

The CHAIRMAN: The position as outlined by Mr. Watson is quite correct. We should decide which course we shall adopt. The motion before the Chair is that the Bill be laid aside.

Hon. Sir CHARLES LATHAM: If my motion is rejected, then that moved by the Leader of the House will be dealt with and members will be given an opportunity of expressing their views. Knowing the temper of the Committee, I thought the quickest way to deal with the Bill was by this motion.

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

Ayes .. .. .	15
Noes .. .. .	9
Majority for .. ..	6

#### AYES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. A. L. Loton
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. H. A. C. Daffen	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. R. M. Forrest	Hon. H. J. Roche
Hon. H. Hearn	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. J. G. Hialop	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. Sir C. G. Latham	Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. L. A. Logan	(Teller.)

#### NOES.

Hon. G. Bennetts	Hon. W. R. Hall
Hon. E. M. Davies	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. Sir F. E. Gibson	Hon. R. J. Boylen
Hon. E. H. Gray	(Teller.)

Motion thus passed.

Bill laid aside.

### ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 3 p.m. this afternoon (Thursday).

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 12.39 a.m. (Thursday).*

## Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 8th December, 1948.

### CONTENTS.

	Page
Electoral, swearing-in of member .. ..	32
Questions: Electricity Act, as to amended regulations .. ..	32
Coal, as to imports from South Africa ..	32
Hospitals, as to Merredin staff quarters and mortuary .. ..	32
Fremantle Harbour, as to Mr. Tydeman's report .. ..	32
Resolution: State Forests, Council's message .. ..	32
Bills: Parliamentary Superannuation, 1r. Land Sales Control Act Amendment, all stages .. ..	32
Marketing of Apples and Pears, 2r., Com. Matrimonial Causes and Personal Status Code, Council's amendments .. ..	32
Council's message .. ..	32
Government Employees' Pensions, 3r. Purchasers' Protection Act Amendment, 3r. ....	32
Country Towns Sewerage, Council's amendments .. ..	32
Acts Amendment (Increase of Fees), returned .. ..	32
Lotteries (Control) Act Amendment, 1r. City of Fremantle (Free Literary Institute), 1r. ....	32
Trading Stamp, Com., (to refer to Select Committee), remaining stages .. ..	32
City of Perth Electricity and Gas Purchase, returned .. ..	32
Milk Act Amendment, Council's amendments .. ..	32
State Transport Co-ordination Act Amendment, Council's amendment ..	32
Railway (Mt. Magnet-Black Range) Discontinuance, 2r., remaining stages ..	32
Constitution Acts Amendment (No. 2), Council's amendments .. ..	33
Feeding Stuffs Act Amendment (No. 2), returned .. ..	33
Estimates: Committee of Supply, Votes and Items discussed .. ..	33

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 p.m., and read prayers.

### ELECTORAL—SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received the return of a writ for the vacancy in the Bould electorate caused by the death of the Hon. P. Collier, showing that Cecil Thompson Oliver has been duly elected. I am prepared to swear in the hon. member.

Mr. Oliver took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

## BILL—PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION.

Introduced by the Premier and read a first time.

## BILL—LAND SALES CONTROL ACT AMENDMENT.

*First Reading.*

Introduced by the Minister for Lands and read a first time.

*Second Reading.*

**THE MINISTER FOR LANDS** (Hon. L. Thorn—Toodyay) [3.5] in moving the second reading said: A misprint occurred in the Land Sales Control Bill which was introduced earlier in the session. The Bill had passed both Houses and been proclaimed before the mistake was noticed. The measure now under consideration is important in order to give a correct interpretation of the Land Sales Control Act which, as I have said, was passed by both Houses earlier in the session. Section 11, Subsection (2), line 2 of the parent Act refers to Section 3. This is a mistake as the reference should be to Section 10. The parent Act provides that the controller must not give his consent to any applications under the Act which apply to any land that has been declared and published in the "Government Gazette" as suitable for soldier settlement. Transactions which must be submitted to the controller for his consent appear in Section 10 of the Act, and not Section 3. In order to rectify the error I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

Mr. Perkins in the Chair; the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Amendment of Section 11:

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I think the Minister might explain this matter again for us, and, if possible, with a little more detail, as it is not easy for members to pick up the import of the amendment contained in the Bill which has been sprung on them without any notice.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: If the Acting Leader of the Opposition desires, I am prepared to report progress, but I do not think it is necessary. Section 3 refers to administration, etc., and is wrongly included in Section 11. Section 10 deals with certain land transactions, etc., and is the section which should be referred to.

Clause put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

*Third Reading.*

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

## QUESTIONS.

### ELECTRICITY ACT.

*As to Amended Regulations.*

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Works:

Is it the intention of the Electricity Commission to introduce amended Regulations to take the place of those Regulations which were disallowed by the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly this session, and if so, why has so much delay occurred in presenting the amended Regulations to Parliament?

The MINISTER replied:

The Commission is giving consideration to the position which has arisen.

The Commission proposes to ascertain the effect of operating without the disallowed regulations before deciding whether amended regulations are required.

### COAL.

*As to Imports from South Africa.*

Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Housing:—

What was the price of the coal recently imported from South Africa f.o.b. Fremantle?

The MINISTER replied:

As a result of inquiries made I am informed that there has been no coal imported into this State from South Africa.

## HOSPITALS.

*As to Merredin Staff Quarters and Mortuary.*

Mr. CORNELL (without notice) asked the Minister for Health:

1. When recently approached regarding the construction of a new mortuary at the Merredin Hospital, the Under Secretary, Department of Public Health, stated that the department was more concerned with the living than with the dead. In view of the departmental desire to do something for the living, will the Minister advise what steps (if any) have been taken to transfer the Westonia Hospital to Merredin for use there as nurses' quarters?

2. Is the professed concern of the Department of Public Health for the living sufficiently deep to enable a high degree of priority being given to this particular work?

3. If the answer is in the affirmative, will he explain why the Minister for Works, when requested to agree to it being carried out without calling for tenders, provided a reasonable price from an approved contractor was forthcoming, stated that after investigation the Department of Public Health did not regard the matter as one of urgency?

4. In view of the fact that the Merredin Hospital is now a nurses' training school and accommodation for 24 students, in addition to the normal staff, will have to be provided for early in the New Year, does the Minister concur in the view that the provision of the necessary quarters, by transferring the building from Westonia, is an urgent necessity?

5. If the reply is also in the affirmative, will he support my representations to the Minister for Works that the work of moving the Westonia Hospital to Merredin for use as staff quarters be put in hand forthwith, and if a reasonable quotation from an approved contractor can be obtained the calling of tenders be dispensed with, thereby saving valuable time?

6. Having due regard for the fact that dead men tell no tales and have no votes, and also that the needs of the living must come first, can the Minister indicate when it is expected that a new mortuary will be erected at the Merredin Hospital?

The MINISTER replied:

I have had an opportunity of looking at the questions, and the position is that a new building is to be erected at Merredin for nurses' quarters, and a building at Westonia is to be used for that purpose. This work is of considerable magnitude, and its estimated cost is £5,000. Plans are now being prepared. I am not aware of what comment the Minister for Works made on the question, but it is regarded by the Health Department as a No. 1 priority, and I have requested the Principal Architect to regard it as such. He has informed me that he hopes to have the plans completed within the next week or two, when tenders will be called for the work or an attempt will be made to get a direct price if any contractor is interested in giving one. So far as the mortuary is concerned, I agree with the principle that the needs of the living are more important than those of the dead, but the dead must be attended to, and the mortuary will receive consideration at the earliest possible moment.

## FREMANTLE HARBOUR.

*As to Mr. Tydeman's Report.*

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN (without notice) asked the Minister for Works:

Has he received Mr. Tydeman's report on the Fremantle Harbour, and if so, when is it likely to be made available?

The MINISTER replied:

To the best of my knowledge, the report has not yet been completely assembled. The hon. member will not need to wait very much longer before the report will be tabled.

## —BILL—MARKETING OF APPLES AND PEARS.

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 2nd December.

MR. HOAR (Nelson) [3.19]: I am not surprised to see a Bill of this description presented to Parliament this session. In fact, it is a Bill that I would expect to see brought down by any Government which has a clear understanding of the difficulties—and many of them are rather complex—that today confront the apple and pear industry of Western Australia. The main purpose of

the Bill is to provide a marketing scheme for one further year, and if members accept the necessity for such a principle as that, then they will find that even though the Bill does include 11 pages, nearly all of the other provisions will be acceptable to them. It is generally known that prior to the war, open marketing operated in respect of fruit. Acquisition, as we now know it, is a child of war-caused conditions and difficulties. There came a time early in the period of hostilities when all shipping had to be diverted to other more national and essential needs. As a consequence, this industry, which must depend on oversea marketing for the disposal of two-thirds of its crop, necessarily lost the whole of those markets.

Manpower, of course, deteriorated for orchard work during the war years and shortages of materials generally were experienced by this industry which has always meant so much to Western Australia. As a result, the Commonwealth Government rightly came to the rescue and, by a scheme of acquisition, took over from the growers all the apples that it required and considered could be reasonably marketed, guaranteeing to the growers a sufficient return on their crops to enable them at least to continue in existence this important industry until such time as conditions improved. The effects of the war have not even though hostilities ceased over three years ago, entirely disappeared.

The industry was, and is, too valuable to permit of its perishing for want of some aid from the Commonwealth Government or the State Government, as the case may be. It plays a tremendous part in the general economy of Western Australia. For the information of members, I shall quote some figures that have been supplied to me for the purpose of this debate in order to indicate the amount of money that would normally be distributed from an average crop of fruit. I refer to the expenditure of money in relation to all those items that go towards the marketing of this commodity. In respect of a case of apples for the local market, the costs are—

Shooks (Boxboards) .. ..	2s. 2.6d.
Strawboards .. ..	3.622d.
Fruit wraps .. ..	8.35d.
Packing etc. includes case making and nails— (Average cost packing sheds and growers) .. ..	1s. 2.5d.
Cartage ex orchard .. ..	4d.
F.O.R. .. ..	4s. 9.072d.
Railage .. ..	8d.
Cartage ex rail to store and markets .. ..	3d.
Cool storage .. ..	1s. 4d.
Other charges (handling and assembly) .. ..	3.225d.
Local cost .. ..	7s. 3.297d.

In the harvesting of the portion of the crop that we feel should be marketed and which normally might be, and not infrequently is, 1,500,000 bushels, on the basis of 7s. 3d. per case, which is distributed over a great number of industries in the State thus increasing employment, I point out that no less than £543,750 involved in these items alone is spread each year among other industries as the result of the fruit crop. As I indicated, that creates much additional employment. The grower himself gets about 4s. 3d. per case. A considerable portion of that amount is also returned to other industries throughout the State, and that return of 4s. 3d. per case on a crop of 1,500,000 bushels indicates that £313,750 has to be added to the original figure I have given regarding the cost of a case of fruit and its marketing. That means a total approaching £1,000,000, a great proportion of which is returned to the working men and women throughout Western Australia in connection with the tasks they perform in various industries respecting the materials required for the marketing of fruit.

In these circumstances, I claim the industry plays such a great part in the economy of the country, and that the Commonwealth was fully justified and quite right in preserving the industry from grave losses, if not from total extinction. In view of the proposed agreement between the Commonwealth and the State, which is complementary to the Bill before the House, I have no doubt whatever in my mind that the Commonwealth had every intention, in all these circumstances, to continue the acquisition scheme for a further 12 months. The only consideration that prevented it from doing so was the

doubt as to its constitutional powers, in respect of which it held there was some possibility of challenge. As I mentioned earlier, the adverse conditions that operated against the smooth marketing of apples during the war years have not entirely disappeared. While they still exist to some extent, I am hopeful—I think I can see signs of it already—that they are likely to disappear within the reasonably near future and it is possible, should the Bill become law, that there will be no necessity at all for its continuance after the lapse of the time factor set out in the legislation.

There is no doubt that the hopes of the fruitgrowers themselves for improved conditions in the post-war years have not fully materialised. There is still a very grave shortage of fruit cases and of labour for the orchards. In my opinion, the Bill, which is strictly limited to the 1949 crop, should receive the approval and full support of this House. I would like to make a brief reference to a certain amount of misunderstanding that has been apparent during the last five years in respect of the acquisition scheme in Western Australia. A good deal of opposition to the scheme has been expressed, not from the growers' point of view because they realise its necessity, but by the general public on the score that at no time has there been an attempt to distribute the surplus fruit to the consumers of Western Australia.

We have heard all sorts of stories about piles of fruit lying under the trees while there was a ready market to absorb it. Before the war, we always had that situation. There was always plenty of fruit under the trees, but in those days there was sufficient labour to take it away in order to feed it to stock or to destroy it. As a result of the labour situation in the industry, even today that is not always possible and, in consequence, people, when they drive along country roads past orchards, frequently see quantities of what appear to be quite good apples lying on the ground. What actually happens today, owing to the fertiliser situation—which, of course, was very acute during the war years and the early post-war years—is that those apples are ploughed in to make further fertiliser for the orchard in which they were grown.

The apples left on the tree after the crop has been taken off absorb far more moisture than they require. They absorb all the

water from the soil through the roots which normally is distributed over the whole crop on the tree. As a consequence, although these apples might look very reasonable and appear to be tasty to eat, they are full of water and not nice to eat and have no keeping qualities. If members will but appreciate the situation that has confronted this industry over the years—and still does—and understand also that we have not by any manner of means overcome the fruit case shortage, which determines the amount of crop that can be marketed; have not by any means overcome the labour shortage and as the industry, anxious as it always has been to produce and distribute as much fruit as possible to the consumer, apart from its oversea commitments has been unable to do so, as I say, if members appreciate all this they will understand the position of the industry.

Picking is an entirely seasonal occupation and consequently only a limited number of people are available for this class of work because it is considered desirable that once picking starts it should be completed within about four to six weeks. I was one who believed about three years ago that more could be done in the way of distributing the surplus fruit. For my own satisfaction, I made a most careful inquiry into the industry and found that the situation that then prevailed and still does to some extent, militates against any better distribution of fruit. I am quite certain that the Apple and Pear Board, which has been responsible throughout the past years for the acquisition and distribution of fruit, did an excellent job in the circumstances.

We have to remember that the estimated crop for 1949 is between 1,750,000 bushels and 2,000,000 bushels; but such is the situation with respect to labour and fruit case that we cannot hope to distribute or market more than 1,250,000 to 1,500,000 bushels. It is necessary, because of those factors alone to give the industry a little more time to make its final adjustments to the rapidly changing world conditions. It should be borne in mind also that it would cost a grower today who desired to market his fruit privately twice as much as it did before the war. As a consequence, I am not surprised that the growers of this State, or a substantial majority of those who voted approved of such a scheme as this for a

further twelve months, so as to enable them to size up world conditions and make other arrangements for the future. The Bill itself simply reverses the position that applied between the Commonwealth and the State up to the present time.

The Commonwealth, under its war-time regulations, was able to bring into being a scheme for acquisition, with a State advisory committee assisting it in this and other States. It is now proposed to set up a State marketing board, the Commonwealth to act as its agent. This board is to be financed under a guarantee by the State Treasury which, through the local State Marketing Board, can make that money, or any portion of it, as the case may be, available to the Commonwealth for use by it in connection with the machinery of marketing, which is still in its possession, in order to assist in the general marketing of the fruit of this State. It is proposed that this board, seeing that it is only to be in existence for 12 months, shall be appointed under this Bill, rather than that the usual method of a ballot, which is customary in most other industries, should be adopted.

It is proposed also that the State Advisory Committee, which has done such valuable work in the past in co-operation with the Commonwealth acquisition scheme and the Commonwealth board, should be appointed as the State's Apple and Pear Marketing Board. I do not think any objection at all can be raised to this proposal. The board is to be composed of four growers' representatives, a market representative, the Superintendent of Horticulture and a representative of the public. I gather from the Minister's second reading speech that it is probably his intention to include shipping interests. If so, I think the composite committee or board, representing all phases of the industry, would materially assist by its activities the marketing of our fruit to the best advantage.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: Is there to be a selling agent on the board?

Mr. HOAR: Yes, a market representative. The board is to be given very wide powers indeed, most of which are taken from the Commonwealth regulations governing the acquisition scheme, but altered to fit into local conditions. Power is given to compel a grower with an orchard of more than one

acre to seek registration. Power is given to acquire his fruit and prevent him from doing anything he should not do inside the boundaries of the State. This power seems to me to be in some respects rather strong. I wondered whether there would be any infringement of Section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution, and of another clause contained in the Bill. However, I understand from the Minister, who has been kind enough to give me a copy of a proposed amendment, that this situation is fully covered; and I shall in the Committee stage have much pleasure in supporting the amendment which I think will place the matter on a legal and permanent footing.

Under the proposed agreement, which is supplementary to the Bill, the Commonwealth Government will still assist in the marketing of apples and pears, with the authority of the State board, and under a financial guarantee by the State Treasury. The beauty of this scheme from the growers' point of view is that they cannot lose, because the Commonwealth Government will guarantee to distribute, after payment of administration costs, all profits to the growers. Should the unhappy situation arise whereby a loss is incurred, the Commonwealth guarantees to meet that loss also. From the growers' point of view, I think no better agreement could possibly be visualised than this. It is the most generous of all agreements, and it speaks well for the Minister and his advisers who, between them, were able to convince the Commonwealth Government of the necessity for this Bill. It also speaks very highly indeed for the Commonwealth Government, which all too frequently is called upon to suffer much abuse and vilification by State rights fanatics who can see no good at all in Commonwealth control or influence of any kind.

The Minister in his speech made some references which led me to believe that he is still looking to the Commonwealth Government for some assistance in regard to the procurement of fruit cases. It should be clearly understood by everyone that the production or procurement of fruit cases should not be a Commonwealth responsibility at all. It is definitely a responsibility of the States. The Commonwealth has no forests of its own. The State has complete control over its timber and its distribution. In the past it has been found necessary to import cases

from Sweden and elsewhere at a cost of 3s. 6d. per case. I believe the price today is 4s., as against the cost of our own cases of 1s. 8d. each. Last year we imported 500,000 cases, of which I understand 300,000 were set aside to augment our supplies for the 1949 crop. In spite of this, the Minister said it is estimated that only about 1,118,000 cases will be available to market the 1949 crop of approximately 1,500,000 bushels.

That is a situation which I frankly cannot understand, but it should not be permitted to continue, because every time we ask the Commonwealth Government to arrange for the importation of fruit cases, we not only double the cost to our own growers and as a consequence increase the cost of fruit to the consuming public, but we admit our inability to handle our own fruit case position. It is ironical to me that this State, which produces far more timber than it requires—we export some 40 per cent. of it at present—should be short of fruit cases. It suggests to me a lack of organisation in the timber industry.

The co-operation that exists between the Sawmillers' Association and the State Housing Commission, to which the Minister made reference in another debate some weeks ago, in the production of timber for housing evidently does not exist so far as the production of fruit cases is concerned. I asked the Minister some questions a few weeks ago as to the number of fruit cases that had met with bad luck on the way to the United Kingdom. A number of them needed repairs when they arrived in England, and all sorts of complaints were levelled against the manufacturers in this State. In his reply, the Minister said the problem of cases today is not directly one of quality, so much as one of quantity; they are in short supply because of lack of manpower in the timber industry. That is not quite correct. Some 3,000 men are engaged in the timber industry today.

If we were to double that number and also double our 167 mills, we would not produce one more fruit case, unless the organisation and the desire were there to cut them. The fact is that the sawmillers prefer to cut anything but fruit cases. They get more profits out of scantlings and other orders. Up to the 30th June, 1947, almost 30,000,000 cubic feet of logs passed through our mills, and the recovery of sawn timber was

slightly under 10,000 cubic feet, approximately 33 per cent. About 67 per cent., or 20,000,000 cubic feet of log timber, was not used for the production of marketable timber and was destroyed. A lot of that timber cannot be used, but much of it can be; and it only requires proper organisation in the timber industry to bring that about.

The Forests Department itself is very careful about its timber reserves. If I were to drive a nail into a karri tree I would be liable. I would be committing an offence and could be punished for it. But the moment the tree is cut down and sent to a mill, the Forests Department has no say as to what is done with it. It can be burnt. There is no control whatsoever of the cutting of logs that pass through a mill, and I know from experience that a good deal of timber is wasted at the mills that could be used for fruit cases. There is no need for the importation of fruit cases to Western Australia. What I think is required in the timber industry—and it is important to the fruitgrowing industry, because the amount of fruit that can be put on the market is limited by our case production—is a clear understanding, before a permit is issued for the cutting of timber, that at least one case bench shall be included in all mills in karri country.

Further, I would suggest that a very large mill be established somewhere in the South-West and that we get away from the idea of cutting cases with a circular saw. The teeth of such a saw are  $\frac{5}{16}$ th of an inch across, and  $\frac{5}{16}$ ths inches of timber is being wasted every time the saw goes through a plank. There is a mill in the Eastern States—and there are mills in other countries doing the same—that uses a knife for cutting even hard timber; and I believe one should be established in Western Australia somewhere in the South-West, in an area of country acceptable for release by the Forest Department, for no other purpose than the cutting of fruit cases. There would be practically no waste of that timber because there would be no sawdust.

I mention that to the Minister in passing in the hope that he will appreciate that the solution of the problem of the marketing of apples in this State, no matter how much the shipping position improves and no matter how much the labour position improves, is still going to be delayed by the inadequate production of fruit

cases. The solution of the problem is in our hands. The Forests Department should be given power to make sure that the best use is made of trees cut down under permit. I have read the Bill very closely and have gone carefully through the Commonwealth regulations that have operated in regard to the marketing of fruit over many years. I have made a careful study of the situation in my own district; and I feel that the fruit-growers of this State did a wise thing when, by ballot, they chose to ask the State Government to introduce this legislation to give them further protection for another 12 months. I am quite convinced that even though the war has been over for three years, chaos could afflict this industry at this stage unless some such legislation proves acceptable to members here and in another place. I have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

**MR. STYANTS** (Kalgoorlie) [3.50]: While I do not intend to oppose the Bill, I hope that for the sake of the consumers of this type of fruit and the taxpayers of the State, this will be the last time we shall see a measure of this kind before the House. The operations of the Apple and Pear Board make a very sad story so far as the taxpayers and consumers are concerned, and I do not think they have been particularly profitable to the growers. But they did at least preserve to the growers their orchards during the war period. I think most of us realised when war began that it would be necessary to take some action of this kind if our apple orchards were going to be in a reasonable state of preservation at the end of hostilities, because no shipping was available and not a great deal of manpower. Therefore we all agreed that this board should be brought into existence. It was well known that some losses would be incurred but we scarcely realised the enormous amount that would be lost.

I have not an account of the financial operations of the board over the last two years, but those from 1940 to 1946 present a very sad picture. I would not have minded our having to foot the bill for the deficits created as a result of the board's operations had the consumers of the State been given fruit at a reasonable price. But we know that during and even since the war apples have been sold at famine prices. During the war the man on the basic wage,

and anyone within a reasonable margin of the basic wage and having a family, found it impossible to provide that family with apples and pears at the prices prevailing. Anything up to 1s. a lb. and rarely less than 8d. a lb. was charged, and it was impossible for men to provide their families with the fruit they required for health purposes. I propose to give figures to indicate what the operations of the board cost the State from 1940 to 1946.

**Mr. Marshall:** Are the figures for Commonwealth-wide operations or just for the State?

**Mr. STYANTS:** The figures cover the operations of the board. In 1940 the profit and loss account showed a trading loss of £321,294. The loss in respect of undelivered fruit—that is fruit paid for and left to rot in the orchards and to be ploughed in by the orchardists—amounted to £269,964. The over-all deficit was £591,158. In 1941 the profit and loss account showed a loss of £727,655; the amount paid for undelivered fruit was £864,336 and the total deficit was £1,591,991. In 1942 there was a credit in the profit and loss account of £168,294; but, as an offset to that, for undelivered fruit £454,815 was paid. The over-all loss was £286,521. In 1943 there was a credit of £486,844; but, as an offset to that, £558,020 was paid for undelivered fruit and the debit for the year was £71,186. In 1944 there was a debit in the profit and loss account of £86,347 and undelivered fruit cost £736,910. The over-all loss for the year was £823,257. In 1945 there was a credit of £829,296 on the trading operations and for undelivered fruit £581,600 was paid, an over-all profit of £247,686 being shown for the year. In 1946 there was a debit of £49,713, undelivered fruit costing £770,287 and the over-all loss being £820,000.

During those six years the result of the board's trading was a credit of £299,415, but the amount paid for undelivered fruit—and it is well for members to consider this colossal figure—was £4,235,932. The over-all loss for the six years was £3,866,527. If we allow for the amount that is paid by the board to the orchardists of somewhere around 4s. or 5s. a bushel case, we find that over those six years 27,000,000 bushels of fruit were paid for on a measurement basis by the board, of which delivery was never taken. As a representative of the taxpayers I contend that if a different policy had been

evolved or practised by the Apple and Pear Board, there would have been nothing of which to complain. If it had said in effect, "The taxpayer has to foot the bill for the loss, because the orchards have to be kept in full productivity when hostilities cease; but we will give the public the benefit of obtaining cheap fruit," there could not have been a great deal of complaint; because we realised then, as we have to realise now, that the growers require assistance from the State.

But I submit that as three years have passed since the war ended, this industry should now be approaching the stage when it can stand on its own feet. I think that Tasmania and Western Australia are the only two States in which the board operates. The others have decided, of their own volition, to abandon control by the board. I do not intend to oppose the Bill, because we have the assurance of the member for Nelson, whose electorate embraces quite a large area of the apple and pear-growing districts of the State that it is still necessary, principally because of the lack of shipping, which prevents them from sending their surplus oversea.

I understand that this year, at all events, there will not be a great exportable surplus, as the crop is poor. Is the consuming public still to be called upon to pay the famine prices that have operated for some years past, or are the people, who have paid enormous sums for the preservation of the orchards in recent years, to get the fruit from now on at more reasonable prices? There is still a shortage of shipping for all classes of goods and I am for the time being prepared to accept the assurance of the member for Nelson that it is essential that the board should continue to operate, but I hope it will adopt more up-to-date practices of marketing and operating generally than it has in the past. I trust we will not have a Bill of this kind before the House again in the future. Once shipping becomes available the growers should appreciate the assistance that has been given the industry by the taxpayers of the State, and they should then be willing to render the taxpayers some service by providing the people with fruit at reasonable prices.

**MR. MARSHALL** (Murchison) [4.2]: The member for Kalgoorlie, who preceded me, stole most but not all of my thunder. It

is not my intention to oppose the Bill either, but I desire to sound a note of warning. While the figures produced by the member for Kalgoorlie are a revelation and somewhat astonishing, it must be remembered that the introduction of legislation such as this by the Commonwealth Government during the war was for the purpose of achieving exactly the result shown by those figures. When there was no export market for the apples it was necessary to preserve the asset contained in the orchards and ensure continuity of the part played by the industry in the economy of the State until more normal times. I agree that we are too prone to look on legislation of this kind from a one-sided viewpoint. There is in this measure the safeguard that it is to operate for 12 months only, but there are many measures on the statute book that arrive in this House annually for endorsement by Parliament.

Without wishing to be uncharitable disposed towards the apple grower I would point out that anyone who is able to get economic security without any expense or mental anxiety on his own part will willingly accept it, and that is what the effect of this Bill will be. It will give the growers an absolute guarantee that their assets will be preserved at the expense of the taxpayers of the State. It will provide them with mechanisation in order that they may produce for overseas markets, and at the end of the year they will have received a reasonable income. In other words, they are to enjoy economic security, and no-one could take exception to that, but I would point out that not even individual in this State enjoys that security. I am afraid that the measure may appear again in this House because interested parties, especially when they have political power, are almost sure to demand continuance of such legislation.

The time is therefore opportune for the sounding of a note of warning. Apart altogether from the charge that the taxpayer has to pay for the production of this industry in the extortionate prices charged for fruit, there is no gain in saying the fact that the people are being forced to pay a higher price for fruit in this State than is paid for it in foreign countries thousands of miles away. In spite of that the fruit available here is of a

inferior quality compared with that which is exported, and the consumers have to foot the bill for the lot. To illustrate how the business of providing apples and pears for the people is at present conducted I will produce, as "exhibit A", an apple that I secured at the luncheon table at Parliament House today.

This apple, which I am holding up for members to see, is the type of fruit that our consumers today are forced to buy. With all due respect to that biblical gentleman, I say without fear of contradiction that if an apple such as this had been the best that was available in the Garden of Eden, Adam would never have fallen. I did not ask the caterer what he paid for apples of this quality, but I would like the member for Nelson to understand that there is some inconsistency in the arguments he advanced. That is confirmed by the figures given by the member for Kalgoorlie. If there is a labour shortage in the industry and the growers cannot harvest all the fruit, so that it is being buried or ploughed in under the trees, surely the labour that is available for harvesting could be put to better use so that the people might be provided with a better article than apples of this sort.

I am very curious to know where the high quality fruit does go to. If it is not exported, owing to prevailing circumstances, what is happening to it? That is a question that the member for Nelson must answer. If packing cases are not available for the exporting of high quality fruit, what is being done with it? It is never seen in the shops of Perth, with the exception of one or two establishments that specialise in high quality fruit.

This apple that I have shown the House may not be quite up to the average quality available, but it is very little below that average. The taxpayer is entitled to a far better grade of fruit than that. Where are the regulations? It is unfair that a Bill confirming Commonwealth regulations should be introduced in this House without the regulations being made available. When the Commonwealth board had sole jurisdiction under Commonwealth regulations to control the industry, we were not as individual members of Parliament concerned in the matter, as it was a Commonwealth responsibility,

but I suggest to the Minister that, as apparently we are now to take this authority unto ourselves members are entitled to a glimpse of the regulations.

Surely all the fruit that we are told finds a resting place under the trees that produced it could be used for a purpose better than that of fertilising the orchards. It is badly needed as fodder in other industries, and if it were made available for that purpose I feel certain that a higher grade of some other commodities would be available for distribution to our consumers. However, I understand from the regulations that the grower is not permitted to hand even one apple over the fence to a traveller or a neighbour—that he must not dispose of any of his fruit in that way. I remember when the same provision applied to potatoes and the growers provided spades and invited the public to help themselves.

Mr. Styants: The fruit is not theirs to give away. It belongs to the board.

Mr. MARSHALL: Surely the board, in co-operation with the growers, could do something to avoid the present colossal waste. I want to see the regulations, in order to find out why the board has not done that. I feel that the fruitgrowers should look to the marketing of their own product. If we continue to enact legislation of this sort for them annually, we cannot blame them for continuing as they are at present. I have been told often in the past, and particularly during the war period, that the fruitgrowers were not permitted to give away the product of their orchards because it was the property of the board.

Whether that is so or not there is something wrong with the administration when the present colossal waste is allowed to occur at the expense of the taxpayers, who already are being taxed to such an extent that their lives must appear to be nothing but a continual frustration. Under the circumstances I will not oppose the measure at present. I am prepared to give the board another 12 months' existence, but if I am present in this House next session I will want to know whether there has been any initiative shown by the growers and whether they have made arrangements to

eater for themselves, at their own expense, thus affording some relief to the taxpayers and some advantage to the consumer.

**HON. J. B. SLEEMAN** (Fremantle) [4.14]: I have no intention of opposing the Bill but I hope it will not be necessary for this legislation to be brought down regularly every year, as is the case with so many similar measures. I would like the Minister, when replying to the debate, to explain to the House the constitution of the board. The Bill states—

The State Board shall consist of the members for the time being of the State Committee constituted for the State of Western Australia under the Commonwealth regulations, or, if such State Committee shall cease to exist as such, then the same or such other persons as the Governor shall appoint.

That committee consisted of producers' representatives, consumers' representatives, a representative of the selling agents and a representative of the Department of Agriculture. Why is it necessary to have on the board a representative of the selling agents? I believe there are 10 selling agents in Perth and if one is fortunate enough to be on this board he will be able to obtain inside information that will give him an advantage over the others. I would like the Minister to explain why there should be on the board a sellers' agent.

**MR. HILL** (Albany) [4.15]: As an export fruitgrower and one that is closely associated with the industry I wholeheartedly support the Bill and thank the Government for introducing it. I have listened to the three previous speakers and notice that our goldmining friends do not attempt to tell us of the undelivered gold in our mining areas. Not one of the previous speakers has outlined a scheme whereby we can get the fruit from the orchard to the consumer at a lower cost. If they can submit a scheme for a cheaper distribution of apples I will be pleased to support it. I would like to go back to 1939. Western Australia and Tasmania are mainly growers of export fruit.

In 1939, we in Western Australia, exported about 1,300,000 cases of apples and pears and between 300,000 and 400,000 were consumed locally, and I estimate about 300,000 went to waste in the orchards. The Fruitgrowers' Conference was held at Albany in that year. During the conference I got

the news from one of my friends outside that war had started. When I returned to the conference it was temporarily suspended, and I announced that war had broken out. There was silence, because we realised that the industry was facing ruination.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: Why was that pushed on to the consumer?

**MR. HILL**: Last year has been one of the worst on record. The fruit has been of poor quality, and every bit of it that could be marketed was marketed. After the 1939 conference, when we had to face the war, a meeting of the executive was held at Kojonup. We realised that it needed only a small proportion of the fruit produced and normally exported to suffice for the local market and supply its needs, beyond which there would be a glut. A glut, of course, would mean that the grower would get nothing and yet be faced with the cost of cases, transport, etc. Our first proposal was to ask the State Government to introduce legislation to limit the quantity of fruit marketed so that when it was marketed it would provide some return to the grower.

The Commonwealth Government then stepped in and decided to acquire all the fruit. The scheme evolved at the time has been severely criticised. Members must not think I like to see good fruit going to waste in my orchard, but I could not put my fruit on the market because of labour difficulties. Had all the fruit been put on the market the consumer public could not have absorbed it. The Apple and Pear Board and the acquisition scheme have saved a valuable industry in Western Australia and in Tasmania. This year the position is a long way from normal. Our fruit ships constituted priority No. 1 target for the Germans, and they suffered heavily.

This year we are faced with a shortage of shipping, with uncertainty of markets, possibly with a good crop, but with a shortage of cases and labour as well as of packing materials. If the Bill is not passed by Parliament, chaos for the industry will occur, and not only will there be continued waste of apples, but a waste of the industry as a whole. We need the Bill and we need the scheme to regulate marketing, shipping and the supply of materials. On behalf of the growers of Western Australia, I say, "Thank you" to the Government for bringing down this Bill and to members for the way in which they have received it.

**HON. J. T. TONKIN** (North-East Fremantle) [4.17]: It is not my desire to delay the passage of this measure. As one who was associated to some extent with aids to the industry I feel it is desirable that I should say a few words on the Bill. I have the greatest admiration for fruit-growers in this State. Within my experience there is no better run association than the association of fruitgrowers here.

The Minister for Education: We will all agree with that.

**Hon. J. T. TONKIN**: They are a very level-headed body of men who invariably seek the opinion of those engaged in the industry, and I have not had a single instance where any request put forward by them was not soundly based and of an excellent character. The fact that the organisation here desires this legislation goes a long way in gaining my support in the first instance. Secondly, the growers, to whom the matter has been referred, see the necessity for the continuance of this legislation and therefore they are behind it. A further period of acquisition is essential if the industry is to be enabled to get soundly upon its feet, because although we might desire to let industry function in the way it did prior to acquisition, we have to admit that world conditions are such as to make the return to those conditions impossible at present. This is a most important industry for the State.

It would be foolish for us, after having safeguarded it for so long, to let it face disaster because we refused to help it for a short while longer. We must pass this legislation which will result in a slightly different set-up from what obtained previously, inasmuch as the Commonwealth Board will now be the agent of the State instead of the principal. But that is only occasioned because of the State Act taking the place of Commonwealth powers which were previously exercised. I share the desire of other members that the time is not far distant when those industries will be able to stand on their own feet without this assistance, but that time is not yet, and we have never refrained from assisting an industry which requires it.

Last night we discussed a measure for the assistance of the wheatgrowing industry which is in a flourishing condition today, but which will quite probably require generous help in the years to come. There-

fore, opportunity is taken to make provision now. The assistance for this industry is somewhat different because we are continuing that which has been in operation during the war years, at a time when it was absolutely important, because of conditions, for the industry to function normally. Whilst the markets are available it is not possible to get the fruit to the markets because of a number of insuperable difficulties at the moment. Therefore, there is nothing left for us but to continue to provide this help.

I am glad indeed that the growers have made it plain to the Government that they see the wisdom of this method of marketing under present control and have requested a continuance of the aid. If they failed to do that because of a lack of appreciation of present difficulties then they would have suffered greatly and the State would have suffered with them. Big industries do not suffer alone; difficulties which occur in those industries have repercussions elsewhere. It is interesting to work out at times just how far effects are felt when certain industries experience trouble.

This legislation is needed; it is sought; it is desirable. It is not experimental; we have seen how it operated before; we know that it cannot be used without a certain amount of waste; we deplore that fact, but nobody has yet been able to find a solution of it. In an endeavour to save waste we cause costs to mount and in the long run we do not save anything. I have sufficient faith in the men who are in charge of the industry and carrying out the operations of the Apple and Pear Board to trust them with a further term of power. I hope the Bill will have a speedy passage and, with other members, trust it will not be long before the industry will be able to stand on its own feet.

**THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING** (Hon. R. R. McDonald—West Perth—in reply) [4.26]: I am indebted to members for the consideration that has been given to the Bill. As has been pointed out, this is a Bill for one crop only. What will happen to the ensuing crops is something that I cannot forecast, but from the point of view of the consumer it may not be so acceptable even as conditions are today. From 1942, the other States which grow apples went out of the Apple and Pear Board

scheme. They could afford to do so because they had a home market which could take all their apples, whereas Western Australia and Tasmania had to depend very largely on an export market for the bulk of their fruit. I am informed that when the Apple and Pear Board, at the request of those States, agreed to go out of business in those States, it resulted in a rise in the price of fruit. I also understand that in this State there are some opponents against the acquisition scheme, for the simple reason that they look forward, if this scheme terminates, to getting a higher price from the consumer than they got under the Apple and Pear Board scheme.

It has to be borne in mind that under that scheme the State committee contained, as one of its representatives, a representative of the consumers, and the State board, which will be composed of the personnel of the former State committee, will continue to have that gentleman as the consumers' representative. I might be allowed to mention that the consumers' representative on the State Apple and Pear Committee will continue to be their representative on the board. He is Mr. Nilsson, the secretary of the Transport Workers' Union who has been, in the opinion of his fellow members, a valuable member of the committee. At present I understand that apples of the quality that is currently sold in this State are bringing 27s. a case in Queensland, where they went out of the Apple and Pear Board control some years ago.

Mr. Marshall: They suffered in Victoria too, as a consequence.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: Yes. We have to bear in mind that the Apple and Pear Board scheme as run by the Commonwealth and as contemplated by this Bill is not only a marketing scheme to support the existence of this industry, but it also has a control over the apples to the consumer. It is the board that sells the apples and fixes a price which will, as far as possible, give a fair return for the goods sold, but at the same time will have regard to what is a fair thing for the consumers. It may well be that, after the current season, open marketing will be resumed, but I would not be prepared—nor, I think, would anyone in the industry—to give any guarantee that the prices will not be higher than at present in view of rising costs that have affected every industry.

The member for Fremantle asked about the regulations. Under the Commonwealth scheme hitherto operating, the whole of the control was set out in regulations, whereas, as the scheme will now operate, almost the whole of the control is set out in the Bill. This measure, in effect, will take the place of and embody what was previously contained in National Security Regulations, so we have done what the hon. member feels should be done, in that we have included in the measure itself all the major provisions to regulate the scheme. The regulations that might be made will deal with subordinate matters, such as prescribing forms and administrative details, which would be too cumbersome to include in the measure itself.

On the State committee hitherto operating and on the board which is being set up under this measure, there will be seven members. The growers will have four representatives on the board, and the consumers one representative; the Superintendent of Horticulture, Mr. Powell, will also be a member, and there will be one man only of the seven who is a marketing agent. This is an expert board dealing with highly specialised matters, and the appointment of one skilled man in the trade out of the seven seems to be no more than is prudent and necessary to ensure that the board will have full information as to the best way to carry out its functions.

When moving the second reading of the Bill, I referred to the fact that the measure was associated with an agreement between the Commonwealth and the State, that a draft of the Bill and the agreement had been sent to the Federal Minister, Mr. Pollard, and that I was awaiting a reply from him. On Monday I received a telegram in which he set out certain suggestions for some minor amendments to the Bill and the agreement, and he stated that, subject to these suggestions being adopted, the measure now before the House was satisfactory and the agreement acceptable to the Commonwealth Government. The suggestions made by Mr. Pollard have been the subject of amendments to the agreement, and the amendments I shall propose to the Bill in Committee will, I believe, carry out entirely what Mr. Pollard suggested. As the Commonwealth is accepting the final financial responsibility for the guaranteed price, it is only fair that what

the Commonwealth regards as reasonably necessary—and no more than that has been asked—should be assured by the measure now before us. Copies of the agreement, with the amendments suggested by Mr. Pollard, have been laid on the Table for the information of members.

When the Estimates of the Forests Department come up for consideration, I shall have something to say regarding the fruit-case position referred to by the member for Nelson, who very properly made some observations on that matter. All I desire to say at this stage is that steps are being taken to meet the position regarding the supply of fruit-cases for future seasons in this State. Members who have spoken with an intimate knowledge of the fruit industry have explained the difficulties arising from fruit seen lying under trees. The limitations of labour make it impossible for growers to do more than is being done at present.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

Mr. Perkins in the Chair; the Minister for Housing in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—Short Title and commencement:

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: An amendment to this clause is desired by the Federal Minister on the advice of his Parliamentary Draftsman. It is entirely a matter of drafting. Under the clause, it is proposed that the marketing provisions shall come into operation provided that the agreement with the Commonwealth is duly signed and a proclamation is made by the State that these provisions shall come into effect. The Commonwealth wishes to put it the other way round and desires that the provisions shall come into force on the 1st January next unless there is a proclamation that they shall not come into force. I move an amendment—

That all the words after the figures "1949" in line 5 of Subclause (2) and all the words in the proviso be struck out, and the following words inserted in lieu:—

Provided that if on or before the thirty-first day of December, 1948, the agreement referred to in Section 4 of this Act has not been entered into, a proclamation to that effect shall be made on or before that last-mentioned date and thereupon the remaining provisions of this Act shall have no force or effect.

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

Clauses 2 and 3—agreed to.

Clause 4—Arrangements with the Commonwealth:

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: In the marginal note appears the word "arrangements". It should be "Agreement." I am advised that this is not a matter for amendment by the Committee but that it is the function of the clerk to make the necessary correction.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 5 and 6—agreed to.

Clause 7—Remuneration of members of the State Board:

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: In line four of Subclause (2) the word "Board" has been duplicated. I move an amendment—

That in line 4 of Subclause (2) before the word "or" the word "Board" be struck out.

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

Clauses 8 to 14—agreed to.

Clause 15—Commonwealth regulations to be observed:

Mr. MARSHALL: I would like the Minister to explain this clause. There is a provision that for the purposes of this measure Commonwealth regulations shall apply. I do not know what they are like. I suppose they are listed in the records of this Chamber and if the Minister will say where they are I shall be pleased. There is another provision that makes it possible for the Minister to issue regulations under this measure. I do not know whether the Minister desires to make further regulations, or in due course to repeal those of the Commonwealth and introduce others to take their place. I do not know why we want two lots of regulations under the one Act.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: The arrangement is that the Commonwealth Apple and Pear Board will discontinue acquisition but will remain as a marketing authority and instrumentality. The regulations of the Commonwealth Board are to be found in the National Security Apple and Pear regulations. So much of those as refer to acquisition will be either repealed or of no effect; but so much as have been acted on and will be acted on for marketing pur-

poses will continue to be exercised by the Commonwealth Board as marketing authority. The Commonwealth, under this agreement, is operating as a marketing authority for Tasmania as well as Western Australia, and while there is power under this measure for the State Board to make regulations—I am speaking now without a great deal of knowledge—I think it is possible that the State Board will not need to make any regulations. Should it be necessary for the State Board to do so, it will have the power.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 16 and 17—agreed to.

Clause 18:

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: I would explain that this measure had to be prepared with considerable expedition because the authority and approval from the Commonwealth have been received only in the last few days. As a result, it will be found that the marginal note has been omitted from this clause. It is obvious that that note should be "Delivery." I understand the clerk has power to insert the note.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 19 and 20—agreed to.

Clause 21—Contracts for Sale of Apples and Pears:

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This provides that in relation to apples and pears that have been acquired by virtue of this measure, any sale by a grower which would deprive the board of the property in those apples and pears when that sale has not already been completed by delivery shall be of no force or effect. In other words, growers, on their property being acquired to be marketed on their behalf, cannot upset the arrangement by making sales in other directions. But the Federal Minister, on the advice of his parliamentary draftsman and having regard to Section 92 of the Constitution providing for freedom of trade between the States, has suggested that to Subclause (1) should be added a proviso. I therefore move an amendment—

That the following proviso be added to Subclause (1):—

Provided that apples and pears the subject of interest trade or commerce and so much of any contract as solely relates thereto shall not be affected by this section.

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

Clauses 22 to 29, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments, and the report adopted.

## **BILL—MATRIMONIAL CAUSES AND PERSONAL STATUS CODE.**

### *Council's Amendments.*

Schedule of 32 amendments made by the Council now considered.

### *In Committee.*

Mr. Perkins in the Chair; the Minister for Housing in charge of the Bill.

No. 1. Clause 4, page 2—Insert after the word "rape" in line 36, the words "or attempted rape."

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: The definition in the Bill of "adultery" was to include rape by a married person on some other person of the opposite sex not a party to the marriage. The Legislative Council has suggested that the definition should include not only rape but also attempted rape. I feel that this is an extension of the use of the definition procedure which is rather greater than is justifiable and involves a person being chargeable with adultery if he has attempted to commit the crime of rape. Attempts are not always grounds and it might be said that attempted adultery is certainly not a ground for divorce; nor is it suggested that it should be. This is an extension of the definition that I am not prepared to accept. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council amendment not agreed to.

No. 2. Clause 13, page 7—Delete the word "than" in line 26, and substitute the word "that."

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This is merely an error of spelling and I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council amendment agreed to.

No. 3. Clause 15—Delete the proviso to paragraph (a) on pages 8 and 9.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: Paragraph (a) sets out adultery as a ground for the dissolution of a marriage. Following a provision which has found its place in

English law, it was suggested by this measure that no petition could be brought by a party to a marriage on the ground of the adultery of the other party within three years of the date of marriage, unless by leave of a judge. The wisdom of such a limitation has been questioned since the Bill was introduced and I discussed the matter with the learned judge who said that he had some doubts about the desirability of this provision. The Legislative Council by its amendment desires to delete this limitation to which I agree. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 4. Clause 15, paragraph (g), page 10—Insert after the word "and" in line 2, the words "during that period."

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: The Council's amendment will make it quite clear that the two offences must coincide during the four-year period. This I think is desirable and I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 5. Clause 15, paragraph (g), page 10—Insert after the word "and" in line 7, the words "during that period."

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This is consequential on the previous amendment. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 6. Clause 15, paragraph (i), page 10—Delete the words "in any other part of the British Dominions" in lines 24 and 25, and substitute the word "elsewhere."

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: Paragraph (i) deals with insanity as a ground for divorce. The amendment provides for the deletion of the words "British Dominions" and the substitution of the word "elsewhere" which makes it clear that where a person is confined in an institution in any other part of the world, for the aggregate period, it will be a ground for divorce. I consider this wording to be better than that in the Bill which was before this Committee and I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 7. Clause 15, paragraph (i), page 10—Delete the words "or periods not less in the aggregate than five years" in lines 25 and 26, and substitute the words "of not less than five years immediately preceding the commencement of the action, or for periods of not less than five years in the aggregate during the seven years immediately preceding such commencement, whether such confinement is in one such place or in a number of such places and".

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This relates to the same grounds for divorce as the previous amendment and it is placed in the Bill for the purpose of clarifying the wording of the section. It is, to some extent, imposing more restrictions on the grounds for divorce than exist at the moment. I have discussed this with the learned judge, Mr. Justice Wolff, and he is satisfied with the amendment. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 8. Clause 17, paragraph (e), page 13—Insert after the word "plaintiff" in line 1, the words "or their children."

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This amendment will enable a spouse to obtain a judicial separation on the ground of cruelty to the children by the other party to the marriage.

Hon. A. H. Panton: What would be the definition of "cruelty" to children?

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: There was a case the other day of a father who broke his child's arm.

Mr. Styants: There is a definition of "cruelty" in the Bill which defines the position.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: Yes. This relates to judicial separation and not dissolution of marriage. I consider that it is an amendment that could be accepted. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 9. Clause 26, page 18—In subparagraph (i) of paragraph (d) delete all words after the word "for" in line 36, and substi-

tute the words "an offence or offences against the criminal law for a period exceeding three years or for periods amounting in the aggregate to at least three years."

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This is a drafting amendment and clarifies the law. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 10. Clause 29, page 20—Insert the word "to" before the word "refer" in line 28.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This amendment rectifies a typographical error. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 11. Clause 46, page 25—Insert after the word "order" in line 31, the words "for dissolution of marriage or an order for judicial separation or order for nullity of marriage."

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This amendment, and several succeeding ones, are purely drafting matters that have been suggested by the learned Judge himself after he had examined the Bill subsequent to its presentation to Parliament. I have referred the matter to him and His Honour has assured me that they are in order and do not in any way affect matters of principle. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 12. Clause 46, (3), page 25—Insert after the word "order" in line 39 the words "for dissolution of marriage or an order for nullity of marriage or judicial separation."

No. 13. Clause 46, (4), page 26—Insert after the word "order" in line 3 the words "for dissolution of marriage or an order for nullity of marriage or judicial separation."

No. 14. Clause 47, page 26—Delete the words "final order in an" in lines 11 and 12.

On motions by the Minister for Housing, the foregoing amendments were agreed to.

No. 15. Clause 51, (1), page 28—Delete the words "or nullity of marriage" in lines 11 and 12.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: The next series of amendments deal with drafting matters and more clearly express the provisions in relation to orders for dissolution of marriage or for nullity of marriage. They do not affect the principles of the Bill, but are merely for clarification purposes. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

No. 16. Clause 53, page 29—Delete the words "or nullity" in line 1.

No. 17. Clause 53, page 29—Insert after the word "final" in line 2, the words "or within the prescribed time after the granting of an order for nullity."

No. 18. Clause 56, page 31—Delete the word "called" in line 10, and substitute the word "called."

No. 19. Clause 56, page 31—Delete all words after the word "marriage" in line 27, down to and including the word "by" in line 31, and substitute the words "after such final order (if the subsequent marriage is not otherwise invalid)."

No. 20. Clause 56, page 32—Delete the words "for value and" in line 3 of paragraph (c).

No. 21. Clause 56, page 32—Add after the word "ground" at end of paragraph (c) the words "as against such third party."

On motions by the Minister for Housing the foregoing amendments were agreed to.

No. 22. Clause 57, (1), page 32—Delete the words "or nullity" in line 11.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This and a number of succeeding amendments relate to Clause 57, which is a technical provision dealing with the question of the validity of the final order which may be removed from an inferior court to the Supreme Court. The clause has been re-drafted by the deletion of some words so as to make the position clearer. The object of the re-drafting has been to make more plain the distinction between proceedings for nullity of marriage and those for dissolution of marriage. No matter of principle is involved, and the amendments are purely of a drafting nature. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 23. Clause 57, (1), page 32—Insert after the word "marriage" in line 11, the words "or any order for nullity of marriage."

No. 24. Clause 57, (1), page 32—Insert after the word "order" in line 13, the words "or order for nullity."

No. 25. Clause 57, (1), page 32—Insert after the word "party" in line 16, the words "or person interested."

No. 26. Clause 57, (1), page 32—Insert after the word "party" in line 21, the words "or person interested."

No. 27. Clause 57, (2), page 32—Insert after the word "order" in line 33, the words "or order for nullity."

No. 28. Clause 58, (1), page 32—Delete all words after the word "remarry" in line 39 on page 32, down to and including the word "order" in line 1, on page 33, and substitute the words "after the grant of the final order for dissolution of marriage or the order for nullity."

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: The Bill, as passed by this House, proposed that the parties might remarry at any time after the expiration of three months from the granting of a final order for divorce or nullity of marriage. The point was raised that there was no reason why the parties should wait for three months after the decree absolute had been made, before they were free to remarry. That particular limitation is to be omitted by virtue of these amendments, the effect being that the parties, after serving the necessary probationary period under the decree nisi and having secured the decree absolute, will be able to marry again as soon as they wish. There is force in that contention and the amendments will permit the parties to marry when they so desire, unless there is an appeal pending. I move—

That the foregoing amendments be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the foregoing amendments agreed to.

No. 29. Clause 58, (1), page 33—Insert after the word "order" in line 2, the words "for dissolution of marriage or order for nullity."

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This and the remaining amendments are for the

purpose of greater clarification and definiteness. They do not affect any principle involved. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 30. Clause 58, (2), page 33—Insert after the word "or" in line 5, the words "an order."

No. 31. Clause 58, (2), page 33—Delete the word "facts" in line 6, and substitute the word "evidence."

No. 32. Clause 58, (2), page 33—Delete the word "facts" in line 9, and substitute the word "evidence."

On motions by the Minister for Housing, the foregoing amendments were agreed to.

Resolutions reported and the report adopted.

A committee consisting of Mr. Styants, Mr. Nimmo, and the Minister for Housing drew up reasons for not agreeing to amendment No. 1 made by the Council.

Reasons adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

### BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

- 1, Government Employees' Pensions.
  - 2, Purchasers' Protection Act Amendment.
- Transmitted to the Council.

### RESOLUTION—STATE FORESTS.

#### *Council's Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had concurred in the Assembly's resolution.

### BILLS (2)—RETURNED.

- 1, Country Towns Sewerage.  
With amendments.
- 2, Acts Amendment (Increase of Fees).  
Without amendment.

### BILL—LOTTERIES (CONTROL) ACT AMENDMENT.

Received from the Council and read a first time.

### BILL—CITY OF FREMANTLE (FREE LITERARY INSTITUTE).

Received from the Council and, on motion by Hon. J. B. Sleeman, read a first time.

**BILL—TRADING STAMP.***As to Committee.*

Order of the Day read for the consideration of the Bill in Committee.

*To Refer to Select Committee.*

**MR. GRAHAM** (East Perth) [5.32]: I wish to move that a Select Committee of the House be appointed to consider this Bill and to ascertain whether the gift coupon system is detrimental to the public interest.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Under the Standing Orders, the hon. member must simply move to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. He can make any explanation he likes.

**MR. GRAHAM:** I move—

That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

I intimated on the second reading that, from inquiries I had made, the public seemed to be rather confused about this matter and had found it difficult to reach a decision one way or the other. I think you will agree with me, Mr. Speaker, that that remark applies with equal force to members of this Chamber. No definite proof has been adduced, no case has been made out, to show that the gift coupon system is harmful to the public or to the industries of the State. That there are feelings on the question is apparent when one considers the exaggerated statements that have been made.

I feel that the House is not warranted in being asked to forbid certain trading practices. It is all very well to rant about local industries and to say how they must be assisted and how they must be protected from more powerful interests. We are all in accord that that should be so, but a mere expression of the opinion, even in extenso, is not proof that any harm or damage is being done to the industries of the State. I admit quite frankly that I had mixed views on this matter. At first, I felt that coupons should be banned, because the system entails not only a staff, but in many cases separate premises as well; and in the long run the consumer would have to bear the expense. After further consideration, however, I realised that the system was merely a form of advertising. The further I went into the question, the more desirable did this form of advertising appear to be.

I carefully studied the report of an independent committee of inquiry, which went exhaustively into the matter in 1933. That committee came to the conclusion that there was nothing detrimental in the use of coupons and free gifts. It went further, it decided that the system had many desirable features. This was the only factual information I could obtain and I was impressed by it. Representations have been made to me in connection with the Bill and I believe, to all members of the House by correspondence and verbally. None of us is a mere yes-man. We examine the question and arrive at a decision. I have no direct or personal interest whatever in the coupon system; but I am aware that thousands of people take advantage of it to secure articles for themselves.

I desire to submit certain factual data to the Chamber in order to illustrate my point of view, of course with particular reference to the need for a full and complete inquiry into the system. If such be the case, then those opposed to the scheme will have no difficulty in establishing their case. I understand that those who favour the system welcome the fullest inquiry. Naturally owing to lack of time, it has not been possible to exhaust all avenues of obtaining information, but I trust I shall be able to prevail upon members to allow an inquiry to be made. I submit that no harm will be done if the Bill is delayed.

A certain amount of time must elapse before trading concerns who wish to take advantage of the system can get their organisation under way. If, as was said by the Minister, harm would be done to our industries—which I most emphatically deny—then damage will be exceedingly small. As a matter of fact, the scheme might only be partially in operation by the time we assemble for the next session. I want again to correct a statement made by the Minister. I say, "again" because both the member for North-East Fremantle and I said that we had made inquiry into the Minister's statement that there had been a 66 per cent. reduction in the sale of tea by Bushell Co. That statement was wrong. Nevertheless, the morning paper, on the strength of the Minister's statement, said that that was the true situation.

The Minister for Labour: The paper did not say that. It only published what said.

Mr. GRAHAM: I think that was decidedly unfair to the company concerned.

Mr. Marshall: The company is not going to lose on its profits from advertising. Do not worry.

Mr. GRAHAM: The Minister used an extreme word. He was probably prompted by the member for Mt. Marshall. He spoke of the small number of coupons that were redeemed and referred to the system as being nothing short of a racket. I made inquiries, and as I indicated to the House last night, found that in respect of one concern, 82 per cent. of the coupons had been redeemed. I checked that figure again today. I have since received information from another trading firm that 94 per cent. of its coupons had been redeemed. This bears out what I said last night, that these coupons have a tremendous appeal to the public.

Mr. Marshall: No-one considers the unfortunate consumer who might get a little discount.

Mr. GRAHAM: I should like the Minister to give the House information as to what Western Australian industries have suffered as a consequence of the introduction of the coupon system. I could quote many examples of powerful Eastern States and overseas companies having been responsible for squashing Western Australian industries, but I suggest that that is merely the normal trading practice indulged in under what we call our capitalistic system, under which the weak are squeezed out and only the more powerful trading concerns remain. The consequences are by no means attributable to the introduction of this form of advertising. That is generally recognised. It is unfair and highly improper on the part of the Minister to endeavour, by inference at any rate, to make members believe that the coupon system was responsible for the downfall of certain Western Australian industries.

It is necessary for this Chamber to make up its mind as to what constitutes local industry. If a company opens a branch in Western Australia, or capital from elsewhere is introduced into this State to start a manufacturing or producing industry, apparently it is regarded as foreign. Yet I venture to suggest that the great majority of Western Australian industries have been financed by, or are parts

of, commercial concerns which operate that way. The manufacture of tractors in Western Australia, for instance, happens to have been established because an industrialist in some other part of the Commonwealth decided to start in this State. If we look at the commodities that came under the coupon system we will find that most of the goods were actually manufactured in Western Australia by Western Australian workmen using Western Australian materials.

First of all, members know, there were breakfast foods. From my inquiries, I believe that practically all of these breakfast foods were made from Western Australian grain, which was prepared, roasted, treated and packed by Western Australian operatives using, as far as possible, Western Australian materials, and they are today. The Purina Food Company manufactures Weeties and Crispies, and the Sanatorium Health Food Co. manufactures Bixies and other such breakfast foods, and they are all made in Western Australia and are, therefore, Western Australian or local industries. As far as tea is concerned, the chief brands, Amgoorie, Wood Son's and Bushells, are blended, packed and distributed in Western Australia by Western Australian people. The cases are made by local people with Western Australian materials. Everything that is done in respect of these industries in the Eastern States for Eastern States consumption, is done in Western Australia in connection with Western Australian consumption. Therefore, tea, covering the firms I have mentioned, is a Western Australian industry.

There are exceptions. Robur and Lipton's teas are, I believe, handled in the Eastern States and shipped here. But, of course, there are exceptions of that nature in respect of all matters. Bushells, in addition to their tea business, make coffee. I am not seeking to advertise any firm, but it is interesting to note that the coffee arrives at Fremantle direct from the Eastern countries—not from the Eastern States. It is then ground and roasted here by Western Australian workmen. The essence is extracted, placed in bottles, which are manufactured in Western Australia, and the cartons or containers are made in Western Australia, the cases are made from local timber by Western Australians, and the sugar used is obtained from the Western

Australian refinery. Therefore, all this talk of Eastern States interests predominating and Western Australian industries being shut out is just so much eye-wash.

Condensed milk is manufactured in the Premier's constituency, and he knows that the raw milk is obtained from Western Australian cows, the tins are made in this State and the cases are made of local timber, so that again is a local industry. The soap companies that issue gift coupons are those that manufacture Velvet and Signal soaps. Both are made in North Fremantle from local tallow. Local fuel is used, local workmen operate the plant, the boxes are made from Western Australian timbers, and so on. These industries were established and the products sold in Western Australia because of an advertising medium which happened to be this coupon system. Surely, this sort of thing is to be commended and encouraged! By comparison, of course, Western Australian Soaps Ltd., has not to my knowledge, used the gift coupon system, but it advertises extensively in what was until recently an unorthodox manner. It buys broadcasting time at certain stations from 8 p.m. until 10.30 p.m.—2½ hours—weekly. The artists for the programme are hired and paid for by the company, and in many cases they are transported to country districts at great expense.

Every member knows what broadcasting time costs, even for the flashes that we use at election times. The 2½ hours purchased regularly each week by this firm will give members an idea of the tremendous amount of money expended in that sort of advertising. Of course, the consumers pay for it. That form of advertising appeals to Western Australian Soaps Ltd., and the coupon method apparently appeals to others. In all these instances, the companies have thrived. Therefore, it is unreasonable that members should seek to interfere with what has been the practice for many years, uninterrupted except for the war. It has, apparently, done no harm to anyone, whether they be individual consumers, or business concerns. The only effect I have been able to ascertain is that some of this money, instead of being devoted to the purchase of gifts, will go to the newspapers and the broadcasting stations. The Board of Trade committee which inquired into the position in England said this—

The effect of the gift coupon system is the money which would have found its way into the pockets of persons conducting advertising business, and would have been spent by them, is applied to the purchase of gift articles on wholesale terms.

I want to give an illustration of the manner in which the costs are made up to demonstrate that the consuming public, whether we like the system or not, gains considerably from this form of advertising. The figure of one firm, supplied to me only this afternoon, reveal that of all the costs in respect to the coupon system, 84 per cent, is in connection with the purchase of the gifts. I should be borne in mind that because of the appeal to the public, these firms are able to buy in tremendous quantities. Therefore the goods are available to the public at, on might say, cost price. I venture to suggest that no trading concern in Perth makes profit of only 16 per cent. on such lines as are offered as gifts. All the various items of expenditure were submitted, namely wages, salaries, postage, cartage, paper, string, rent, depreciation, insurance and sundries. Yet, under all these headings more than 84 per cent. was spent on purchasing the gifts which the people ultimately procured.

If there is a cost to the public and undoubtedly there is, then they obtain their gifts for a lesser figure than that which they would be compelled to pay for them in retail shops in the ordinary way. To give some indication of the popularity of this method of advertising, I have figures which were submitted to me, and they show that in respect of one line only, for a period of three years, 7,823,000 coupons were issued and 7,358,000 were redeemed. I return now to the point of this tub-thumping with regard to local industry. We might have some practical examples of it, because I have noticed that in this place there is tremendous demand for chocolates and cigarettes that come from the other State whereas there is always a considerable supply, apparently unsaleable, of the Western Australian products.

The Minister for Labour: Of course that is not right.

Mr. GRAHAM: The Minister can take a walk to the other end of the corridor and confirm what I have said.

The Minister for Labour: I walk up there repeatedly.

Mr. GRAHAM: Perhaps too often, and maybe for other purposes.

The Minister for Labour: I meet you there sometimes.

Mr. GRAHAM: If the Minister inquires of the members of the staff, he will receive confirmation of what I have said. I have wondered why the Minister is so anxious to press on with the Bill. It is not my intention to ascribe motives but, as the newspapers are so wholeheartedly behind him, it does lead one to believe that they have something very definite to gain from it. Because there were interjections and denials last evening, I made further inquiries which confirmed the fact that an allocation is made annually, or half-yearly, as a common practice, of some amount that is to be spent on advertising. Therefore, there is to be no saving whatever to the community if a firm resolves to spend £10,000 on advertising through the Press instead of spending a great part of that sum on the free gift coupon system, under which the people get some return for the money thus spent. If that system is done away with, the public will be mulcted in whatever sum is now spent on the gifts at present available to them. It is significant, also, that in certain States where coupons have been allowed to be circulated—as against the States where they are barred—there is absolutely no difference in the price of the commodities offered for sale. Taking a cake of soap costing 6d. as an example, it costs 6d. in a State where the free gift coupon system operates, and 6d. also in the State where that system is debarred.

Mr. Marshall: Who gets the difference?

Mr. GRAHAM: The effect of this legislation will be that the public—I have indicated the thousands that take advantage of this system—will be denied the gifts and every penny now spent on that form of advertising will be diverted to advertising through the Press or radio, in which case none of the money will be returned to the consuming public in the form of gifts. I believe, in fact, that the final result of doing away with this system would be that the firms concerned would ultimately spend far more on advertising in the Press. If certain powerful trading concerns, whose headquarters are in the Eastern States, agree to purchase full pages of "The West Australian" or sponsor long sessions on the

radio, by that means they will appeal to the public and push their wares to such an extent that a humble industry domiciled in Western Australia will not be able to compete with them. If the Minister really wanted to protect Western Australian industry, he would devise some way of seeing that the competition was kept more even. But it is not proposed to interfere with forms of advertising other than that which is the subject of this legislation.

The very concerns that may take advantage of the coupon system might spend £5,000 on it, but they would spend far more if this system were debarred and they had to rely on other forms of advertising. They patronise this system, because they have found it is effective for their purposes. I am afraid the Minister has confused the ordinary processes of the capitalistic system, with its unbridled competition, with this one aspect which, after all, gives only one facet of the present scheme of things. I have this afternoon—incidentally with very little time in which to make the preparations I would have wished to make—submitted facts, figures and statements. I hope my arguments have indicated that before any restriction is imposed upon the use by the people of this free gift coupon system, it should be thoroughly and impartially investigated. I would remind the House that the Bill, if it becomes law, will not only interfere with the rights of trading concerns, but will also interfere with the rights and the freedom of the great mass of people of this State.

Mr. Styants: Do you think the Bill is unconstitutional?

Mr. Marshall: I am positive that it is.

Mr. GRAHAM: That point of view has been suggested to me because the Bill would tend, in certain respects, to interfere with the free flow of commodities between the States. But the fact that other States of the Commonwealth have introduced almost identical legislation, without constitutional challenge, forces me to wonder whether there is any substance in the suggestion that the Bill might be ultra vires the Australian Constitution. I am seeking to have the matter properly investigated before action is taken that will be irksome to the firms affected and that will impose a considerable hardship on the consumers of this State. I hope I have shown that there are no rackets involved in

this regard and that the great majority of the coupons are redeemed. Many millions of them, as I have shown, circulate annually, and there are thousands of people who take advantage of them.

I have illustrated that the cost of the depots and of the machinery necessary to receive the coupons and despatch the gifts is kept to the absolute minimum. I have proved that the great preponderance of the expenditure is devoted to the purchase of the gifts, which are bought by the firms concerned at a far lower figure than that at which the consuming public could hope to obtain them from retail establishments. I have endeavoured to indicate that when the coupon system operated, prior to its cessation owing to war conditions, no injury was done to any Western Australian industry. I trust that I have also demonstrated that it is not Eastern States concerns that have taken advantage of the coupon system. Rather have I proved, I believe, that Western Australian materials, factories and workmen have been involved almost exclusively.

Mr. Kelly: You have given no proof of that.

Mr. GRAHAM: I am sorry that the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie was not present during that portion of my speech.

Mr. Styants: You would not be able to convince him, even if you said it all over again.

Mr. GRAHAM: That is quite possible. But those members who have paid some attention to what I said—after all, the examples I gave covered practically all the popular concerns, that operated on the coupon systems pre-war—will realise that the overwhelming majority of the raw materials, factories and workmen involved belonged to Western Australia. In other words, they were local industries, and if Eastern States competition wished to squash Western Australian industries, there would be one hundred and one other devices available more potent than the coupon system. If some member wished to start manufacturing soap, for instance, is it thought that he could compete with a firm that advertised regularly over the air each week by means of some stage show? Of course he could not. It would be impossible. As against that, there is an element of fairness in the coupon system. Were I starting an indus-

try I might budget for £1,000 for advertising. In that case that sum might be spent on advertising per medium of the radio, or the newspapers, and the money would be paid out before I had sold one single article. The result could easily be that I would be unsuccessful.

The Minister for Labour: I think the hon. member will be starting in business.

Mr. GRAHAM: As against that, if I decided to spend £1,000 on the free gift coupon system of advertising, it would be necessary for me to lay out very little money. There would be perhaps a dozen of the article concerned sold before I would have to pay out one free gift, if one dozen coupons was the qualifying number and one customer bought 12 such articles. The result would be that I would be paying out as I went along. The member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie wishes to know how a small firm could bear the cost. The answer is that it would be able to meet it from its sales.

The Minister for Labour: That is a good policy; pay as you go.

Mr. GRAHAM: In any other form of advertising the payment is made before the sales and therefore the odds are stacked against the man of limited capital. The small man is handicapped right from the start because he has not the financial resources of the bigger firms and can therefore not stand up to competition from the more powerful interests located either in the Eastern States or anywhere else. If it is desired to eliminate the unfairness of competition in advertising we should bring down legislation to limit advertising in all its forms. That is not proposed. I hope I have adduced sufficient evidence to indicate that a full inquiry is necessary before any final determination is reached. An inquiry could do no damage to the people of this State or to any of our industries, even though it meant that the legislation had to be delayed until our next session. If it could be demonstrated that the free gift coupon system were harmful, I would assist the Minister in having passed legislation such as that which is at present before us, during the next session, but before doing that I require proof that the system is in some way damaging.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.45 p.m.*

**THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR** (Hon. L. Thorn -Toodyay) [7.45]: In reply to the motion of the hon. member for East Perth I feel that most of the time that has allotted to me has already gone and I therefore do not intend to delay the House. The hon. member's tactics are undoubtedly to delay the passage of the Bill and defeat it if he possibly can. He has introduced no new matter and has only covered the ground mentioned in previous debates except for the flow of information that he has received during the day from his Eastern States friends.

Mr. Graham: That joke has worn thin.

The **MINISTER FOR LABOUR**: I have already stated that my greatest concern regarding this legislation is in the interests of our own local industries. Concerning the women folk, the hon. member said they are all convinced over this business. He will have to talk quite a deal to assure us that the womenfolk are convinced. The womenfolk know their own mind on these matters and the House by passing this legislation is, to some extent, protecting them. As we have already stated with all the force we possibly can, we do not think that the coupon system is good for the State and is certainly not good for our local industries. I repeat that the representations that I have had to bring this measure forward are definitely from the wholesalers' and retailers' associations.

Mr. Graham: That is not local industry.

The **MINISTER FOR LABOUR**: It is indeed local industry. Our wholesalers during the war established factories all over the State.

Mr. Rodoreda: Who?

The **MINISTER FOR LABOUR**: Our wholesalers; my word, they have! There is nothing else for me to say to take up the time of the House. I strongly oppose the motion and I trust I have the support of members.

**HON. A. R. G. HAWKE** (Northam) [7.48]: This is a motion that we should consider calmly without imputing the motives of any member who might take part in debate, more especially in view of the atmosphere from which we have just come. I would very much like to see this matter closely investigated regarding its applica-

tion to industry and the traders of Western Australia.

The Minister for Labour: You handled the matter before. You have a pretty good knowledge of it, have you not?

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I know the matter has been investigated in Great Britain and in some of the other States of the Commonwealth, and although a few of those States have introduced prohibitive legislation, others have not. Before deciding my vote on this motion I would like the Attorney General, if he would, to tell the House whether the Commissioner of Prices under the State Act has authority to prohibit the use of free gift coupons relating to the sale of goods in Western Australia. I ask that question because the Commonwealth prices authorities during the war did prohibit the use of this system. If I could be assured the State Commissioner of Prices had power to prohibit the use of this system then I would be quite satisfied that it would not be operative during the next 12 months. During that period the Select Committee could, if it were appointed, carry out exhaustive investigations into the system and bring to us, early in the next session of Parliament, a report and recommendations upon which we could arrive at a safe and practicable decision.

As I said the other evening, in speaking to the second reading of this Bill, I think the arguments for and against this system are fairly evenly balanced, finally. Therefore, it would be a wonderful guide to the majority of members of this House to have the benefit of a report and recommendation from a Select Committee before making up their minds as to whether this system of boosting the sale of goods is one beneficial to the people and to the industries of this State, or more definitely to the consumers than any other advertising system employed by industrialists and traders to boost the particular classes of goods in which they are financially interested. I repeat that my vote on the motion for the appointment of a Select Committee will depend entirely upon the information that the Attorney General gives in reply to the question whether the State Commissioner of Prices has power under the Prices Control Act to prohibit the use of this system in relation to the sale of goods in this State.

**MR. HEGNEY** (Pilbara) [7.52]: I did not speak on the second reading because a number of members submitted views that happened to coincide with mine. I say without any equivocation that I favour the second reading of the Bill and oppose the motion for the appointment of a Select Committee. Members have stated that the only information they have is the literature they have received from Western Australian interests and from the interests that are very anxious to have the Bill defeated.

There is much in what the Minister has said as to how the position may affect local manufacturers. I give the Minister credit by saying that I believe he, in his enthusiasm for the Bill, is not actuated by any ulterior motive, with respect to giving some advantage to local concerns. I believe he is actuated primarily by motives calculated to protect the manufacturing interests of this State.

Much has been said about the different forms of advertising. Although members have advanced the argument that radio advertising is as reprehensible as advertising by means of coupon gifts, the human element must be taken into account. Where the free gift system is in operation, I believe there is an incentive for the potential consumer—the housewife—to lean towards purchasing an article, more so than she would be if she merely listened to radio talk or read the newspaper advertisements. Once she began to collect coupons, she would hesitate to change over to some other brand of article. That is where the unfairness of this advertising comes in.

I have no hesitation in saying that the time is not far distant when either the Commonwealth Government or the State Government must take action drastically to limit the amount of money spent on advertising generally. However, I pin my faith to the need for protecting local manufacturers particularly. I have had some experience of industrial conditions. I have heard arguments advanced in the Arbitration Court in favour of certain rates and conditions, and the court has been hesitant to grant something over and above the conditions ruling in the Eastern States because of the element of interstate competition.

I am reminded of an argument advanced by the member for Kalgoorlie, who said that the freight on Eastern States products

brought to Western Australia would be so heavy that it would be impossible to undersell the local articles. From my small knowledge of traders and their methods, I know what powerful interests in the Eastern States have done, and would do in future to sell their goods here below the cost of production in order to capture the local market. Therefore we should adopt any legitimate means to protect our local industries. I agree with the remarks of the member for Northam when he spoke on the second reading.

As to the Select Committee appointed by the British Parliament, it is true that the decisions of that body indicated that there was nothing very unfair about the coupon system, but I point out that the position in Australia is entirely different. Under this Bill, we are not dealing with Australia as a whole; we are dealing solely with Western Australia. The population of England is approximately 47,000,000, and the population of this State is about half a million, while the population of the whole of Australia is between seven and a half and eight million. I consider it to be incumbent upon Parliament at least to ensure to local concerns the protection to which they are entitled. It is significant that States like Queensland and South Australia have passed legislation substantially the same as the Bill now submitted to us.

The Minister for Labour: The two smaller States.

**Mr. HEGNEY:** The two less populous States. On the other hand, States like Victoria and New South Wales have not done so. On many occasions, Queensland has been cited as offering a reasonable parallel to this State. That is one of the reasons why I support the Bill.

**Mr. Styants:** The motion before the Chair is for the appointment of a Select Committee.

**Mr. HEGNEY:** I listened to the hon member for about an hour without interrupting him. He said that Eastern States manufacturers could not undersell our manufacturers on account of the freight for transporting the articles to this State. Any one who has read the history of monopolies both here and in other countries, knows that powerful interests can undersell weaker manufacturers in order to close up smaller concerns. That is the position as I see it

and some people have been unsophisticated enough to suggest that those who buy the couponed articles do not pay anything extra. I know, and practically every member knows that manufacturing concerns budget for their expenditure over a period and they have regard to the turnover of past periods. There is no doubt that advertising constitutes one of the major expenses of production. I listened in silence to the member for East Perth for about two hours.

Mr. Graham: You were not in the Chamber.

Mr. HEGNEY: I did not miss much while I was out for a few moments. In his argument he did not cover much new ground. My point is that strong Eastern States interests will undersell their products in Western Australia and will close down local manufacturing concerns. In a very short time all the price-fixing legislation of the States will be swept aside and there will be free and open competition, which our friends opposite are advocating—free enterprise in all its forms.

I know there is a certain amount of inconsistency on the part of some of the associations that are seeking protection today; because they often believe in free enterprise, in the wiping away of all controls. But I am one who believes that on an occasion like this the interests of the Western Australian people would best be served by passing legislation of this kind. Then as time went on and it was realised that excessive expenditure on advertising in its many forms tends to increase prices of articles, action would be taken on a separate State basis or in unison with other States and the Commonwealth to limit the expenditure on advertising and thereby reduce prices. I believe that the Minister in charge of the Bill is actuated by motives calculated to protect Western Australian manufacturers. I intend to support the Bill in Committee and to oppose the appointment of a Select Committee.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. A. V. R. Abbott—North Perth) [8.4]: I do not propose to intervene in this debate except to answer the question of the Acting Leader of the Opposition so far as I am able. Under existing price-fixing legislation, there is no means of prohibiting the use of gift coupons. All items of expendi-

ture in connection with any application for an increase in price can be taken into consideration in deciding that price.

**MR. RODOREDA** (Roebourne) [8.5]: I did not have anything to say on the second reading of this Bill because I did not know anything about the matter. Generally I find myself in agreement with the member for Pilbara. He is usually pretty sound; but I think—and this is only an expression of opinion—that he was off the beam in the statements he made in his recent speech. I have heard the hon. member speak frequently about Australia as a whole, about unification. He has asked us to regard Australia as a whole and not as consisting of separate States. In that respect he has been as inconsistent tonight as many other speakers I have heard giving utterance to their thoughts on this Bill.

Mr. Marshall: Have you ever heard him flatter the Chamber of Manufactures before?

Mr. RODOREDA: I am sorry to see him adopting that attitude, much as I regret to say it.

Hon. A. H. Panton: You never know what will happen to a man after Christmas dinner.

Mr. RODOREDA: The Christmas dinner may be the cause of what I am saying tonight. I can see no reason why any member of this Assembly should reject the proposition for a Select Committee. It appears to me as though the opponents of the proposal are scared of what evidence might be adduced—and that includes the Minister. There can be no objection whatever to a Select Committee delving into this proposition, bringing its report to Parliament, and letting us know what evidence it has secured.

The Attorney General: Except eight months' delay.

Mr. RODOREDA: That interjection is typical of the Attorney General. It means nothing; it has no substance in it.

The Attorney General: Only eight months!

Mr. RODOREDA: No harm can be done by eight months' delay. If this is such an important Bill as the Minister and the Government would have us believe, we could have a special session of Parliament to deal with it.

The Premier: No!

**Mr. RODOREDA:** The Premier says no. Every Government and every Premier in my experience has been delighted to get rid of Parliament for six or seven months. This Government was all in favour—and particularly the Minister for Railways—of having two separate sessions of Parliament each year, so that we could keep the Government in power on its toes.

**Mr. Hegney:** You cannot answer my arguments.

**Mr. RODOREDA:** I am not attempting to. I want a Select Committee to do that. All we have heard up to date have been expressions of private opinion.

**Mr. Kelly:** What are you giving us?

**Mr. RODOREDA:** My private opinion. I want a Select Committee to investigate this matter. I am entirely neutral on this Bill. I take no notice of the opinion of the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie, who runs a tinpot store. He has been on the wrong side of the counter with a turnover of £18,000 to £20,000 a year! I am not putting up any counter proposals. I want a Select Committee to investigate this proposal.

**The Minister for Labour:** You tried to kill the Bill by moving that the debate be adjourned to Friday, the 24th December. Why did you not make it Christmas Day?

**Mr. RODOREDA:** Oh! The Minister remembers that! The reason is that I wanted to get the Government out of the spot it was in. I wanted the Government to adjourn this contentious Bill until next session. The Minister well knows that and so does the Premier, and the Acting Premier. Even the Minister for Works would know that. But the Government would not get out from under. The members of the Government said, "No, we will not let the member for Roebourne take charge of this Assembly. We are going to maintain control, while we are in office." Later the member for Fremantle moved that the debate be adjourned and the Government would not accept that. The Government wants to bludgeon this Bill through by force of numbers without giving us any case for the prosecution. We have not even had the Minister for Housing rising to help his colleagues because the case is too weak. I want some information about this. I frankly admit, unlike members who have spoken, that I know nothing about it.

**Mr. Hegney:** Wait till "Hansard" comes out. It will be in there.

**Mr. RODOREDA:** I have listened to a lot of hot air about this Bill and the same hot air will be in "Hansard." Would that mean anything to me?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member will address himself to the motion.

**Mr. RODOREDA:** I am endeavouring to keep to the motion. If you would stop these interjectors putting me off the track I would be delighted to accede to your wishes in that respect. The motion is for a Select Committee.

**The Attorney General:** You will remember that?

**Mr. Hoar:** What do you want?

**Mr. RODOREDA:** A Select Committee! The Minister has given no information about the subject. The only information we have had is from various members on this side of the House.

**Hon. A. R. G. Hawke:** The Minister has given us all the information he has.

**Mr. RODOREDA:** Admittedly the Minister seldom has much information to give us when he introduces Bills. I respect the Minister for Labour, but I am sorry to say that he does not give us much information on any Bill that he introduces.

**The Minister for Labour:** Just sufficient.

**Mr. RODOREDA:** Not even that. He hopes that the less he says the less talk there will be from the Opposition; but he should have realised that that is a fallacy. Up to date I have said nothing on this Bill. I have not attempted to prove to the House that it is in error or that the manufacturers are in error or that the advertising is wrong. I do not know. I want some information, and the only way we can get it is by a Select Committee acquiring evidence, the same as evidence is obtained about fish and bush fires and vermin. When we obtain such information we do as was done with regard to the vermin inquiry, we let the whole thing drop. That is the result of most Select Committees—the Bill is allowed to drop because the evidence is always against the desires of the Government.

**The Attorney General:** You are not suggesting a Royal Commission, are you?

**Mr. RODOREDA:** I would not suggest that. The motion is for the appointment of

a Select Committee, but if it is appointed the Government will have no alternative but to turn it into an Honorary Royal Commission.

The Attorney General: That is what I thought.

Mr. RODOREDA: Why does the Attorney General interject with a question when he knows all the time what the answer is.

The Attorney General: I wondered whether you remembered.

Mr. RODOREDA: Of course I remembered! I have uttered no expression of opinion as to the merits or demerits of the Bill. I do not know anything about it other than what I have heard here. I want a Select Committee appointed to obtain evidence from interested bodies. The only person not considered in this matter is the consumer. Nothing at all has been mentioned about that important factor in the scheme of things. If the opponents of this motion are in earnest and they think they have all the information available, then I can only advise them that it has not been given to the House or else they are scared of the report that a Select Committee might bring forward.

MR. STYANTS (Kalgoorlie) [8.15]: I favour the appointment of a Select Committee for the purpose of getting further information. I do not think we have the full facts of the case before us and if we have, then they are particularly conflicting. The Minister, revealing that very nasty trait that he has in his make-up but which he usually keeps hidden, accused members on this side of the House of sponsoring the interests of their Eastern States friends. I could say something in retaliation to that but in view of the atmosphere that we have just left outside I do not propose to mention anything about that aspect. However, I assure the House that if there are any people here from the Eastern States, they have never approached me in any shape or form. I believe that is the case with the vast majority of members. The only references made to me on the subject have been printed articles sent to me.

I have read and studied closely all that has been said and it appears that the real motive is to prevent Eastern States firms underselling on the local market and thereby doing a great deal of damage to local

industry. If we hold a Select Committee and the local manufacturers can establish that fact, I will be one of the strongest supporters in favour of the Bill when it is again brought before the House. I, just the same as every other member of this House, have the interests of Western Australian industries at heart but I am not prepared to go to the extent of giving those industries protection which will enable them to fleece the consumers of this State.

There already exists a very effective protection against Eastern States competition owing to the fact that goods coming from the other States have to travel thousands of miles by air, rail or sea involving heavy freight and handling costs. That alone should be sufficient protection for our industries. The statement that Eastern States goods have at times been sold on the Western Australian market for a lesser price than they were sold on the markets of the other States where they were manufactured, is, in my opinion, a figment of the imagination of those who make the statement. It has been made to me on various occasions, and whenever it has been made I have asked for the name of the product and the price at which it was sold in the Eastern States and also the price at which it was sold in this State. In each case the person making the statement has not been able to give me any details at all.

If representatives of local industries can come along to the Select Committee and prove that that kind of thing is occurring I will give them every possible assistance and protection that is within my power, but I do not believe that that state of affairs exists. I consider it is put up as a means to get a certain amount of protection that in many instances is to bolster up inefficient plants and machinery. I would advise any member who intends to visit the Eastern States to have a look around some of the manufacturing concerns in Western Australia and then, when he reaches the Eastern States, he can inspect factories over there which are manufacturing similar types of goods, see the set up, the machinery and the efficiency that exists, and compare them with ours.

The findings of the Board of Trade inquiry in England were totally different from the assertions being made by those

who advocate the doing away of the coupon gift system. That board was of the opinion that it was a protection to the smaller members in the trade and allowed them an opportunity of establishing businesses and getting their wares well known. We have been told that it is an advantage to the large manufacturers. If we have a Select Committee we will be able to get both sides of the story.

The other aspect I wish to raise concerns the constitutional side. It is true that Queensland and South Australia have passed similar legislation to this, but as I stated last night we are in an entirely different category as far as competition with the highly industrialised States of Victoria and New South Wales is concerned. There is a considerable distance between those States and Western Australia. When this legislation was passed in Queensland and South Australia I suppose the same assertions were made as have been made in this House and that it was to prevent the flooding of local production. I believe that if any firm in the Eastern States produced a pound of tea, a bar of soap, or a tin of confectionery and that firm placed in its articles coupons which would be of value if returned to the manufacturer in the Eastern States, then I do not think any law in this State could be enacted which could prevent it. If that is the case the passing of this Bill will not achieve the objective desired. If an Eastern States article has a coupon in it which is redeemable in the State in which it was manufactured and not in this State, then this Bill would have no effect whatever in preventing it. The member for East Perth gave an illustration that local manufacturing houses have used the coupon gift system as a means of advertising their goods. I would ask members, in view of the contradictory information given to us, and the uncertainty as to what the actual position is, to agree to the appointment of a Select Committee. What is there to be afraid of?

Mr. Marshall: That is the point.

Mr. STYANTS: With the exception of the war period when this form of advertising was prohibited, this system has been in operation in this State and I do not think it had any disastrous results on our local industries. It is against all logic to say

that the adjournment of this Bill to the next session of Parliament would have detrimental results on the industries of this State. Let us have both sides of the question placed before a Select Committee, and then we can find out whether this form of advertising is detrimental to our local industries. If it is detrimental then I will be one of the advocates in support of this measure next session.

Hon. A. A. M. COVERLEY: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

Motion put and negatived.

HON. A. A. M. COVERLEY (Kimberley) [8.25]: I do not intend to delay the House any longer than possible. I did not take part in the debate because we have listened for over 10 hours to discussions on this particular subject. All we have heard in that time have been statements for and against the Bill, but nothing of any particular importance. The Minister has not given us any sound reason why the Government should force the Bill upon us at this late hour of the session, especially when we have most important legislation which must be considered. We have the Estimates and the Loan Estimates, which are two of the most important functions of this Chamber so far as I am concerned. If members discussed those two items for 10 to 12 hours, I would have no objection.

Only two sections of the community, the retailers and the wholesalers, have asked for this legislation, but the consumers, who are the huge majority of the people concerned, have never made any request to the Government to prevent this coupon system from being continued. Yet we are forced to sit for hours listening to a debate such as this. It is in the dying hours of the session and only one or two items of the Estimates have been passed up to date. I would have not taken part in the debate at all except for the innuendoes that have been passed. One member suggested that the corridors had been filled with people from the Eastern States. The Minister in his reply had the audacity to cast an aspersion. If there has been a number of people from the Eastern States around the House, then I have never seen them nor have I ever been approached by them.

The innuendo is that lobbying has taken place, and if that be so then there is no greater reason for this Government to agree to a Select Committee to prove or disprove that statement. For that reason I support the motion and I think any member that has any decency in him will want his reputation cleared on that point.

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

Ayes .. .. .	14
Noes .. .. .	31

Majority against .. 17

AYES.

Mr. Cornell	Mr. Pantou
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Sloeman
Mr. Fox	Mr. Smith
Mr. Graham	Mr. Styant
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Hoar	Mr. Triat
Mr. Marshall	Mr. Rodoreda

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Abbott	Mr. Murray
Mr. Ackland	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Bovell	Mr. Needham
Mr. Brady	Mr. Nimmo
Mr. Brand	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Doney	Mr. Oliver
Mr. Hall	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Read
Mr. Hill	Mr. Reynolds
Mr. N. Keenan.	Mr. Shearn
Mr. Kelly	Mr. Thora
Mr. Leslie	Mr. Watts
Mr. Mann	Mr. Wild
Mr. May	Mr. Yates
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Hegney
Mr. McLarty	

(Teller.)

Question thus negatived.

*In Committee.*

Mr. Perkins in the Chair; the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3—agreed to.

Clause 4—Interpretation:

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: This clause requires consideration. No firm will be able to do anything at all in the way of advertising if it is agreed to. One of the struggling firms that was referred to by the Minister puts cards with pictures of cricketers and others in packets of the goods. That is not one of the firms referred to by the Minister who mentioned Robert Harper's and Wood Son & Co. He showed he did not know much about them because Robert Harpers is a well-known Melbourne firm and Wood Sons is an Adelaide firm.

Mr. GRAHAM: There is an air of irresponsibility in the all-embracing nature of this clause. Judging by the information the Minister did not give us about the Bill, he

would not know anything about that phase. Under the definition of "goods," anything could happen. The Relax Community Concerts in the Fremantle Town Hall, at which prizes are given to competitors, will come within its scope. That will apply also to quizzes over the air or at theatres, in connection with which prizes are given by the sponsors whose goods are being advertised. Practically every conceivable type of advertising and publicity will be barred.

The Attorney General: You are not reading the definition carefully—if at all.

Mr. GRAHAM: If that is the Minister's impression, I shall read the definition, which is as follows:—

"Goods" includes goods, wares, and merchandise of all kinds, trading stamps, coupons and any tickets, checks, tokens, documents or orders directly or indirectly authorising or entitling any person to travel by any public or private railway, tramway, boat, conveyance, or to obtain meals or refreshments or to play or take part in any indoor or outdoor game or sport, or to be admitted into any theatre, concert hall, racecourse, cricket or football ground, circus, or place of public amusement or entertainment, or to obtain or receive any valuable consideration or benefit or advantage of any kind whatever, whether of the same or a different kind as or from the foregoing.

If members agree to a definition of this description, they will have to accept the responsibility or else it is because they are unaware of what they are doing. It will preclude any type of advertising or publicity.

The Attorney General: That is not correct and you know it.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not.

Hon. A. H. Pantou: Then the Minister should get up and explain it.

Mr. GRAHAM: That is a very pertinent interjection, because so far we have heard from the Minister no information about the Bill, apart from airy generalities. The Minister should explain just how far this will go. The Chamber of Commerce has not made representations for a Bill of this description. We have been spending many hours in dealing with a measure like this that no-one has asked for and no-one wants.

Mr. SMITH: I agree with the member for East Perth. This matter should be cleared up because "goods" is a word that appears in many of the clauses. In one it states that no person shall give or deliver "goods,"

and we find from the interpretation clause that "goods" includes all manner of things. If it is agreed to, it definitely means the end of the Relax Community Concerts at Fremantle. The manager of the factory sponsoring those concerts admits that as a result of them the sales of his lines have increased enormously, while the local hospitals have benefited from the results of the concerts. The Bill will also stop the giving away of samples at the Royal Show.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: It is surprising to me that the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe has not a better understanding of this clause. How could it interfere with the Relax Show? The clause will prevent the giving of coupons.

Mr. Rodoreda: It will do nothing of the kind. Stick to the truth.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Minister must address the Chair.

Mr. Rodoreda: Let him be truthful in what he says.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: This clause is copied from the South Australian Act.

Mr. Rodoreda: That is better.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: It has been closely examined by the Department of Labour and by the Chief Inspector of Factories, as well as by the Secretary for Labour. The clause defines goods that may not be used as gifts to encourage a buyer to purchase the goods of a firm. It prevents that.

Mr. RODOREDA: I wish the Minister would be truthful. The clause prevents nothing.

The Attorney General: The Bill does.

Mr. RODOREDA: We are talking about the clause. It defines goods that come under the interpretation of "goods."

Mr. GRAHAM: I hope the Minister will study the Bill to see how far these definitions go. "Trading stamp" among other things, includes tickets. These may be tickets for admission to places of entertainment. It has been customary for photographers, in consideration of an order for a number of photographs, to give away an enlargement. Will the Bill have the effect of banning that type of trading? Will it prevent the giving of a parcel of sweets or ice-cream to children attending a picture show?

The Attorney General: They are goods, but they are not banned.

Mr. GRAHAM: Some firms give gifts to attract people to buy other goods in the stores. If this Bill becomes an Act, there will be a callous disregard of the rights of local manufacturers.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I think the member for East Perth is getting away from the clause, which deals with definitions. He must keep within limits.

Mr. GRAHAM: I assure the Minister that I am not trying to obstruct the Bill.

The Minister for Labour: Not half!

Mr. GRAHAM: The Minister can form what conclusions he likes, but I would appreciate it if the legal gentlemen on the front bench would indicate to the Committee the extent to which these definitions go.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: Will the Minister indicate what forms of advertising will be permitted? I shall then be in a position to assume that all other forms will be excluded. Does the Bill prevent the giving away of some small article by a manufacturer to a prospective purchaser? I can see no way in which a manufacturer who is starting in a small way can bring his wares before the notice of the public. Advertising in a newspaper or over the air is effective to a degree, but there is nothing so effective as putting the actual article in the hands of the prospective purchaser. Would this form of advertising be prevented by the measure? I have here a circular which is used for the purpose of advertising a particular line; it is worth something, but very little. Will the firm be permitted under this measure to advertise in that way? Will the Minister indicate just what forms of advertising will be permitted if this definition remains?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I think the point raised by the member from North-east Fremantle is covered by a later clause rather than this. If he desires to deal with it here the Minister will be somewhat restricted in replying.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: If I allow the definition to stand, then I will, if I am not satisfied, be frustrated in respect to any amendment later. I agree that a later clause makes a straight-out reference to the matter.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: We are merely dealing with the definition of goods which, I admit, is fairly wide, because it includes anything ordinarily known as goods, and any instrument entitling a person to

goods, or valuable consideration. If members will deal with the question in Clause 5 I am sure the Minister would give an explanation. But it certainly would not prevent what the hon. member has just raised.

Mr. MARSHALL: Would the Attorney General say that a racecourse is goods, or a theatre? When we make some progress, these definitions will be used to prevent traders from using them for advertising purposes. That is the spirit of the Act.

The Attorney General: No. That can be discussed on Clause 5.

Hon. A. H. Panton: You cannot go back.

Mr. MARSHALL: I have seen more men trapped here than has the Attorney General. One big firm in this city uses a certain method of advertising. It hires trains to bring people to the emporium once a year. Under this it will not be allowed to do so.

The Minister for Education: Yes, it will.

Mr. MARSHALL: No local producer or retailer will be allowed to use any one of the items in this definition in order to advertise his goods.

The Attorney General: Not at all.

Mr. MARSHALL: If that is not the position, why this mixture in the definition? At times, the emporium to which I have referred used trams. Other firms have hired boats and aeroplanes to bring in Father Christmas.

The Minister for Labour: Will you admit that the firm to which you have referred brought the people into the city, but did not insist that they go to its store?

Mr. MARSHALL: Whether what it did was legal or not has no effect upon this. The provision here means that in future it shall not do it.

The Minister for Labour: You are wrong.

Mr. MARSHALL: The firm in question advertised in this way for years. It is true that it could not lawfully demand that the people should go to its store. There is no such thing as a gift. Even the use of the trains, to which I have referred, is included in the cost of the goods, ultimately. The coupon system means that a person gets something instead of nothing.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Apparently members want to discuss other clauses

in connection with this definition. If you, Mr. Chairman, are prepared to permit it, I am prepared to discuss Clause 5.

Mr. Marshall: You will discuss Clause 4 and we will see you do it.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! As the definition relates to the other clause the Attorney General can refer to it.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The other clause deals with what is to be done with the goods as defined. If members will read the next clause they will see that, no person shall, on the sale of or in connection with—

Mr. Marshall: On a point of order, I resent the Minister being allowed to discuss Clause 5. He is actually reading it.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Minister is quite entitled to discuss the definition and make reference to the rest of the Bill in a general way.

Mr. Marshall: That is an open go.

The CHAIRMAN: The Attorney General must discuss the definition.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I shall link it up.

Mr. Marshall: I shall link up the whole Bill.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: That is what the hon. member has done. The object of the Bill is to prevent the issuing of documents entitling persons to the goods defined in the Bill. The essence of the measure is contained in the next clause, and it is to prevent goods being given away in return for documents.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I think the Attorney General is going beyond the definition.

Mr. Marshall: It is all right. We shall link up the whole Bill.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I agree with your ruling, sir. I might satisfy members by admitting that the definition is very wide, but it does not deal with what is to be done with the goods, or the conditions under which they are to be used. The definition of "goods" is artificial and very wide. I think its effect could be debated on the next provision.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: The member for Murchison mentioned Boans Ltd.

Mr. Marshall: I mentioned no particular firm.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: That is the only firm that has provided free rail transport. They offered only free transport and the people who travelled under those circumstances did not have to go to that store or buy anything there. The "Relax" community concert has been mentioned, but I would point out that one must pay to attend that show, which awards a prize for talent. This measure will not interfere with that. Clause 5 defines "goods."

Hon. A. H. PANTON: The Minister has mentioned that Boans Ltd. advertise free train travel, but no-one travelling by that train is forced to go into the emporium, just as, in the case of Bushells tea, the consumer is not forced to collect the coupons and eventually take delivery of the free gift.

The CHAIRMAN: This discussion might be relevant on the next clause.

Hon. A. H. PANTON: Surely I am allowed to deal with the matters already mentioned by the Minister, although his argument was fallacious.

Mr. SMITH: The word "goods" appears in the Bill 18 times, and members should understand fully what the definition refers to. It includes documents or orders directly or indirectly authorising any person to travel by public or private rail, tram, boat or other conveyance.

The Attorney General: The definition does not say that.

Mr. SMITH: If Boans Ltd. offer free rail fares as an inducement to the people to attend their sales and buy their goods, they will be issuing a document coming under the definition of "goods." The clause deals also with other definitions, one of which has reference to "trading stamps." Later in the Bill it is made to include a document authorising the holder to receive from the trader either money or goods free of cost. A trading stamp also includes free rail travel. Even though coupons are issued to induce people to purchase certain goods, there is nothing to compel the people to purchase them. Later in the Bill it is found that even such offers as that are excluded.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: It is apparent that even some of the Ministers have not until now been aware how controversial some of the provisions of the Bill are. I would like them to study the definition of "goods" in Clause 4, which is as wide as possible. If the Bill becomes law its operations will go far beyond what the Minister has in mind. It will have a restrictive and detrimental effect on many traders in this State who are anxious not to advance the interests of Eastern States manufacturers. I have voted in favour of the general principles of the Bill, but we are now getting bogged down in its details. We should not be forced into that position at this stage. The only constructive suggestion I can make to the Premier is that he and his colleagues, if they still desire to persevere with the Bill and have it passed before the session closes, should defer it for a period so that members can give closer consideration to the more controversial provisions of it.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: I am conversant with the general principles of the Bill, the substance of which has been the law for many years in South Australia and Queensland. I believe this measure has been framed practically verbatim with the law which stood on the statute book of those States for a long time.

Mr. Marshall: Was it on the statute book in South Australia prior to the war? The Commonwealth regulations took over after war broke out.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: The Act became law in South Australia 24 years ago and has not been amended for 13 years. The law must have been well supported by the people of South Australia and attracted little, if any, criticism.

Mr. Styants: That would depend upon its enforcement.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: If we embark upon that consideration we come to very dangerous speculations. No State has made a more conscientious attempt to deal with say, betting, than has South Australia. I do not think South Australia suffers by comparison with any other State in its observance of the law. This Bill is concerned with wrappers and coupons, things with which we are all familiar. It is also intended to deal with the disposal of goods and the issue of coupons which entitle the holder to

some reward on the purchase of those goods. The definitions are very wide and compare with those in other Acts. The complaints that have been raised against the measure are not justified. All that it will do is to attack a practice with which we are all familiar.

Mr. Smith: It affects the advertising of goods as well as their sale.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: There is no need for alarm as to any undue restrictions being involved in respect of tying people down to buying only certain goods. Reference was made to competitions that are really rewards for skill. A simple amendment would ensure that such competitions were not brought within the scope of the Bill. The measure will prohibit only a limited class of trade.

Mr. RODOREDA: If a prize were given for the person who could talk himself out of the most difficult position no-one would be in the race with the Minister for Housing. I knew he would have to come to the assistance of the Minister for Labour, who, I wish, would pay attention to my remarks.

The Minister for Labour: I am listening but I do not have to look at you, do I? You are very touchy tonight.

Mr. RODOREDA: I would not compel anyone to do that, but the Minister might pay me the compliment of listening to my remarks instead of having a conference with the Premier.

The Minister for Labour: I was discussing how we might get you out of your difficulties.

Mr. RODOREDA: I am in no difficulty; it is the Minister who is in trouble. Perhaps he was endeavouring to get help from his colleagues.

Mr. Yates: You help him out.

Mr. RODOREDA: I want to put him further into trouble. He knows nothing about the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. RODOREDA: Why order, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: I was addressing my remarks to other members.

Mr. RODOREDA: The Minister for Housing discussed the interpretation clause, which has nothing to do with the point at issue. I point out that I have a few amendments

still to move, and that will give the Minister for Labour an opportunity to consult every one of his colleagues.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: There are quite a lot of objectionable features in this clause, so I propose to take the first one for a start. I move an amendment—

That in the definition of "goods" the words "tokens, documents or orders directly or indirectly authorising or entitling any person to travel by any public or private railway, tramway, boat or conveyance" be struck out.

It is no secret that Boans is a firm that has done this sort of thing and I consider it to be a reputable firm. I object to the principle contained in the definition and hope it will be modified as I have indicated. A large firm in Auckland runs a tram and a bus for the benefit of patrons, and if that sort of thing is legal there, I do not see why we should object to it.

Mr. MARSHALL: I doubt the accuracy of the legal opinions that have been expressed. We have heard of a motor boat being hired just before Xmas and of Father Xmas being installed in it. The emporium responsible for this does not compel any individual to go there, though it might be an inducement to people to do so. In respect of other events, elaborate advertisements are inserted in the Press and then a train is run entitling persons to travel free of charge. If the words are included, there will certainly be a prohibition of that form of advertising. The Government would be well advised to report progress at this stage so that the matter might be further considered. We want an opportunity to pass the Bill in a form that will not be too drastic.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: I am prepared to report progress to a later stage of the sitting if the member for Murchison and one or two others will act on a committee to re-draft the provision.

Mr. Marshall: Very well.

Progress reported till a later stage of the sitting.

## **BILL—MATRIMONIAL CAUSES AND PERSONAL STATUS CODE.**

### *Council's Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it did not insist upon its amendment No. 1 to which the Assembly had disagreed.

**BILLS (2)—RETURNED.**

- 1, City of Perth Electricity and Gas Purchase.

Without amendment.

- 2, Milk Act Amendment.

With amendments.

**BILL—STATE TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION ACT AMENDMENT.**

*Council's Amendment.*

Amendment made by the Council now considered.

*In Committee.*

Mr. Perkins in the Chair; the Minister for Transport in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The Council's amendment is as follows:—

Clause 15—Page 8:—Add a further paragraph after paragraph (a) to stand as paragraph (b), as follows:—

(b) adding after paragraph three a paragraph as follows—

3A. The carriage of bees, bee hives, honey, bees wax and beekeepers' requisites and appliances in the course of the production of honey in a vehicle owned by the producer thereof.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: Provision was made in the Bill to bring in regulations to include in the Schedule any primary produce considered desirable. The matter that gave rise to this was an application to include bees and bee-keepers' requisites. The amendment will have that effect and there is no objection to it. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

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

**BILL—RAILWAY (MT. MAGNET-BLACK RANGE) DISCONTINUANCE.**

*Second Reading.*

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. H. S. Seward—Pingelly) [10.0] in moving the second reading said: This Bill is introduced for the purpose of authorising the closing and pulling up of the Mt. Magnet-Black Range railway. Be-

fore proceeding with the Bill, I desire to express regret that it has been brought down at such a late stage of the session. I was desirous of obviating the need for introducing it, if that were possible, but in order to give members a warning that it might be introduced, notice of it was given some days ago. The sole reason for its being brought down is the inability of the Railway Department to obtain rails with which to carry on urgently required maintenance work.

Orders have been placed in the Eastern States but it is impossible to obtain the rails required. It reveals an alarming state of affairs in Australia when we realise that urgently needed steel rails are obtainable in such very limited quantities, and yet only last week we received a circular from the United States offering thousands of tons of rails. Unfortunately they would not be useable here. But that shows that rails are being manufactured elsewhere in required quantities, whereas we are not able to keep pace with requirements. All other sources of supply having failed, the only alternative left to the department was to look to some of the lesser-used or unpayable lines with the object of taking them up and using the rails for maintenance work.

MR. SPEAKER: Order! There must be no conversation in the galleries.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: Before proceeding with the reason for selecting this particular line for closure, I would like to give members some idea of the difficulty facing the Railway Department in getting supplies of rails. The Chief Civil Engineer has had inquiries made through all districts to determine what permanent way material could be made available through the lifting and shortening of little-used sidings, and it has been found that approximately  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles of rails can be procured from this source. In addition, Westralian Farmers offered the unused portion of the siding and lay-out at Bassendean constructed by the Australian Wheat Board. It is essential that the grid be maintained, but material of approximately three-quarters of a mile should be available. Thus a total quantity of light rails, equalling four miles, can be obtained. Against this it is estimated that the years' requirement of light rails for maintenance of public and private sidings,

together with an amount of four miles required in order to reach the Asquith tim, ber permit is nine miles.

In addition, the State Sawmills are in urgent need of nine miles of track, and it is essential from the State's point of view that the State Sawmills obtain this length of rails in order to maintain supplies of hauling material. That means that altogether there is for all sources a total length of 14 to 15 miles of rails urgently required—so urgently required that if this Bill were not passed the State Sawmills would have to consider importing rails from Tasmania in order that it might carry on its activities in providing building materials. It is apparent, therefore, that we must close and take up some railway line; and it has been decided that the one to be dealt with should be the Mt. Magnet-Sandstone section.

The expenditure incurred by the Department on this section during the year was approximately £3,000, or £32 10s. per mile. That figure is very much below the average for the system, and has only been achieved by confining maintenance to the barest necessities without doing any re-sleeping. In 1933-34, a total of 44,000 "mangance" and 41,000 "jarrah" sleepers were placed into the section, since when a further 12,000 sleepers have been renewed. If the line is to remain in operation considerable re-sleeping is essential in the near future, and a considerable increased cost of maintenance must be expected. For the last six months the percentage of revenue credited to this section was £296, as against an expenditure by the C.C.E.'s branch alone of approximately £1,500. The tonnage figures show that during six alternate months of the year 1947-48, 609 tons of paid traffic was moved, equivalent to 1,218 tons for the full year.

It can be seen, therefore, that this line is unpayable by at least £1,000 a year, even when maintenance is kept at as low a figure as possible, and when certain expenditure becomes essential the loss becomes much heavier. A glance at the timetable shows that trains to Sandstone ran on the 3rd and 17th June, the 1st, 15th and 29th July, the 12th and 26th August, the 9th and 23rd September, the 7th and 21st October, the 4th and 18th November, and the 2nd, 16th and 30th December, and fortnightly thereafter. In the reverse direc-

tion a similar timetable operates. So members can see that there is every justification for saying that this line has reached a stage when it is no longer of importance provided that other transport facilities are available.

The total length of the line is 93 miles, and there are only three sidings between Mt. Magnet and Sandstone. In determining the question whether this line should be closed or not it can be stated that in the preliminary survey of the lines likely to be standardised, if an agreement on that matter is reached, the Mt. Magnet-Sandstone line is not included, which proves its diminishing value. Before coming to a determination on this matter I obtained a report from the Transport Board as to the likelihood of securing suitable transport to function, either privately owned or a railway road service. That report was obtained and gave the following particulars for the months of June to November, 1948:—

Passenger Traffic—Forwarded, 52; received 44.

General Goods—Forwarded, 42 tons; received 337 tons.

Wool—Forwarded, 105 tons; received, —.

Livestock—Forwarded, 170 sheep, 30 cattle; received, 5,818 sheep, one horse.

Previous to May, 1947, the railways were hauling approximately 750 tons of firewood to Mt. Magnet for six months of the year. Firewood is now being hauled by road transport from a different direction to the existing railway line. It is reported that the quantities of goods etc., would not represent more than could be reasonably transported by roads goods service. It is further stated that the introduction of a road service between Mt. Magnet and Sandstone would compare with the road service that has been operating for some years between Leonora and Mt. Sir Samuel. There may be a possibility of linking two road-heads at Leonora and Mt. Magnet by a through service. If we take a railway away we must give the people in the district a comparable road service. A report obtained from the Main Roads Department on the road states:—

Generally speaking, the road follows good road country except perhaps 20 miles over the Challi Flats. For perhaps 30 miles at the Sandstone end the road is over spinifex country which would not require any treatment for the light traffic involved. It would,

however, be necessary to carry out certain road works if the line is removed so as to provide an all-weather road.

That country, like all the northern country, is subject to heavy rains at periods, and if the railway is removed it will be necessary to provide an all-weather road. That will not be done immediately because of the difficulty of getting the men and having the work carried out. But it will have to be undertaken in the comparatively near future, and I think the Main Road's estimate for that 100 miles is about £30,000. That would have to be spent over a period of years. I regret that we have to pull up these railways, but there is apparently no alternative. But, after all, with the advent of diesel trucks and better road transport, it should be possible to provide that district with an even better service by road than can be obtained by rail.

It is not easy for stock owners to get a special train, but it would be comparatively easy to provide them with a special truck properly fitted. Naturally, tenders would be called so that the service would be conducted at as nearly as possible a comparable figure as regards cost with that of the railway. I think also that the particular type of truck should be specified. It should be one with a cabin taking five or six people in addition to the goods at the back of the vehicle. Appeals have been made to the manager of B.H.P. with a view to getting extra rails, but we have obtained all we can get, and are still short of 14 or 15 miles of urgently needed maintenance rails. When this line is taken up arrangements will be made to see that it is taken up from the Sandstone end so that if at any time it became necessary to run a train it could be run to within a reasonable distance of Sandstone and supplemented by road transport. I move:

That the Bill be now read a second time.

**MR. MARSHALL** (Murchison) [10.13]: I do not know that any good purpose would be served by asking for an adjournment of the debate. I am acquainted with the district and its peculiarities and physical features. I regret that the member for the district has been stricken with a serious ailment and it is doubtful whether he will be able to take part in the discussion. If the Government is prepared to give effect to the measure it is little use the Opposition becoming

refractory. It is remarkable, however, that whenever the Railway Department finds itself in a difficulty from the point of view of effecting economies and from other points of view, rather than inconvenience other sections of the system, it goes to the Murchison.

Our coaches are bad and of an inferior quality. Our road does not get the attention the other sections of the system obtain. Taking it generally we do not get by far anything like the treatment other portions of the system enjoy. Immediately the railway system found itself in trouble with its traction power and had to curtail train services, it directed its attention to the Murchison district and reduced the service by one train per week. A guarantee that no inconvenience would be suffered by those people who patronised the railway was given, but that undertaking was never fulfilled. We got bad treatment, more particularly in the congested parts, the promise made was never fulfilled, and we have had like treatment ever since I have been on the Murchison.

It seems to me that we have always got to make the sacrifice, irrespective of what it will cost us as a community. I sympathise with the Minister as I have some knowledge of his difficulties, because I preceded him in office. I have sympathy, too, with the railway management because that management must be particularly worried in its endeavour to keep a service going in many of these more isolated centres. At one time I enjoyed a sojourn in what is known as Black Range. It is actually known as Sandstone, but I was employed in the mining industry in that district for many years. At that time it was a thriving town and enjoyed a train service every day.

The Premier: What was its population then?

**MR. MARSHALL:** It would have been about 7,000 to 8,000 people. There were four mines operating immediately in Sandstone, and then there was the Maninga Marly about 10 or 12 out on Lawler's-road. Unfortunately, the mining industry has declined, and every foot of this country is under what is known as a pastoral lease, and there is none of it that is not being fully used and developed for that purpose. However, I notice from the figures that the returns from that source are not very great. I am aware of the fact that the users of

this section of the railway system have not been given the consideration they would warrant if they constituted a section which was used more frequently. It was never essential to run that train service at a high speed, and so it can be maintained at a lower standard than that generally accepted as the safe one for other sections of the system which have to carry heavier loads at greater speeds.

Mr. Hegnèy called attention to the state of the House.

Bells rung and a quorum formed.

Mr. MARSHALL: Notwithstanding the low standard of the service offering, it is not to be considered that it would not be of great value to those people who use it to the fullest extent possible. The Minister has told us that the department has looked in all directions in an effort to secure rails which, I understand, is the most important necessity at the moment. I am given to understand from the Minister's speech that everything possible has been done to secure rails from those who have in the past been able to supply our system with its steel requirements. During the war period, it was only necessary for some overlord in the Army to make a pronouncement that 40 or 50 tons of rails or steel was required at a given spot, and it was there. If the Army wanted a few hundred tons of galvanised iron, or a few million bricks, at a given spot and a given time, it was no sooner said than done. Now we have a million of our best workers, including both sexes, discharged from the Army, and yet we cannot get the supplies we require. Even with the more up-to-date methods of producing these goods which were evolved during the war period, it is still not possible to get all the material we need.

All the Minister wants is 15 miles of rails, and he must have it, so he says. The Minister should know. He told us that the management has been looking in every direction to get this particular length of railing to supply urgent requirements. I have no objection to it if it is urgently required, but I want to enter a protest that we seem to be the carcase which the vultures always look for when they require a little picking. I now wish to quote some references from Sir Harold Clapp's report on the conversion of the 3ft. 6in. gauge to

the standard 4ft. 8½in. gauge. On page 27 of his report, paragraph 126, he states—

The following lines are not recommended by the Commissioner of Railways for ultimate conversion as the traffic results do not justify such action. Certain of the lines should be retained as 3ft. 6in. gauge, while others should be dismantled and road services provided in lieu of rail services:—

	Miles
Mt. Magnet-Sandstone .. ..	93
Jingymia-Bonnie Rock .. ..	60
Warralackin-Southern Cross .. ..	52
Maleolm-Laverton .. ..	64
Toodyay-Clackline .. ..	14
Mundaring-Mundaring Weir .. ..	5
Midland Junction-Karragullen .. ..	21
Pinjarra-Narrogin .. ..	95
Margaret-Flinders Bay .. ..	30
Wonnerup-Nannup .. ..	39
Pemberton-Northcliffe .. ..	22
Denmark-Nornalup .. ..	35
Katanning-Pingrup .. ..	59
Lake Grace-Hyden .. ..	58
Port Hedland-Marble Bar .. ..	114
Hopetoun-Ravensthorpe .. ..	34

While we know all the particulars in regard to the Mt. Magnet-Sandstone line and its state of disrepair, the revenue, maintenance, etc., we know little or nothing about the others. I am not too sure whether, upon consideration, we would not find that we may be doing the wrong thing in not taking up one of these other lines in lieu of the one proposed. All that is required, so I understand from the Minister's speech, is 15 miles, and he has already secured nine of that, leaving six still needed to complete the urgent work the department has in view. Sir Harold Clapp makes a recommendation that some of these lines, at least, should not be converted and that some of them should be dismantled and road transport put in to replace the rail service. Sir Harold Clapp is a wonderfully able man and a clever technician. I suppose he is one of the most outstanding authorities on railway transport, but his knowledge starts and ends there; he knows nothing but railways. He knows nothing about road transport and little or nothing about air transport, and he does not understand the industries of Western Australia, nor the road transport systems either. So I cannot accept his recommendations.

This appears to show a lack of confidence in the mining industry. I could quote other instances of where mistakes have been made by doing this. For instance, take the manganese deposits! There was a line right up into the hill of manganese but

unfortunately, a previous Government seemed to consider it wise to remove that line, and now we have the glaring spectacle of this ore having to be carted 80 to 90 miles from Horseshoe to Meekatharra. They can do that while the price of manganese and its commercial value are so high, but once there is a fall in value we will have a lovely deposit of manganese which can no longer be exploited because we have removed the line.

The Malcolm-Laverton was a very busy Goldfields district in the early days when the line was put through. The industries declined and some of the mines have closed down. Fortunately, successive Governments kept a sort of service there, and when the price of gold began to rise we had a revival at Laverton for many years. We could not have experienced that revival if the railway had not been there. We do not know what will happen in any Goldfields district. No prospector, however experienced he may be, can say with any certainty what is beyond the pick's point. We know the value of a railway to a township outback. Take the position at Wiluna and Big Bell. The companies concerned hesitated to spend any huge amount of money before getting an undertaking from the Government that a railway line would be constructed. Road transport would be of no avail for such traffic, because the materials to be conveyed were altogether too heavy.

From Wiluna, between 300 and 400 tons of arsenic alone were railed by special trains. The weight of machinery shifted to and from that centre during the life of the mine was phenomenal, and certainly could not have been transported by road. Naturally, investors look sceptically on any proposal to invest money in a mine to which no railway is available. If this line is taken up, the prospects of investment of capital in the Black Range district will be lessened materially. Although it may be too late at this juncture, I suggest that the railway to Bonnie Rock could receive the Minister's consideration. There is no chance of that section of the railway system receiving greater patronage than it enjoys now, and I am given to understand that road transport facilities would be far more suitable in that district than between Mt. Magnet and Sandstone.

I suppose the Government has to consider such matters in the light of recommendations from the railway experts but there are several such lines that long since reached their zenith and now are not profitable concerns. I am confident that road transport would be quite adequate to cope with the needs of the districts concerned. The country there is such that it would settle down and carry heavy traffic, but that does not apply in the Murchison. When the wet season is in full swing there—it is wet. No road transport would be possible in those parts unless bitumen surfaced roads were constructed. The journey from Mt. Magnet to Sandstone, which is nearly 100 miles in extent, is extremely irksome to women and children. In the wet season the natural surfaced road becomes too soft. That is accounted for by the fact that the cement is 18 inches or 2 feet below the surface, with the result that it holds the water and the soil above becomes sloppy.

Trucks that attempt to get through bog down to the differential and remain there until the warm weather. It is a long and dusty trip for women and children in the summer months. Those who run vehicle over the track do not cater to any extent for passenger traffic. They improvise some seating accommodation near the driver, and women and children have to put up with what is available. Apart altogether from the disadvantages of road transport, the removal of the line under discussion will drive prospectors from the district, because the services now supplied by the railway will not be available from road transport at anything like the same price. Unless transport from Black Range to Mt. Magnet is subsidised, the removal of the railway will have a very detrimental effect on the future development and progress of the Black Range district.

It is easy for Sir Harold Clapp to suggest that good road transport services can be relied upon. He has not travelled over these outback roads and does not know the conditions that people have to put up with. He seems to think that all roads are satin-faced like those in the city and the South-West. He appears to consider that it is just like a trip from Fremantle to Perth. If Sir Harold Clapp had made the trip from Wiluna to Leonora, for instance, he would not want another such ex-

perience. Our women and children have to face up to the uncomfortable conditions with courage and fortitude. Propositions such as that under discussion are not very encouraging to the people outback. The Minister must realise that the squatters who now use Auketell and other sidings for loading purposes, will have to travel their stock by road or road transport to Mt. Magnet, and send them from there by train. That means heaping up costs for people who can ill afford the extra burden.

I know that squatters are at present enjoying a period of extraordinary prosperity, but there was a time when they were mere shepherds for the banks. Those days may return. The Minister must appreciate, as he is conversant with the vagaries of primary production, that whatever the squatters can put in their reserve funds in these days will be completely absorbed in further improvements and in catching up with arrears of maintenance. This proposition means that the producers outback will suffer, just as the mining industry will suffer. I wish the Minister had informed us earlier of his intention to deal with this line because we could have suggested to him other propositions that could be dealt with and the districts concerned not affected to the extent that will be apparent in the Black Range area. Propositions of this description indicate lack of confidence in our mining prospects and interfere with progress.

**MR. LESLIE** (Mt. Marshall) [10.40]: I shall not delay the passage of the Bill because I am not conversant with the conditions that apply in the area that this railway serves. I rose merely because the member for Murchison has sown a seed in the Minister's mind that I do not want to germinate. I refer to his references to the Bonnie Rock line. I heard the Minister say he was in urgent need of rails, but I assure him that he would not serve the economic interests of the railway system if he were to remove the section known as the Bonnie Rock line.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: This Bill has nothing to do with that railway.

**Mr. LESLIE**: But it deals with rails, and it is that phase to which I desire to refer. I know the Minister must be guided by circumstances, but I assure him that if

he investigates the Bonnie Rock proposition, he will be convinced that there can be no grounds for considering its removal. The service provided at present does not meet with the requirements of the people in that district, which is growing rather than diminishing in development.

**THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS** (Hon. H. S. Seward—Pingelly—in reply) [10.42]: I regret that the member for the district concerned has been taken seriously ill, and I trust that he will very soon be restored to good health. This matter has been brought forward suddenly. The proposition came before me only last week, and I was very concerned as to whether we might not be putting the people in the far back areas to undue inconvenience. On referring the matter to the railway authorities, they assured me that this was the most suitable line to take up. As to the references by the member for Murchison to the recommendations of Sir Harold Clapp, I assure him that it is not merely a matter of requiring a short length of 15 or 20 miles of railway. We require a length of 103 miles, and if we had chosen a shorter line it would simply mean having to bring forward another similar proposition next year.

I will certainly recommend the commissioners to start taking up the line from the Sandstone end, working back towards Mt. Magnet so that the people will be able to use the remaining part of the line. I do not think the hon. member need worry about the extra costs involved through pastoralists having to take their stock to Sandstone instead of trucking them from the various sidings. I will put up a recommendation to the commissioners that the stock yards at the sidings shall remain there, so that, with the provision of road transport, the pastoralists will be able to put the stock on the trucks from the sidings.

**Mr. Marshall**: But there will still be double handling.

**The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS**: They will put the stock straight on to the trucks.

**Mr. Marshall**: But they will have to be handled again on to the railway trucks.

**The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS**: Yes, but that cannot be avoided.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

Mr. Perkins in the Chair; the Minister for Railways in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Discontinuance of operation of railway:

Mr. MARSHALL: I ask the Minister for Railways, who is also Minister for Transport, to give immediate consideration to the provision of a subsidy for road transport between Mt. Magnet and Sandstone, and to keep the freight rates the same as they were on the railway.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: I give the hon. member my assurance that tenders will be called for the transport he mentioned and that care will be taken to see that the freights are kept as close as possible to the freights charged by the Railway Department. I see no reason, while not committing myself, why there should not be a subsidy provided for this purpose, in view of the isolation of the people in that district.

Clause put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

*Third reading.*

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

# **BILL—CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT (No. 2).**

## *Council's Amendments.*

Schedule of three amendments made by the Council now considered.

*In Committee.*

Mr. Perkins in the Chair; the Attorney General in charge of the Bill.

No. 1—Clause 2: Paragraph (b), page 2—Delete the words "or that he or she is the householder's husband or wife" in lines 1, 2 and 3, and substitute the word "and."

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The Council's amendment would have the effect of disfranchising the wife or husband, as the case may be, of a householder. That is in conflict with the intention of the Bill as originally drawn. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I also am opposed to the Council's amendment. The Council's main argument against this principle of granting the franchise for the Council to the wives of householders is that it would only serve to duplicate the votes of the husbands. If that be so, then a wife should not be entitled to be enrolled for the Legislative Council or for the House of Representatives or the Senate. It will not be sufficient merely to disagree with the amendment. The Premier, as Leader of the Liberal Party, and the Deputy Premier, as Leader of the Country and Democratic League, should inform their members in the Council that if the Council persists in its amendment, they will be responsible for not implementing the policy of the Government parties announced in the election campaign in February and March, 1946.

The Attorney General: What would you do; report them to the Executive?

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: There is no doubt as to what would happen in similar circumstances if members of the Labour Party in the Legislative Council did the same thing. They would be automatically and immediately expelled from the party and would never again get Labour endorsement. If the Liberal Party and the Country and Democratic League are going to permit their members in the Legislative Council to defeat their policy, to which the Leaders of those parties pledge themselves to the people, then there is going to be established in Western Australia a political situation which will be dishonest in the extreme, and which the majority of people will not tolerate.

The Attorney General: A number of these men were elected before this policy was declared.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I am aware of that, and also of the fact that they should be just as much bound by the policy of their party as should any other members in either House.

The Attorney General: It is not in the platform.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: Is the Attorney General suggesting that the principle contained in the clause is not one which every member of the Parliamentary Liberal party and every member of the Country and Democratic League is in duty bound to support?

The Attorney General: No more than you are bound to bring in legislation to introduce socialisation straight away.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: The Attorney General is becoming notorious for being completely illogical on occasions. There is no comparison between the action of a Government introducing a Bill containing one of its pledges given to the people, and that of some other Government not bringing in immediately legislation to implement the whole of its policy.

The Attorney General: Which it is pledged to do.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: If the Leaders of the two Government parties are going to allow Government policy to be defeated when it is submitted to Parliament by way of legislation, by members of their own parties in the Legislative Council, a situation will be established which will reflect no credit upon those leaders or their parties, and which will undoubtedly in the course of time influence a big majority of the electors of the State to declare strongly against such tactics. It is the pinnacle of dishonesty—

The Attorney General: Are you debating the merits of my motion?

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: Yes.

The Attorney General: I am glad to hear it. It does not sound like it.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: It would be the pinnacle of political dishonesty for the Leaders of any political party to give pledges to the people at election time, and subsequently submit to Parliament a Bill containing those pledges and then have the Bill defeated by the members of the same party or parties in the Legislative Council. The people of Western Australia will not stand for that sort of thing. If that situation is going to be established, I do not know how the Premier or the Deputy Premier can at any subsequent election conscientiously give any pledge to the public which would involve the bringing down of legislation. The only way they could give such a pledge would be by providing that the members of such parties in the Legislative Council would allow them to put the pledge into legislative effect. I am satisfied that both the Premier and the Deputy Premier have more respect for themselves than to give such a pledge. It would be humiliating in the extreme for them to do that, and

I am positive they would not allow themselves to be so humiliated. Therefore I support the motion moved by the Attorney General.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I do not know that we should do anything here. We should tell the Legislative Council where it gets off, and we should also tell the Government what we expect of it. We were taken to task for having the cheek to introduce a similar measure last session. Members of the Legislative Council said it was their job to do that. This is most convenient. The Government can have a policy and the party a different one. Liberal members in the Assembly can have one policy and Liberal members in the Council another. I cannot do anything else now but agree to the proposal to reject the amendment.

Mr. GRAHAM: Because of the platform of the Australian Labour Party, it is necessary that we should support any move to broaden the franchise of the Legislative Council, so naturally we support the decision of the Government here. The leaders of both Government parties laid their plans before the public in February of last year, and subsequently the people endorsed their policies by returning them to power. It is not due to any action on the part of the Opposition or the Independents that we are in the position that the will of the people is being thwarted. Disagreements between the Houses, or conferences, will not resolve the position. What is required is a little discipline in the ranks of the Government parties. When Labour decides on a policy and its adherents are not prepared to honour the undertakings, then the Labour Party has a way of dealing with them. Accordingly it requires a little courage on the part of the Liberal Party and the Country and Democratic League to deal with the traitors to their platform. Solemn pledges were given by the Premier and the Deputy Premier, including an extension of the franchise of the Legislative Council.

Of what use is it for the Leader of any Party to submit a policy to the people when certain individuals, not answerable to the people but to sectional interests only, have the right to reject that platform, and also what has been decided upon by their leaders? Before dealing with this matter, I turned up the newspaper files, and I found that some members of the Legislative Coun-

eil, responsible for this situation, occupied seats on the platform when the Premier delivered his policy speech. Those same persons also had seats on other platforms and, as a matter of fact, spoke in support of the Liberal Party and the Country and Democratic League candidates, espousing the programme laid down by the Premier and the Deputy Premier.

Last session they would have no truck with the Bill, which was defeated on the second reading. Now a form of deception is practised because the principles of the Bill—at present we are discussing only one of them—were designed to liberalise the franchise of another place, which has struck out the provision and inserted a definition of certain dwelling places that will in fact further restrict the franchise of another place. That is simply double-crossing the people of the State. Apparently nothing can be done with regard to another place, but the position has become intolerable and perhaps the Government would be prepared—if it believes in democracy—to take extreme steps and approach the Commonwealth Government for some alteration to be made to the Australian Constitution.

The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid this is outside the scope of amendment No. 1.

Mr. GRAHAM: I was hoping, Sir, that you would bear with me while I demonstrated the position with which we are faced and the fact that when we disagree with the Council's amendments we must appoint a Committee to draw up reasons and then, inevitably, hold a conference. I am trying to demonstrate the futility of that course.

The CHAIRMAN: That discussion would have to take place on the conference.

Mr. GRAHAM: Then I will reserve my remarks in that direction till a later stage. As representatives of the people we should demonstrate our resentment at the cavalier fashion in which another place overrides the will of the people. I doubt the effect of our disagreeing with the amendments made by another place, which apparently intends to stand firm in its attitude. Apparently considerable liberty was permitted in the Legislative Council for extraordinary things to be said about members of this Chamber who have advocated some broadening of the franchise of another place.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 2—Clause 2: Page 2—Add a further paragraph after paragraph (c) to stand as paragraph (d), as follows:—

(d) Adding after the word "person" in line 1 of page 6, the words "is entitled to be and."

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I move—  
That the amendment be not agreed to.

The law at present lays down that if a person is shown on the rate books of a municipality or road board as being qualified to vote, the Electoral Department need not query the right of such a person to be on the roll. If the amendment were agreed to, the Electoral Department would have to inquire whether such persons were legally on the roll or not, and that is not the duty of the Electoral Department.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 3—Clause 2: Page 2—Delete paragraph (d) in lines 8 to 22.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I move—  
That the amendment be not agreed to.

Under the law at present a person with certain property qualifications is entitled to vote in each province in which he is qualified. The intention of the Bill is to abolish plural voting and to provide that such an elector shall be given the option of deciding in which of the provinces for which he is at present qualified he wishes to vote. The amendment would nullify that intention.

Mr. HEGNEY: I am pleased to note that there has been a change of front on the part of the Attorney General since last evening.

The Attorney General: Not at this hour of the night!

Mr. HEGNEY: But the principle involved is the same. On two occasions early this morning I moved to delete from certain Bills provision for plural voting, but the Attorney General successfully appealed to the Committee to have my suggestions defeated.

The Attorney General: There was a distinction.

Mr. HEGNEY: I will accept the Minister's apology without reservation. He has seen fit to move that the Council's amendment he disagreed with, and I am in accord with him. No citizen, because he owns real estate in 10 different provinces, should be entitled to have 10 votes in a Council elec-

tion. Members of the Government, when on the opposition side of the House, were inclined to be in favour of plural voting, but today they are really anxious that this system shall continue no longer. I would like the Attorney General, with his unbounded knowledge of constitutional law, to explain to the Committee what will happen at the conference that will take place.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. HEGNEY: If you will allow me to finish my sentence, Mr. Chairman, you may rest assured I will be in order. If at a conference that takes place there is no uniformity of opinion, what chance has the vast majority of the people in implementing the decision of this Assembly?

The Attorney General: See me in the morning.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Resolutions reported and the report adopted.

A committee consisting of Hon. A. R. G. Hawke, Mr. Leslie and the Attorney General drew up reasons for not agreeing to the Council's amendments.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I move:—  
That the reasons be adopted.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I do not think the committee has made a very good job of the reasons. We have been too long sending another place reasons like these. We should tell it where it gets off. I move—

That the following words be added to the Reasons: "As the Labour members voted for the Bill as it was sent up we call on the Liberal and Country Party members to stand up to this Bill as it is the avowed policy of both Parties, and to be straightforward with the people of this State and pass the Bill as it was sent up originally."

Amendment put and negatived.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

#### ANNUAL ESTIMATES. 1948-49.

##### *In Committee of Supply.*

Resumed from the 18th November; Mr. Perkins in the Chair.

*Vote—Department of Industrial Development, £35,480:*

**THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT** (Hon. A. F. Watts—Katanning) [11.45]: I do not propose to make a very long review of the year's operations of the department because they have been referred to on some occasions during the session and there are many matters of a minor nature, but I wish to say something about the principal matters that have engaged attention. There has been tabled a copy of the agreement which has been made between Western Steel Enterprises, Ltd., and the Government under the Iron and Steel Industry Act passed last session. Most members are aware that the company proposes in the very near future to start a steel fabricating industry in this State, and subsequently it is confidently expected to develop the other half of the Koolan Island leases which were not made available to Brasserts under the Act of last year, and also to develop coal resources in the Collie area.

I understand that the flotation of the company has been undertaken by a well-known and reputable firm of underwriters in New South Wales and that no difficulty is expected with regard to the preliminary subscription of capital to the amount of £200,000 required under the agreement. I should like to say that at one stage I was indebted to the Acting Leader of the Opposition for his courtesy in attending at my request to discuss certain aspects of the negotiations that had taken place before my arrival at the department between Mr. Conrow, one of the principals of Western Steel Enterprises, Ltd. and himself as then Minister for Industrial Development. The hon. gentleman's advice on that occasion was greatly appreciated by me and also, I think by Mr. Conrow, and did make some contribution to a better understanding than could be obtained from a mere perusal of files as to the approaches that had been made by the previous Government to Mr. Conrow, and vice versa, and the understanding they had reached. In consequence, the negotiations we were proceeding with, though on somewhat different lines, were made very much easier.

I do not, nor does the Government, take the greater part of the credit that may arise in connection with this matter be-

cause, although we have to some extent varied the proposed arrangements, their foundation is very much the same, and I have no wish to deny that the preliminary arrangements in regard to this course of action which, I think, will ultimately be of great advantage to the State, have been handled by two separate Ministers of two separate Governments. I make that statement because I think that during the debate on the iron and steel Bill last session the matter was raised far above the level of mere party politics, and became one of benefit for the State. When that state of affairs has been reached in any activity designed to develop the State or improve opportunities for production in the State, it can be readily admitted by both parties to the equation. Therefore, I am very glad to make the acknowledgment.

As the agreement has been tabled, I do not propose at this stage to traverse its contents. I am satisfied that the matter is in good hands. The gentlemen who are engaged in the directing of the company, and the subsidiary company which it is proposed shall enter into the coalmining industry in due course, are, in my view—and they include Mr. Conrow—men perfectly capable of handling the matter, and they will be assisted, so long as the State holds at least seven per cent. of the shares in the company by an officer of the Treasury, who I expect will be Mr. Lancaster, the Economic Research Officer, and who is well known to most members as a very capable man.

One of the other principal concerns of the department during the year has been the hope that the Commonwealth Government would see fit to render financial assistance with regard to the alunite industry at Lake Campion. Members will recall that, towards the close of last session, I made some comment on the fact that throughout the year representations had been made to the Prime Minister and to the Secondary Industries Division of the Commonwealth Department with a view to obtaining financial assistance, based on the belief that it was justified, because the State had undertaken somewhat hurriedly, and as a war measure, the development of an industry for the production of potash urgently required for agricultural purposes in circumstances that made it peculiarly difficult to ensure that the industry could be carried on successfully.

While it is true that during more recent months processes have been developed that appear likely to lift the quality of the potash won from those resources to approximately double the value they were in the earlier stages, it is also true that the difficulties associated with the earlier development and the research necessary involved the State in a very substantial loss, in that it was apparent that the value of the asset that would be there when the work was completed would by no means be the equivalent of the money expended.

In May or June last, a communication was received from the Prime Minister stating that he did not consider that any direct financial assistance should be made available by the Commonwealth, and that the proper way to approach the matter was through the Loan Council or the Grants Commission. Those representations were continued, but only during the last 48 hours has a definite reply been received from the Prime Minister. I regret to say that the final paragraph of his communication is this—

I have made a very careful review and I am afraid that the only course open to me is to affirm the Commonwealth's decision to refuse direct financial assistance.

I must say that I cannot agree with the views expressed by the Prime Minister. I have had reason to believe, as also have officers of the Department of Industrial Development, that the expert officers of the Secondary Industries Division, and I think also the C.S.I.R., have expressed the opinion that the new processes are practicable and likely to give economical results, and that some measure of assistance is justified. I cannot say that that is on record on our file but discussions have taken place with those gentlemen and certainly left no doubt in my mind that that was the intention. Therefore I assume that whatever difficulty has arisen has occurred in the Department of the Treasury. I am not only dissatisfied with the ultimate paragraph of the Prime Minister's letter, but I am also concerned at the attitude he has adopted in his view of the industry. He states that he is of opinion that the industry was not very efficiently established, and adds—

I understand that the industry's difficulties have not been due to lack of finance but mainly to technical difficulties. I had these points in mind when the proposal was put forward that a Commonwealth expert might be appointed to the Industries Board.

We subscribed to that point of view. We were quite prepared to amend the Act in order to place a Commonwealth representative on the Industry Board so that his advice might be available to the Commonwealth and that the Commonwealth might be well-informed of what was taking place. The letter goes on—

You will no doubt agree that the production of fertiliser with low potassic content at a cost of £71 per ton in 1944-45 and £47 per ton in 1945-46 would hardly be regarded as being efficient. I understand that these were the industry's top figures for the period mentioned.

I am not prepared to enter into any discussion as to the efficiency or otherwise of the methods adopted during 1944-45 and 1945-46. I feel that, in the circumstances that existed and in view of the need that I understood arose, it would have been impracticable at that time to employ methods very much different from those that were employed. In those circumstances, a charge of inefficiency, in order to obviate the necessity for considering the making of direct financial assistance, does not seem to me to be very fair. In view of the recent arrival of this communication, the Government has made no decision, and I can only express a personal opinion. My opinion is that after 18 months of negotiations, so far as I am concerned, and in view of the refusals to which I have referred, it is not worth while making any more representations to the Commonwealth for financial assistance in reduction of the liabilities of the industry or in connection with its later development, and that we must now proceed to that measure of development necessary and desirable to enable us to cope with the demand that can reasonably be said to exist for the type of potash likely to be produced with much greater efficiency.

With regard to matters generally, the department continues to give advice and assistance to industrialists, wishing to extend the scope of their operations or to undertake for the first time the manufacture of products in this State. We have had many inquiries for the projected establishment of a variety of industries in Western Australia. With regard to some of them we have been in extremely keen competition with the Eastern States. We have had companies from Great Britain interested in the manufacture of rayon yarn and rayon substances of various kinds. We

offered them opportunities and concessions to the limit that we were able; and I am convinced that had it not been for our small population and transport difficulties as compared with the Eastern States where the major Australian market would lie, our offer would have resulted in the establishment of those companies in Western Australia. I think that they were the overriding factors in deciding these people not to contemplate establishing themselves here. The Government agreed to make proposals to them which I am certain were entirely satisfactory in regard to such things as water, housing, technical facilities, land, accommodation and so forth. We now have inquiries from another such company which is almost in as big a way as the first one I have in mind. We have made, or are preparing to make, similar proposals to them. We shall have to await their decision because they are searching, as did the other company, over the whole of the Australian mainland for the spot which they deem most suitable.

Mr. Marshall: Where are they from?

The MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: Both from Great Britain. No effort will be spared so far as we are concerned and no facility will be withheld that we can reasonably guarantee to ensure that whatever prospect there is of these people establishing an industry in Western Australia is carefully cultivated. The charcoal-iron industry has proceeded insofar as the production of pig-iron is concerned; and during the last seven or eight months since it started, production has been maintained at the rate of 7,000 tons per annum. Practically all the requirements of the ironmasters of this State can, we think, now be supplied from that source. The refinery is not complete but it is expected the full plant will be operating early in the New Year. Here again, as is well known, we have carried on a project which was on its way on the 1st April, 1947, and which we made the subject of an inquiry to ascertain if the economics which were anticipated of the industry were likely to be realised. We were informed they would be, but up to the present, in the absence of the working of the refinery and the by-products to be obtained therefrom, it is impossible to come to any estimation of the financial results of the operations of that concern.

Suffice it to say that we hope to be able to make an agreement with an important chemical concern in this country to act as our agents for the disposal of those by-products; and it is anticipated that it will be able to find a market for the great bulk of them though some of them are not in such demand as was expected immediately after the war ended.

Owing to the absence of the refinery, it has been very difficult to dispose of liquids which are distilled from the charcoal, and much concern has been expressed by people in the neighbourhood owing to the fact that those liquids find their way to the nearest watercourse which has been detrimentally affected thereby. Strenuous efforts have been made by the management to dispose of them but the seepage continues, and I am convinced that until the refinery is in operation and those by-products can be put to a practical use, we shall still have that difficulty, though the officers concerned have done their best to minimise it.

Mr. Kelly: Could they not be piped away?

The MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: They were. Something like 1,500 feet of piping was obtained but the liquids still seeped through the gravel country. It is not clay and will not hold water, and the liquids enter the creek. That is the position as I understand it, though it is five or six months since I inspected the site and the piping was not then there. On the question of the gasification of Collie coal, some progress has been made. The Coal Panel had the advantage of advice from two German scientists, Dr. Danulat and Mr. Bruggemann and also from Dr. Usna, who has actually operated a Lurgi plant. The panel is satisfied that the process is sound and can be put into operation. It will, of course, be a reasonably long-term proposal. Obviously the best place at which to give consideration to the manufacture of gas would be where the coal is to be found and proposals for that long-term plan are under consideration by the panel and their expert advisers.

Mr. May: Have you any information about the cereal project?

The MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: I am not able at this stage to make any statement about that.

We are most anxious that the alcohol distillery should be used for the purpose, and I think we have succeeded in preventing the piecemeal disposal of parts of the machinery and effects which some section of the Federal department apparently had in mind. We have two claimants for the proposed industry there and no determination has been made as to which one should be accepted or what should be the terms of acceptance. Much depends on an agreement with the Commonwealth Government which is now in charge of the matter regard to the supply of wheat. Negotiations are proceeding and I should think they would be within reach of finality before the end of the month. At present I cannot say which concern is likely to have the best opportunity of establishing itself there, or on what terms: but I hope to be able to make a statement in the Press in the early part of the New Year if the project comes to fruition.

[Mr. Hill took the Chair.]

Mr. May: Do you think you will get the wheat?

The MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: I would say that I am optimistic but have no definite information. We have had correspondence and the matter is under consideration. I do not think I would be wise in saying "yes" or "no" to the question. During the year the Canning racecourse was acquired by the Government and the amount involved is on the Loan Estimates under the Industrial Resumption of Land Act, which I think was passed in 1945. When that amount is approved by Parliament, that land will vest in the Crown and it is intended that Western Steel Enterprises shall be the purchasers of an area of between 40 and 50 acres in a suitable part of the land for the erection of their factory. Negotiations are proceeding for the use of another part of the land for the treatment of steel in containers of corrosive substances. A railway siding serves the area, which is likely to become a valuable industrial centre in the future.

The production of canned fish in Western Australia has greatly increased in recent years. Many difficulties have been associated with the export crayfish industry and the Director of Industrial Develop-

ment has been very much engaged in assisting, in one way and another, in the maintenance and extension of that industry in Western Australia. Financial assistance has been given by the Government in certain directions and the export of crayfish tails during the year amounted to 630,000 lb., valued at approximately £100,000 or 300,000 dollars. Seafoods Limited, whose factory at Albany commenced operations this year, have successfully introduced their pack, snap frozen fillets in cartons, to the public.

The West Australian Trawling Company, which works in conjunction with Seafoods Ltd., has two trawlers at Albany; but owing to various difficulties, including engine breakdowns and lack of knowledge of trawling, the supplies of fish have not been up to expectations. A great effort has been made to establish a shore whaling industry at Point Cloates. Here again we are in difficulty with the Commonwealth Government. There has been an international convention and some sort of international agreement on whaling under which I am advised that the Commonwealth purports to take power to control the whole of the whaling industry on the west coast of Australia from the North-West Cape to King George's Sound. The proposal of the company, which was acceptable to the Government, was that the latter would provide the company with the existing station at Point Cloates and road access to that place; that it would grant the company a lease of the area, and a State whaling license, that a Commonwealth whaling license should be obtained; and that the company should be required to build up its development to the extent of being able to take 250 whales per annum. The persons concerned in the company, who had considerable financial backing of their own, were quite prepared to undertake this agreement; and representations were made to the Commonwealth for the issue of the Commonwealth license.

Replies were received to the effect that the matter would be considered, but in the meantime Press statements appeared to the effect that the Commonwealth was considering a large national project of whale fishing apparently taking advantage of the international convention arrangements; and that it was doubtful in those circumstances whether the projects contemplated by this

company and the Government of this State could function. It is only a few days ago since we received the last telegram saying that the matter was still under consideration. Unfortunately the persons responsible for the company have already spent considerable money in the acquisition of two vessels considered suitable for the work and the acquisition of harpoon guns and harpooners skilled in the work.

Now they feel that unless they can make a start by the beginning of next year, for which purpose, so far as my legal advice goes, they must have a Commonwealth license, their difficulties will be so great that it may not be possible to start the industry at all. I am hopeful, however, that arrangements can be made to enable an industry to commence. It is expected that if they can commence operations, the value of the plant and equipment, including chasers, which I have already mentioned, would be in the vicinity of £120,000 and if they get 250 whales a year it will result in the production of about 1,250 tons of oil, valued at about £140,000 and 2,500 tons of meal, valued at about £37,000. About 60 men can be employed in the works. That of course at the moment is in the lap of the gods, although we are making every effort to cover the necessary arrangements.

The Fremantle shipyards are well-known to the member for Northam because we were discussing the matter with him at the time they were purchased from the Commonwealth at a cost of approximately £25,000. That was regarded by expert officers of the department as being too high a figure and that the realisation would almost certainly result in a loss to the State. Notwithstanding every care being exercised; that loss transpired but it was not as heavy as was expected. The land and buildings, with the exception of the wharf, have been taken over by Bradfords Insulation (W.A.) Ltd., who have installed machinery for the manufacture of slag wool, slag cork and building board. The company is now in production. It has provided a market for the slag which is produced at Wundowie. The wharf installation, which includes a 10-ton derrick and winch, is to be retained by the Government and will be made available to small vessels for fitting out purposes.

Great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining sufficient supplies of casein, and in several instances quantities have had to be air-freighted from the Eastern States. Several local factories have been experimenting in the manufacture of casein and Brownes Ltd. have now arranged to consign about 800 lb. of the wet product to the local plywood factory daily. As there are no drying facilities at the moment, supplies will cease during January for a short period, but plans are in hand for the provision of this equipment. Many inquiries have been made from local furniture firms who state that they will use the local glue when it becomes available.

Under the direction of the Vegetable Oil Seeds Panel, some 380 acres have been sown with linseed by 13 farmers. I was impressed about a year ago by the difficulty being experienced in obtaining linseed oil and I was also impressed by the fact that it could be expressed in a local factory and I was anxious to provide the necessary linseed for that purpose. Agreements were entered into giving the farmers some guaranteed price subject to an agreement that the quality of all linseed delivered by the farmer and the amount of dockage, if any, should be determined by an officer of the Department of Agriculture. Generally, the method has been quite satisfactory, and a return of from 2,000 to 2,500 bushels is anticipated from 380 acres. It is intended to retain 1,250 bushels as seed to sow approximately 2,000 acres next year. The balance will be treated for its oil content.

There has been a considerable increase in production in Western Australian factories in recent years. The employment in 1946-47 was 33,806, and in 1947-48 it was 35,000, an increase of approximately 1,200 over the year. A considerable increase also took place in the value of goods imported from the Eastern States. It may be remembered that many of our necessary items have to come from the Eastern States as they are not at present procurable here, particularly those involved in the fabricating of buildings, structural steel and the like, and also coal and other essential supplies for certain purposes, such as the making of gas. The figures for the six months ended the 30th September, 1948, were £14,131,466 as compared with practically £12,000,000 for the same six months of the

preceding year. Generally speaking, however, every effort has been made to encourage all types of industry in this State. For example, the Dunlop Rubber Co. has been encouraged to come to Western Australia and at present it is engaging, or is about to engage, in the manufacture of minor items, such as bicycle tyres and tubes, football bladders and similar products. The are being manufactured at the Welshpool industrial area, and it is hoped that its operations will develop within a comparatively short time.

One of our detriments is the inability, at the moment, and for some considerable time past, to provide an effective supply of electric power. That makes it extremely difficult to bring industries into active operation in Western Australia and that is one of the principal detriments to the ready expansion of Western Australian industry. It is not practicable to say to persons making inquiries as to facilities existing in this State, "You can have these at an early date," when, on the face of it, that is not so. Explanations have to be made, and they frequently delay finality in discussions.

In June of this year, the Government set up within the department a Building Materials Division. The function of this division is to stimulate the production of all locally produced building materials and to investigate the possibility of producing in this State those materials for which we are at present dependent on outside sources. Mr. Temby, who was the Deputy Director of Industrial Development, has been placed in charge, and Mr. Hynam has been transferred to it from the State Housing Commission. He was connected with brick production and has been seconded as Mr. Temby's assistant. They have maintained a constant liaison with the Housing Commission and are regularly in touch with various manufacturers to render what assistance is possible in overcoming expansion problems, and the likely requirements of building materials over the next few years with the object of giving special encouragement to those sections of the building materials industry which might appear to have most difficulty in meeting an expanding building programme.

I am satisfied that the creation of this organisation, small though it is, within the Department of Industrial Development, has

already made its contribution towards the increase of building materials, although its effects will be more noticeable during the coming year. I have no doubt that it will at least enable us to maintain a reasonably high standard of building, not only in regard to the number of houses, but also in making some progress with necessary public buildings such as schools, greater than the existing deficiencies and the lag of houses would appear to warrant. That could only be overcome by steady progress towards a previously determined goal. As the Chairman mentioned, the amount involved on the Estimates for the department is £35,480, which represents an increase on last year of something like £14,000. If members are anxious to have any information about that, I can explain it further when discussing the items. However, I think I have covered the major items concerning the department during the last 12 months and I have pleasure in introducing the Estimates.

**MR. WILD (Swan) [12.26]:** It is very pleasing to hear the Minister telling us of the great progress it is hoped that industrial development will make in Western Australia in the near future. Quite frankly I am very concerned and I want to hear something from him in his reply as to where he intends to get all the electricity for the development he has been talking about. I suggest that a perusal of the report of the Government Railways, Tramways and Ferries,—the last one being June, 1946,—and a glance at the State Electricity Commission's estimated actual maximum load table, indicate that the possibilities of providing any extra power at present for these suggested developments are practically nil.

**Mr. May:** You must get your coal before you get electricity.

**Mr. WILD:** I feel that Western Australia today should be, and is, on the threshold of a great industrial expansion. I do not say this politically, but when one looks back—and I have gone back in my research as far as 1918—one finds that the Minister, or the departmental head, whoever has been running the electricity supply for Western Australia, is not fit to run the electricity supply for Mukinbudin. The table to which I have referred definitely shows that from 1918 to the present, there has not been any one twelve-monthly period when we have

got more electricity than we required. In 1918 we were using 4,000 kilowatts; in 1928, 17,000 kilowatts; in 1938, 30,000 kilowatts; and in 1948, the estimated load will be 48,000 kilowatts. Everyone knows that at the moment Western Australia is faced with a complete overhaul of this 25,000 kilowatt unit which was installed in 1939 and which has not been stopped before except by a major breakdown about 12 months ago.

As a result of this lack of foresight over the years, it must be seen that there is a possibility that the whole of the metropolitan area, or the industries of the metropolitan area, will be seriously curtailed for anything up to two or three weeks after people resume from their holidays in the new year. In order to have an efficient plant it is very necessary that one must have at the very least 30 or 40 per cent. more than the power requirements. Again mentioning this statistical return, it shows that we never had 5 per cent. more, let alone 30 or 40 per cent. We have read in the Press and have heard in answer to questions on the floor of the House that it is ascertained that a 100,000 kilowatt unit which is on order for South Fremantle will be installed. That is all very well, but the plant at East Perth has been working overtime since 1939, and even with its major overhaul, with all due deference to Mr. Dumas and Mr. Edmondson, that equipment is just about fit for the scrap-heap.

As far as the other five units are concerned they are capable of developing 25,000 kilowatts, but they are 30 years old or more. One blew up about 18 months ago, and it is quite on the cards that the others will blow up or else fall to pieces. Going back over the years I find that, according to the statistical records, we should have in 1948 very nearly 100,000 kilowatts, yet we have only 48,000 and they are provided mostly by decadent units. I suggest to the Minister that if he is sincere in his attitude with reference to bringing these firms and organisations to Western Australia, he must talk fast and furiously to the Treasurer in order to provide not 100,000, but 200,000 kilowatts, because 100,000 kilowatts is merely what is required today. If we were to keep pace with the needs of the present, we should now have, at the very least, 150,000 kilowatts. I am afraid that

next year will be fraught with grave danger.

As I mentioned before, with the 25,000 kilowatt unit being overhauled and with only the other five units in operation, we may be able to struggle through until the South Fremantle station is ready. I suggest that one should not look merely as far as the end of one's nose. We should look a few years ahead. In providing for 100,000 kilowatts, it seems to me that the Government is only looking to today. At this stage I would like to congratulate the Minister for Industrial Development regarding the many features he has mentioned to us with reference to representations, agreements and negotiations entered into with English and Eastern States firms. I would like to hear something from him, however, as to how the necessary electricity supplies will be made available in order to induce these firms to come to Western Australia.

**HON. A. R. G. HAWKE** (Northam) [12.33]: I was naturally interested in what the Minister had to say with regard to the secondary industries he discussed during the course of his speech. Unfortunately, during portion of his remarks I was engaged in discussions with the Premier regarding important matters, and consequently missed hearing what he said at that stage. I was disappointed to learn of the decision of the Commonwealth Government not to assist financially, in a direct way, the Government of this State in respect of the heavy establishment and developmental costs incurred in initiating and building up the potash industry at Chandler. The establishment and development costs in connection with that industry were very greatly increased because of the refusal of the Commonwealth Government to grant any priority in respect of the industry, either in regard to manpower or plant and equipment. Members will readily realise how extremely difficult it was under wartime conditions to establish an industry of that magnitude without a priority of any kind, and also how expensive it was. Therefore, I think there is some obligation upon the Commonwealth Government to assist the State Government financially regarding those establishment and developmental costs. I would not be worried as to whether the Common-

wealth Government made the financial assistance available in a direct or indirect way, so long as the money was forthcoming and so long as it was not added to the indebtedness of the State.

The Minister for Industrial Development: There was one suggestion that it should be done through the Loan Council but I do not like that.

**Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE**: I would be willing and happy to assist the Government in any way thought desirable or helpful in a further approach to the Prime Minister in connection with this matter. I would be fully prepared to set out in writing my views regarding the extreme difficulties under which the industry was established, which difficulties were greatly intensified by the refusal of the Commonwealth Government at that time to grant any priority to the industry. I feel rather confident that the Prime Minister might be inclined to reconsider the matter if all the facts regarding the establishment of the industry were placed before him—if that has not already been done.

The Minister for Industrial Development: I would say that they have, but probably the intimate details of which you have full knowledge may not have been disclosed.

**Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE**: To shorten the debate, I am prepared to discuss this matter with the Minister and with the Director of Industrial Development for the purpose of deciding whether it might not be worth while to make a further approach to the Prime Minister. Possibly in a joint approach, which I would be willing to do in writing and jointly with the Minister we could place the matter once more before him.

The Minister for Industrial Development: When Mr. Fernie returns from his leave I will discuss that matter with him.

**Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE**: I was also disappointed to learn that the distillery section of the charcoal iron industry at Wundwinna has not been completed and therefore is not in operation. It is true, as mentioned by the Minister, that the industry as a whole cannot possibly operate economically until such time as the distillery section is complete and in operation. It was always considered that the industry would be dependent for its

financial success upon the distillery section because it could produce by-products, the sale of which would enable the industry as a whole to operate economically and profitably in a financial sense. I know the Minister and the Government have been faced with very serious difficulties regarding the completion of the distillery section. I also understand that other Government undertakings have been given a higher priority with regard to the use of tradesmen and essential materials, especially copper, as a result of which the distillery section of the industry at Wundowie has to wait until the necessary highly skilled labour and requisite materials are made available for the work.

The Minister for Industrial Development: That was done in order to finish the building of the Royal Perth Hospital.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I understand that the major work that was given priority over the distillery section was the new portion of the Royal Perth Hospital, and I have no complaint to make in that regard. I will be greatly interested with regard to Western Steel Enterprises to have some information regarding the project it is putting in hand in connection with steel roller mills in the Maddington area. In my opinion Mr. Conrow has the necessary technical knowledge and practical experience of the steel rolling industry to enable the company successfully to be established and also to operate it in an efficient manner subsequently. I am not quite sure whether the Minister gave the Committee any information regarding the progress of the Chamberlain tractor industry at Welshpool.

The Minister for Industrial Development: I did not mention it, but I shall do so.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I would like the Minister, when he replies to the debate, to indicate to us what progress has been made and the approximate date on which tractors will be completed at Welshpool and made available to farmers in this State. As country members in particular know, tractors are extremely difficult to obtain. We read in the newspaper periodically that so many thousands of tractors will be coming into Australia next year, but I think the estimates of thousands to arrive are built up with a good deal of wishful thinking, because the number that actually arrives never seems to reach the estimate given previously.

The Chamberlain industry at Welshpool has been confronted by many difficulties. The extraordinary thing is that it is much more difficult to do things these days than ever before in the history of the world. We have more technical knowledge, more technical skill and more of the things necessary to establish industries and undertakings and to operate them. But, for reasons which are not altogether clear to me, it seems to take a tremendous amount of time to get things done and the costs involved are sky high as compared with those that prevailed before the recent war and ever so much more as compared with those before the 1914-18 war.

It is true, as mentioned by the member for Swan, that the non-availability of electric power is a very great barrier to the expansion of existing industries and the establishment of new ones. There are other difficulties and handicaps, too. The shortage of skilled labour and semi-skilled labour and even unskilled labour is a very great handicap and obstruction to the development of new industries, just as those things are an obstruction to the progress that is possible for Governments and private enterprise to make in so many other directions.

Our existing industries require all the electrical power and all the skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour that can be made available under existing conditions. Therefore we cannot look forward in the near future to any very great measure of industrial expansion because the physical necessities to increase production and expansion are not available. What is more, they cannot be made available quickly. We cannot develop our capacity to generate largely increased quantities of electric power in a short space of time; we cannot build up skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour forces quickly, because there are no easily available sources from which we can draw.

True, the Commonwealth is bringing into Australia increasing numbers of migrants, but the demand for any sort of labour that arrives in Australia is very great, and the competition for migrants is intense. It would be even more intense but for the fact that these people are under direction in regard to the employment they may accept. I also understand that they are under direction as to the minimum time they shall remain in the employment to which they are directed by the immigration authorities.

So we would be unwise to imagine that there will be in the near future any very great industrial expansion in this State. There would undoubtedly be hair-raising expansion in the field of secondary industries if all the physical requirements requisite to expansion were immediately available. If we had the volume of electric power required and if double the skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour forces were available, there would be no limit, unless it were a very high one, to the expansion that could be achieved in the field of secondary industries in this State.

This also applies to almost every other activity with which the Government is associated, and I believe it applies in respect of most of the activities carried on by private enterprise. I have continued to watch with interest the work of this Government in connection with industrial development and I consider that, within the limits of the physical restrictions with which the Government is faced, it has achieved the maximum degree of success that was possible. I know the Minister has concentrated very earnestly on the task and, like previous Ministers, has had the helpful co-operation of the Director of Industrial Development and his staff. In conclusion, I wish to say, if it is necessary, that my help is forthcoming at any time and I should be only too pleased to make the advice and information I have available to the Government in order further to develop secondary industries and thereby increase the prosperity of the State.

**MR. LESLIE** (Mt. Marshall) [12.51]: I was very disappointed to hear the Minister for Industrial Development inform the Committee of the reply received from the Prime Minister to the representations made by him for assistance to the Chandler potash industry. I commend the Government upon its pertinacity in seeking this assistance from the Commonwealth Government for the industry. There is undoubtedly an obligation resting upon the Commonwealth Government to provide this financial assistance; and in handing the Minister my commendation and the commendation of those engaged in the industry—we all know of its importance to the State and the Commonwealth—we hope that the knock-back he got, unreasonable as it was, will not deter him from persisting in his representations to the Commonwealth for assistance

to the industry. Similar requests were made by the previous Government, which was supported by me in that regard.

**Mr. Bovell:** Get a new Commonwealth Government.

**Mr. LESLIE:** That is the obvious remedy. I believe that constant dripping wears away the stone, even though the stone may be as hard as the heart of our friend Ben Chifley. I should like to know from the Minister whether there is any truth in the statement that we are at present importing potash into Australia from Russia.

**Mr. May:** It would be Red.

**Mr. LESLIE:** Yes, it would be. If it is the fact, we have surely reached a sorry pass.

**Mr. Styants;** Russia is buying our wool. It is one of the best buyers of our wool.

**Mr. LESLIE:** We should not be importing potash from Russia while we have an industry capable of supplying the whole of Australia's requirements. Why should the industry be neglected and why should we get our supplies from a place like Russia? Russia is merely buying our wool from sheer necessity. There is no necessity for us to buy potash from Russia.

**The Minister for Industrial Development:** I do not know whether that is a fact.

**Mr. LESLIE:** I suggest that the Minister make some inquiries into the matter. If it is true, it ought to strengthen our hands in making representations to the Commonwealth for assistance to the industry here. I would not hesitate to tell the Prime Minister that such a state of affairs should not be allowed to continue. It is disgraceful. I commend the department for its continued interest in the establishment of industry in this State. I am in a position to know of attempts that are being made to expand our industries, because of the interest taken by the Minister and his departmental officers in the re-establishment of ex-Servicemen in various industries. That assistance I can assure the Committee, is greatly appreciated and I hope that it will be continued in the future.

**MR. GRAHAM** (East Perth) [12.55]: There is one matter I wish briefly to submit to the Minister for consideration by him and his department. The Minister, of course, is well aware of the extreme diffi-

culty in securing premises for our smaller and newer industries that have been commenced by men skilled in particular trades. These men have expended their capital in the purchase of plant and now have not sufficient money in hand either to secure premises or to have them built. A very interesting experiment has been made at Welshpool. A large building was erected there for war purposes and it has been let to a number of industries. There is no gainsaying the fact that the persons engaged in those industries have done some wonderful work. I should like the Minister to confer with the Minister for Housing to see if something cannot be done along the lines of the Welshpool factories.

The Government, or the Department of Industrial Development, could possibly assume the responsibility for constructing suitable premises in various parts of the State, not only in the metropolitan area but also in some of our larger country centres. These premises could be let to persons who satisfy the department that they are conducting bona fide industries and have some prospect of success. Many large industrial undertakings have risen from humble beginnings, and initiative and enterprise should be encouraged. Had the buildings at Welshpool not been available for industrial purposes we would have been in an exceedingly difficult situation.

I realise that the Housing Commission is sympathetic towards new industries in the matter of granting permits. I drew the Minister's attention to one particular instance, and I am aware there are many more. The quality of the work suffers and the price factor is interfered with if a proper opportunity is not given to these men. In normal circumstances, buildings would be available for them, but that is not so today. I should be pleased if the Minister and his department would investigate the matter with a view to doing something to assist these people.

**THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT** (Hon. A. F. Watts—Katanning—in reply) [1.0]: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I wish to thank members who have spoken for their remarks and the generous way in which they have treated this department. Dealing first with the remarks of the member for Swan, he will recollect that I said that the difficulty of

ensuring the supply of electric current in the immediate future was one of the greatest deterrents to the early expansion of industry in this State. Therefore I concur with him entirely in his view that it is not the happenings of recent days which have brought about that state of affairs but those which have extended over a long period of years. In regard to these particular matters, neither I nor any member of the present Government can accept any measure of responsibility. From the inquiries I have made, I should say that it became apparent at least 12 years ago that there would be a shortage of electric power if any substantial increase took place in requirements. Steps were not taken to remedy that state of affairs, however, until after the war had started.

In consequence, as I see the position, the trouble goes back to about 1936, at a time when I suppose one could easily have obtained the necessary reinforcements to our generating plant. That steps were not taken to do so is a matter of the very greatest regret. We of this day and generation, however, have to make the best we can of the existing circumstances. After the order was placed, war-caused inability to produce because of the greater need for production in other directions made it impossible to bring the matter to a head till the war had ceased. A year or more ago I conferred with the Director of Industrial Development as to the position which was likely to arise, not in regard to those industries which I mentioned, which would take some years to develop, but with regard to existing industries which could be immediately expanded. Representations were made to the Electricity Commission to deal with the question of trying to obtain some fortification of our existing generating plant. Unfortunately the gravest difficulty was experienced. I know that inquiries have been made in regard to 12,500 kilowatt generators of a secondhand type which were found, in one case, to be unserviceable and to be incapable of being put into operation.

We have also attempted to replace the 4,000 or 4,500 kilowatt generator which the hon. member said blew up last year. I am given to understand there is a distinct possibility that they can be replaced within a reasonable period, and will certainly do something to fortify a state of affairs which

is giving industry, not to mention other people, the very gravest concern, and this is a matter of the past and not of the present, and therefore outside my responsibility. We have tried to fortify the position; but in view of the vast demands being made on behalf of the shattered areas of Europe upon such manufacturers as there are and the fact quite properly and succinctly mentioned by the member for Northam, that we seem to be making slower progress in production, notwithstanding our technical knowledge, than at any time in our history, it is not possible to remedy the situation. It can be said by me, and I have been in close touch with the hon. gentleman on my right in regard to this matter, that efforts were successfully made to speed up the completion of this South Fremantle power station.

Inquiries are being made as to the acquisition of other generating plants as soon as that plant can be put into operation. The hon. member, the people of the metropolitan area, and the people of the State, may rest assured that, taking all factors into consideration, no effort is being spared to ensure that neither industry nor other types of requirements are left in a parlous condition for longer than is absolutely necessary. I regret that I forgot, in my anxiety not to detain the Committee at any great length, to mention Chamberlain Industries. Suffice it to say that steady progress has been made, though much slower than was expected, partly because of industrial disturbances elsewhere resulting in slow arrival of necessary gear, and partly because of minor production difficulties in this State. The Government has given considerable increased financial assistance, and satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Commonwealth in connection with the acquisition of very high-class tools and machines which are established at the industry; and the production of tractors in fairly large numbers is expected to start fairly early in the new year.

One or two of the tractors have been disposed of to farmers already, and have given good service, indicating that they will fulfil a long-felt want for those who have required that type of tractive power. In regard to decentralisation, which was mentioned by one member, it is the aim of the Government to decentralise industry wherever practicable. Hence we are pressing for the use of

the alcohol distillery at Collie, and hence it was that negotiations with concerns interested in the rayon industry were by no means confined to the metropolitan area. The representatives of those companies were given an opportunity to examine other places. Electric power came into the question; but their industries would take considerable time to become established from foundation to roof, if I might put it that way, and in the intervening period we could no doubt have kept pace with their progress and been ready to provide them with their proper requirements had they established themselves here.

In regard to the remarks of the member for East Perth, as is well known, the department does sponsor, with the Housing Commission, applications for permission to erect essential buildings for industrial development, which is considered vital to the State's progress. I think as much as £300,000 was authorised for buildings in a period of 12 months. Of course, a fine toothcomb has to be put through these various applications to ensure that they fulfil the qualifications I have mentioned. It may be that some places, such as those mentioned by the hon. member, are doomed to be delayed a little longer. Nevertheless, I shall discuss the position with the Minister for Housing and the Director of Industrial Development so as to ensure that no really difficult case is left without consideration.

Vote put and passed.

*Vote—Farmers' Debts Adjustment, £420:*

**THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION**  
(Hon. A. F. Watts—Katanning) [1.11 a.m.]: I wish to say a very few words on this division in view of the fact that new legislation was passed last year. Under the Commonwealth Act, Western Australia's allocation out of the total of £10,000,000 was £1,300,000 of which £1,283,000 was received, leaving £17,000 not drawn. The total allocations between the years 1936 and 1943 amounted to £1,283,000, all of which was advanced to farmers. Since the inception of the Act, the total number of applications received was 4,306, of which 115 were declined. During the past year only seven applications for debt adjustment were received, and of these three were declined, and one is incomplete. Advances totalling £1,694 14s. 1d. were made in the remaining three cases. Since the in-

ception of the fund, 135 farmers have repaid their advances in full. That was before the passing of the Act last year.

Total repayments by farmers amount to £103,226 14s. 4d., of which £5,572 16s. 1d. was readvanced to other farmers. Since the Act of last year, the member for Mt. Marshall may be interested to know, 515 farmers have discharged their debts on payment of amounts up to 20 per cent. of the balance owing by them as provided for in the Rural Relief Fund Amendment Act, 1947. The total amount repaid to the 31st October, 1948, was £34,649 19s., and the amount written off was £138,814 15s. 3d. That was in addition to the amounts written off under Section 2. Full amounts owing by 520 farmers have been written off with the Executive Council's approval, involving a total of £179,567 5s. 4d. Partial writing off in 124 cases involved a total of £34,999 4s.

**MR. LESLIE** (Mt. Marshall) [1.13 a.m.] : The figures given by the Minister have meant an alteration of the figures I have extracted from the 1948 report. In order to make my point, it will be necessary for me to quote a number of figures in connection with the fund. Altogether, 3,749 farmers have been assisted, and 1,119 have repaid or have had their loans entirely written off, leaving at the time the report was prepared 2,630 farmers still indebted to the fund. The Minister has now advised us that another 515 have been dealt with which leaves 2,115. The full amount advanced is £1,288,072 16s. 1d., and the amount repaid and written off is £398,256 0s. 3d., leaving a total owing by 2,630 applicants of £889,816 15s. 10d. or an average of £338 6s. 8d. per farmer.

I would like the Minister to indicate what action has been taken to inform the farmers of the provision of the 1947 Act by which they can apply for a writing off or for a reduction of a maximum of 20 per cent. I feel certain that, as the maximum, based on 20 per cent., would be an average of £67 13s. 4d., many farmers would repay the loan speedily to relieve themselves of their obligation. They could, of course, at the same time be notified that they could pay something less than 20 per cent. if the trustees considered that their circumstances justified a further financial concession, or that their debt could be completely written

off. It would be interesting to know how many of the 2,630—now only 2,115—farmers indebted to the fund are still farming, or how many it is considered could repay some portion of the amount they owe. We have reached the stage where we need to get the fund shipshape and reduce the amount owing by these farmers as much as possible, so as not to leave a fictitious amount on the books.

At the present time with the total amount repaid and the amount of £117,963 15s. 3d., which the Minister said we have not used, there is a sum of £211,849 14s. 6d. available for further advances to farmers. In connection with these further advances, I point out to the Minister that from an analysis I have made of the 1947 report, the Rural Bank wrote off an amount equal to 17 per cent. of the total original debt due to the bank. Other mortgagees wrote off an amount equal to 11 per cent.; machinery firms wrote off 21 per cent.; stock firms wrote off .06 per cent.; water rates amounted to 16 per cent., and road board rates to 27 per cent.; and rent—presumably due to the Lands Department—to .05 per cent. The unsecured creditors were required to forego 66 per cent. of the debt due to them. Actually, the average amount written off in overall amount to only 19 per cent. The 66 per cent. that the unsecured creditors had to sacrifice appears to be out of all proportion to the demands made upon the secured creditors.

I consider that in future the secured creditor should be compelled to disgorge a little more than he has in the past. It is out of all proportion to expect the unsecured creditor to make such a big sacrifice. Whether the unsecured creditor's debt remains or is written off has no influence on the financial ability of the farmer to carry on. The proportion of writing off as between secured and unsecured creditors should be more equitable in future. I hope there will be no need to use this fund to any great extent in the years to come, but I wished to make my point and to say again that I would like to know what action has been taken, and whether it can be intensified during the coming year, that the farmers be notified of the comparatively small amount they are required to pay to meet this obligation and free themselves of it. I would like to know

the number of farmers from whom payment cannot be secured, and who could be completely written off the books of account, which could then be put into sound condition.

Vote put and passed.

*Vote—State Insurance office, £36,207:*

Mr. RODOREDA: What is the third item, allowance to Mine Workers' Relief Fund? Could the Minister explain what this payment involves and why the State Insurance Office has to make such a payment to the Mine Workers' Relief Fund?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I understand that the State Insurance Office and the Mine Workers' Relief Fund at Kalgoorlie are conducted by the same people. The costs have been paid by the Mine Workers' Relief Fund and the proportion of the cost to cover the proportion of work involved has been recouped, and that is the amount mentioned. Arrangements are now in hand—they have not been finalised—for a different system, the idea being that the Public Service should take over the staff and that arrangements should be made by the two departments—slightly different from the present arrangement—for the purpose of sharing the administrative costs.

Mr. Rodoreda: I understand that the employees at Kalgoorlie are now to be taken over by the Public Service.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: That is suggested.

Mr. Rodoreda: I take it they will be absorbed into the Public Service with all the appropriate rights and privileges?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: That is the intention, and although the matter is not finalised yet I have no doubt it will be.

Vote put and passed.

Progress reported.

## BILL—TRADING STAMP.

*In Committee, etc.*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting. Mr. Perkins in the Chair; the Minister for Labour in charge of the Bill.

Clause 4—Interpretation (partly considered):

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: As was agreed, a Committee comprised of myself, the Minister for Housing, the member for North-East Fremantle, the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe and the Secretary for Labour studied this clause for over an hour and could come to no conclusion other than that we must stick to the present wording. That was the decision reached by a majority of the Committee. I have here the South Australian Act, from which the Bill was copied. We also had with us in that Committee the South Australian "Hansard" containing the speeches made in the South Australian Parliament when it was decided in 1935 to amend the 1924 Act. The reasons for amending that Act with regard to the definition of "goods" were that the Act was being evaded in certain ways. In one instance the owner of Lever Bros., in order to evade the Act, had a photograph of himself printed on the wrapper of the goods and offered a present to anyone who collected so many photographs of himself and returned them to the firm. The Committee will run no risk in voting for this clause and defeating the amendment.

Mr. Hegney: A number of members did not read the Bill properly.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: It takes some understanding, and I feel there is no risk in accepting the Bill as it stands.

Mr. STYANTS: Will the Minister lucidly explain to the Committee the interpretation of the word "goods"?

The CHAIRMAN: At the moment we are dealing with the amendment to delete words and not with the full clause.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: It seems that the Committee appointed to make something sensible of this Bill cannot have done much at all. It is not intended to alter one word of it. What right have we to say that any firm shall not run a tram, train, bus or anything else?

The Minister for Labour: They can do so.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: They cannot.

*Point of Order.*

Mr. Styants: Mr. Chairman, you would not permit me to obtain from the Minister an explanation of certain words. You have permitted the Minister to talk about railways and tramways, and other things, and

you are allowing the member for Fremantle to discuss it as well. Why the discrimination?

The Chairman: The question before the Committee is the amendment moved by the member for Fremantle to strike out words.

Mr. STYANTS: I am not satisfied. The words about which I want an explanation appear in the words to be struck out and you tell me that I cannot discuss them.

The Chairman: The amendment only goes down as far as the word "conveyance" in line 7.

*Committee Resumed.*

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I hope the Committee will agree to my amendment.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: Boans, or any other firm, can still advertise a free train and people can still travel to Perth by that train. The point is that they must not issue a document which will entitle the travellers to a free gift. There is nothing to stop them from travelling on the train.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: The Committee has already agreed on the principle of the Bill and, to make that principle effective, it is necessary to provide some word which will be all-embracing and which will cover any possible loopholes. This clause has been taken from the South Australian legislation which was not in this form originally, but that State found by experience that this was the best means of preventing any loopholes in their legislation. I was one of those who agreed to act on the committee, and I abide by its decision. If the legislation is to be enacted, then we must make it effective. In that case it is necessary to provide an all-embracing term which will include every possible advantage that one can think of. If the Bill becomes law, immediately the firms affected will send men out to discover something which is not mentioned in this all-embracing clause so that that advantage can be offered as an inducement in exchange for coupons. Whilst I have been in favour of submitting the Bill to a Select Committee I am not yet convinced that there is need for it, and I accept the decision of the Committee that the Bill should be enacted. It will be futile to leave this definition as it is and make it possible for some wide-awake trader to offer, as an inducement in exchange for coupons, something which this Committee has struck out.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Perhaps the Minister will now agree that he is wrong. He said a few moments ago that this clause would not prevent Boans or any other firm from carrying passengers on a train. The member for North-East Fremantle now says that if I am successful in deleting the words set out in my amendment these firms will be able to do that and he does not want them to do it. We are in two different corners now.

Mr. RODOREDA: The Minister for Housing, speaking a few hours ago, said the Bill was complicated and difficult to understand, and I concur. That is one reason why the Bill should not be bludgeoned through the Committee stages at this late hour. When even the Minister for Housing finds it hard to understand the Bill how much more difficult is it for lay members to understand it? I can appreciate the different viewpoints of the members for Fremantle and North-East Fremantle. It appears to me that no firm would be able to offer a free train trip to a customer who had purchased goods from that firm.

The Minister for Labour: That is correct.

Mr. RODOREDA: But no person under the Bill would be prohibited from holding out a bait to customers, before they purchased goods, that they could have a free train trip. That is the point at issue between the two speakers who preceded me and in that respect the definition of "goods" is in order. Where we do come to the real point of debate is in the next clause, which prohibits certain action being taken in the sale of goods by firms. So, looking at the amendment from that point of view I will have to disagree with the member for Fremantle.

Mr. STYANTS: After listening carefully to the Minister I am satisfied that his desire is to penalise the small manufacturer who is perhaps producing a cereal and placing in the carton a series of funny pictures to amuse children. He constantly reiterates that he does not mind a large firm such as Boans Ltd., being able, by some cute technicality, to run trains thus bringing persons to the store to buy their goods as advertised.

Mr. RODOREDA: I find myself in agreement with the sentiments expressed by the member for Kalgoorlie but we cannot do much about the matter in this clause. The clause that should be amended is the next one.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: The Minister said that firms could run free trains.

Mr. RODOREDA: I quite agree that Boans Ltd. could charter the whole of the suburban railway service for a week to run free train trips, and I do not believe in that. If the member for Fremantle or some other member will move an amendment in the appropriate clause we might be able to do something about it.

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: The definition of "goods" includes entitlement to take part in any indoor or outdoor game or sport. If a big firm provided a dart board or a ping pong table, surely we should be going too far if we prohibited people from playing those games! I should like to hear what the Minister has to say.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: The hon. member understands the position, which has been clearly explained. People may play those games so long as there is no document entitling them to receive something in return.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 5—Use of trading stamps prohibited:

Mr. RODOREDA: The proviso to Sub-clause (1) reads:—

Provided that this subdivision shall not prevent a trader from paying, or from promising, offering, or representing that the trader will pay to any person who purchases goods from the trader a discount payable in cash and not otherwise calculated on the price paid or payable by the purchaser to the trader for goods so purchased.

This is the crux of the situation. This is the thing we ought to prohibit, rather than the issuing of a few coupons for which a person may receive a couple of tea-towels. This is what gives Eastern States manufacturers an advantage over the local trader. They can afford to give big discounts and thereby capture trade. Anyone with experience of merchandising practice knows that this is how the big manufacturer gets wholesalers and retailers to stock his goods in preference to goods of others. If we could get all the manufacturers on to an equal basis of trading with wholesalers and retailers, we would have achieved something worthwhile.

Mr. Yates: Have you ever accepted a discount on goods purchased?

Mr. RODOREDA: Yes, and, if trading, I would accept the largest discount offering. Members buy Michelides cigarettes when others are not obtainable. They prefer Craven A's.

Mr. Bovell: Speak for yourself!

Mr. RODOREDA: That is what I do. All this talk of patriotism is only lip service. If the Minister were a wholesaler and were offered Eastern States' goods and 7½ per cent. more discount than a local trader could offer, with whom would he do business? There is only one answer. That is why there was difficulty in selling Porongorup rugs. Not a wholesaler in the city would stock them, because less discount was offered as compared with Onkaparinga and other rugs manufactured in the East.

Mr. Yates: What about cigarettes? They are a standard price.

Mr. RODOREDA: Yes, and we buy Eastern States' cigarettes. I move an amendment—

That the proviso to paragraph (b) of Sub-clause (1) be struck out.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: I am in agreement with the member for Roebourne on the subject of trade discount. These are heavy and, on occasions, unreasonable. The hon. member has been in business and probably understands the effect of this proviso. Generally speaking, the larger the order the bigger the trade discount.

Mr. Rodoreda: That is where the local manufacturer cannot get in.

Mr. Styants: The bigger the deal, the greater the discount.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: That is so. There are other advantages attaching to large orders, such as lower freights. I suggest to the member for Roebourne that the proviso is not quite what he thinks it is.

Mr. KELLY: The proviso is unfair and will defeat the object of the Bill. It will give undue preference to a section of traders with the ability to purchase large quantities of goods. Up to the present, I have been in agreement with the Minister, but on this occasion I cannot agree with him.

Mr. GRAHAM: Obviously, the Bill is largely designed to assist newspapers, in consideration of which the Minister, or his Government, will receive a quid pro quo.

The Minister for Housing: Do not say that. There is no truth in it whatever.

The Minister for Labour: The trouble is that the hon. member makes nasty innuendos. I could tell the Committee something about him.

Mr. GRAHAM: The Minister is well qualified to speak on the subject of innuendos and nastiness.

The Minister for Labour: I am game to say straight out what I think.

Mr. GRAHAM: This proviso shows what is really behind the measure. There is no concern whatever for the small struggling industries of Western Australia.

Mr. Styants: Free trains for Boans!

Mr. GRAHAM: This is a question of discounts, so the high ideals of the Minister are to be thrown overboard. The powerful businesses in the Eastern States can give unlimited discount until such time as they have stifled our industries.

The Minister for Housing: Read the South Australian Parliamentary debates on the subject.

Mr. GRAHAM: With the limited time that has been at my disposal, I have not had the opportunity to do so. There is special provision giving the strong financial manufacturers in the Eastern States a let-out, so long as they are prepared to spend large sums of money on the official organ of the Liberal Party, which is thrown over our fence every week.

The Minister for Housing: Do not get on to that subject. What you say is quite untrue.

Mr. GRAHAM: They are at least the spiritual allies of the Liberal Party. This Bill is largely designed to benefit the newspapers. Last night the Minister told the Committee the sad story of Rayner's jams. He knew perfectly well that it was not coupons that pushed Rayner's jams off the market, but the very matter that he excludes from the Bill. The Bill is either designed to do something or it is not. Even Ministers have indicated the difficulty of following the Bill; and it is exceedingly hard for members generally to do so. It would appear that the Government is adamant in regard to this matter. I cannot see that any damage will be done to anyone if the Bill is dropped and an opportunity given for the whole position to be investigated. If the Minister agrees to this provision remaining in the Bill, he will justify the statement I have made and the real purpose of

the Bill will be revealed, and all this clap-trap about patriotism and local industry will be shown to be so much eye-wash.

There has been a genuine attempt to assist certain instrumentalities that have been friendly to the Government, such as broadcasting stations and the newspapers but there is no concern for the little trader or manufacturer. The very circumstance that makes it possible for Western Australian industries to be beaten to their knees is left in as an essential part of the Bill and the recent arguments that have been submitted will not have any effect upon the Minister. Without a blush or batting an eyelid he informs the Committee that he is opposed to the deletion of words which would overcome the position of providing the greatest weapon there is for destroying Western Australian industry.

Mr. STYANTS: I think the Minister's intention in the first place was to protect local industry; although, by his utterances up to date, he has not been greatly concerned about the small man in Western Australia. If the Minister seriously believes that it is the flooding from the Eastern States, the overflow of mass production from the Eastern States that is doing so much damage to local industry, he will have no objection to wiping out this proviso, because there is no doubt that by it they will be able to continue what has been the practice in the past, and that is by mass production and the discount system act detrimentally to local industry. By agreeing to the proposal of the member for Roebourne, the Minister will wipe out the unfair system that has operated for so many years and will do local industry a good turn.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr. GRAHAM: I am wondering whether handbills and catalogues will be affected by this provision. I am certain that such harmless advertising as that in which the "Daily News" has been indulging will be. For the past week or two that paper has been advertising that persons in the country may cut out a coupon and forward it to the "Daily News" and a £1 book will be supplied to them for 12/6.

Mr. Leslie: They can get it without the coupon.

Mr. GRAHAM: They may or may not, but the fact remains that a coupon is being used.

The Attorney-General: I thought we were putting through an important Bill.

Mr. GRAHAM: Judging by the time spent on this measure it is the most important the Government has introduced this session. I find it difficult to satisfy my mind as to the extent of the limitation imposed on ordinary advertising. If a firm advertised that upon receipt of a coupon, its catalogues would be forwarded, it would, I dare say, come within the embargo.

Mr. STYANTS: I am in accord with the principle that a producer who puts coupons with his goods, and a shopkeeper who handles those goods should be liable for a breach of the law, but not that an assistant or an apprentice should also be liable. They would not be aware of the fact that the package contained a coupon. I move an amendment—

That in line 5 of paragraph (a) of Sub-clause (5) the words "assistant or apprentice" be struck out.

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

Clauses 6 and 7, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment and the report adopted.

### *Third Reading.*

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

### **BILL—FEEDING STUFFS ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).**

Returned from the Council without amendment.

*House adjourned at 2.39 a.m. (Thursday).*

## **Legislative Council.**

Thursday, 9th December, 1948.

### **CONTENTS.**

	Page
Assent to Bills .....	3329
Bills: Wheat Industry Stabilisation, further recom., report .....	3322
2r. ....	3327
Assembly's message .....	3368
Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act Amendment, 2r., remaining stages, passed .....	3323
Pharmacy and Poisons Act Amendment, Com., remaining stages .....	3327
Assembly's message .....	3342
Country Towns Sewerage, Assembly's message .....	3329
Land Sales Control Act Amendment 2r., point of order, remaining stages .....	3329
Trading Stamp, 1r., remaining stages, passed .....	3330
Marketing of Apples and Pears, 1r. ....	3342
2r., remaining stages .....	3357
City of Fremantle (Free Literary Institute), returned .....	3342
Mining Act Amendment, 3r. ....	3343
Government Employees' Pensions, 2r., remaining stages, passed .....	3343
Milk Act Amendment, Assembly's message .....	3347
Purchasers' Protection Act Amendment, 2r., remaining stages, passed .....	3349
Railway (Mt. Magnet-Black Range) Discontinuance, 2r., remaining stages, passed .....	3352
Hide and Leather Industries, 2r., remaining stages, passed .....	3368
Dog Act Amendment, 2r., remaining stages, passed .....	3371
Land Act Amendment (No. 2), 2r., remaining stages, passed .....	3373
Bulk Handling Act Amendment, 2r. ....	3375
Adjournment, special .....	3375

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 3.0 p.m., and read prayers.

### **BILL—WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILISATION.**

#### *Further Recommittal.*

On motion by the Honorary Minister for Agriculture, Bill again recommitted for the further consideration of Clause 4.

#### *In Committee.*

Hon. W. J. Mann in the Chair; the Honorary Minister for Agriculture in charge of the Bill.