean that the workmen's inspector should not be regarded as appointed solely for the sake of the workmen while he holds the same powers as a district inspector. Who is to pay for the loss of time involved in calling, say, a faller in from the bush?

Miss HOLMAN: I oppose the amendment, and agree with the Minister that the member for Nelson cannot have read the Bill thoroughly. That hon. member should not say that the workmen's inspector represents a

sop. The Bill is modelled on other measures, and there is precedent for the appointment of workmen's inspectors. If inspectors under the Mines Regulation Act have used their powers reasonably, inspectors under this measure can be trusted to do so.

Mr. MARSHALL: The member for Nelson should note that Subclause 2 does not give the workmen's inspector power to prosecute. To say that a workmen's inspector should be appointed with a salary if he is not even to inspect a mill is utterly absurd.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Why have three inspectors?

Mr. MARSHALL: If anything would provoke me to vote for the amendment it is that workmen's inspectors of mines have not power to prosecute, whilst district inspectors of mines have that power. I remember that in connection with a fatal mining accident an insipid district inspector had the impertinence to pull up a workmen's inspector on the public road and ask him what right he had to visit the scene of the accident before the district inspector.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The member for Nelson, while professing not to be against the appointment of workmen's inspectors, has moved for the deletion of all the powers that workmen's inspectors are to possess. The carrying of the amendment would deprive those inspectors of all authority, and render them absolutely unable to do anything. If that is the aim of the amendment, the proper course is to move for the complete deletion of workmen's inspectors. I believe the history of mining shows no instance of conflict or overlapping between workmen's inspectors and district inspectors. Special inspectors, as I previously explained, will inquire into particular accidents. If a rake of logs were to break away, there would be the necessity for a man having special knowledge to investigate and ascertain what was the cause of the trouble.

Mr. J. H. Smith: That man would have the same power as the inspectors.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Of course he would; it is necessary. The district inspector or the workmen's inspector may have the technical knowledge necessary to conduct an investigation into some happening, and the appointment of the special inspector will last only until the special inquiry is concluded.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: You can make a mine owner fairly dance under this provision if you want to.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Every law, if it be interpreted unreasonably by unreasonable men, by inspectors who are out to hamper, embarrass and interfere with industry, would have that effect, but hon. members must have regard to experience. The same type of inspectors are provided for under the Mines Regulation Act, and there is not one instance of trouble having been experienced.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: The position is hardly on all-fours.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I think it is. If something were wrong with the tramways, in all probability the traffic man would be asked to go out with the special inspector to investigate, and the matter would be dealt with on the spot.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Minister fails to realise the objection raised by the member for Nelson, who said there would be several inspectors. The Minister admits he has no control over workmen's inspectors and, I suppose, has little control over district inspectors. It would be possible for the special inspector to require the attendance of an official or workman at some distance from his work. The position is very different from that obtaining under the Mines Regulation Act.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Progress reported.

BILLS (3)—RETURNED.

1, Inspection of Scaffolding Act Amendment.

2, Justices Act Amendment.
With an amendment.

3, Broome Loan Validation.
Without amendment.

House adjourned at 10.50 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 20th October, 1926.

	PAGE
Bills: Navigation Act Amendment, 2R. ...	1494
Traffic Act Amendment, 2R. ...	1494
Land Tax and Income Tax, 2R., Com. Report ...	1500
Weights and Measures Act Amendment, Com. ...	1504
Reserves, Com. ...	1505
Guardianship of Infants, 2R., Com. ...	1508
Public Education Acts Amendment, 2R., Com. ...	1510

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

BILL—NAVIGATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Assembly.

BILL—TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. W. T. GLASHEEN (South-East) [4.35]: I desire at this stage merely to express a few generalities about the Bill, leaving any real criticism for the Committee stage. I think when the Bill emerges from the Committee stage it will be found to have been one of the most contentious we have had to deal with during the session. Many people profess to see in this legislation some antagonism towards the motor truck and its competition with the railways. This is rather a pity, for we shall have to be most careful as to how we legislate, having regard to the possibility of motor transport providing freightage for the railways. In the North-West at present many of the pastoral propositions are coming into profit because of the advent of the motor truck. The bringing of those pastoral areas into profit means bringing so much added freightage to the railways. Also in the country districts the motor truck is proving a big contributing factor to the success of the railways. For we cannot possibly bring railways to within 12½ miles, the prescribed distance, of every farm. While it is said that the motor truck has made farming profitable at a greater distance than that from a railway, there are some arguments against that contention. Yet we know that, because of the motor truck, peo-