

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: No.

Mr. Raphael: Do the Commonwealth authorities consult us about anything they do?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: Not in the slightest.

Mr. Latham: Unfortunately they are the superior authority.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: Where our powers of legislation conflict with theirs, the Commonwealth are paramount and we cannot do anything regarding that.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 10.53 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 28th November, 1933.

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

QUESTION—EDUCATION, TRAINING COLLEGE.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND asked the Chief Secretary: 1, Is it the intention of the Government to re-open the Claremont Training College after the Christmas vacation? 2, (a) If so, will it be residential? (b) If not residential, what provision will be made for attending country teachers? 3, (a) Have

the Government considered the advisability of supplying the necessary lectures through the University to obviate the opening of the college? (b) If so, what would be the cost to the department? 4, What expenditure is it anticipated will be incurred by the re-opening of the college? 5, Has the University submitted a scheme for the training of teachers? 6, Has the Teachers' Union, or any other body, officer, or person submitted a report on the re-opening of the college?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1 to 6, The whole matter of the immediate future of the Training College is now receiving the special consideration of the Government, in the light of all the information received from various sources, but no definite decision has yet been reached.

QUESTION—MINISTERIAL TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL asked the Chief Secretary: Having regard to the resolution carried by the Legislative Council on the 24th October last, relative to Ministerial travelling allowances, etc., can he indicate when the particulars will be made available to members?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: To prepare the desired information requires the examination of a very large number of vouchers over each of the years mentioned in the resolution, and naturally takes a great deal of time. When the return has been completed it will be presented to the House.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read notifying assent to the undermentioned Bills:—

- 1, Yuna-Dartmoor Railway.
- 2, Southern Cross Southwards Railway.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—FORESTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.38]: During the course of my speech in reply to the debate on the second reading of the Forests Act Amendment Bill, I promised to obtain certain information for members. I now have the in-

formation and I desire, with your permission, Mr. President, to furnish it to the House in the form of a statement from the Conservator of Forests, Mr. S. L. Kessell. The statement is addressed to me, under date the 21st November, and is as follows—

In acknowledging your memorandum of the 17th instant, I beg to express my appreciation of this opportunity to peruse the report of speeches of members of the Legislative Council on the Forests Act Amendment Bill, and, as requested, submit the following observations on the valuable suggestions and criticisms contained therein. Rather than attempt to deal with the points made by each speaker seriatim, I have tabulated references to various aspects of the Department's activities and dealt with the various subjects under these main headings.

1. *Sandalwood Regeneration:*

When this problem was faced some ten years ago, there were two main lines of attack—

- a. The location and protection of existing sandalwood plants in various stages of growth, resulting from natural regeneration.
- b. The establishment of plantations by artificial sowings.

The first big step towards a proper understanding of the methods of growth of a sandalwood plant was the realisation that it was a root parasite, and therefore, although to an ordinary observer a normal tree, it can only grow if its roots are able to parasitise on and draw nutriment from the roots of "host" plants. The well known raspberry jam tree of the wheat belt was found to be a favoured host plant and therefore, an endeavour was made to locate areas of jam in the better rainfall districts. Owing to the agricultural value of this class of country, areas of more than a few acres were difficult to locate. One was found at Bendering and another near Ravenshorpe, and on these the first large-scale experiments in the artificial sowing of sandalwood were tried. Rabbits were bad at both places, but they were excluded from small fenced areas of a few acres in extent, and it was shown that, without the rabbit pest, little difficulty would be experienced in these districts in establishing a crop of sandalwood, by sowing the nuts in the proximity to the right classes of host plants.

It was apparent, however, that suitable areas in the wheat-growing districts were too restricted to offer scope for any large-scale work, and attention was turned to the eastern goldfields. In the Kalgoorlie district particularly there are large areas which are of little value to the pastoral industry, owing to water difficulties. Nearly all the acacias and "woody" shrubs of the district were found to be satisfactory host plants, and over large areas the removal of the eucalypt forest for mining timber and firewood has encouraged and allowed the development of these scrub species. A systematic assessment made on lines 40 chains

apart resulted in the location of 357,260 acres carrying a fair stocking of young sandalwood, ranging from 1 to 25 per acre, and appeared to offer ideal conditions for extensive sowing operations. The complete absence of young sandalwood under 3 feet in height was noted on all areas inspected. It was considered that, apart from any sowing operations, the quantity of immature sandalwood on these areas was sufficient to justify their being made sandalwood services, and 231,700 acres were gazetted, and have been delineated by tracks along all boundaries and excluded from the operations of all sandalwood getters.

The technique of sowing sandalwood nuts under the very dry conditions of the eastern goldfields was worked out, and although results were for a time held up by a series of exceptionally dry years, it was found the seed remained fertile and germinated with the first good rains, which may be two or three years after sowing. It was found, however, that with the good rains rabbits also multiplied and showed, in this country, an extraordinary preference for small sandalwood plants. Paddocks were netted and intensively poisoned, but the damage done was out of all proportion to the number of rabbits present.

Many young sandalwood plants have been brought through on these areas, but, until we have some more effective way of dealing with the rabbit problem, further large-scale work cannot be recommended. In the meantime, however, experiments are being continued on small plots of a few acres in extent, which have been established on all the main soil types and covering the main species of host plants. These plots are distributed from the south of Coolgardie to the 120-mile on the trans-Australian railway, and results are being carefully watched and recorded.

If a trained botanical observer were available, the results of the exclusion of rabbits and stock from these plots might be studied in detail and tabulated. As suggested by Mr. Seddon, this work may prove in years to come of great value to the pastoral industry, as the danger of a change in vegetative types and the destruction of the regenerated fodder plants by over-grazing must be regarded as a constant menace to the industry. The objection that this work is not the proper function of the Forests Department might be overcome by co-operation with the Agricultural Department, but there is a second objection, which arises from the fact that the sandalwood regeneration work is located in districts which are unimportant to the pastoral industry, and it is questionable how far the results of investigations in such districts could be applied to other districts.

With a better knowledge of the chemistry of sandalwood oil, the location from which the wood is obtained for distillation purposes is becoming much less important, and, while unquestionably the yield of oil from higher rainfall districts will be less than in sandalwood from the dry country, this will probably be offset by the much faster rate of growth of the tree in better rainfall districts.

Considerable research work has already been carried out on the characteristic of the oil distilled from sandalwood from various parts of the State, and, as opportunity offers, additional data will be collected and tabulated.

2. *State Forest Dedications:*

In any newly settled country decisions concerning the various purposes to which land shall be devoted necessarily involve a conflict of interests. Enthusiastic advocates of land settlement and agricultural claims should not overlook the fact that, in the South-West of this State, for nearly 80 years, settlers had a very free hand in selecting the land considered most suitable for their purpose, and hundreds of thousands of acres of good forest have been alienated. No State Forest dedications have been made without careful classification by both Lands Department and Forests Department officers.

The recommendations for the excision of small areas from State forests do not mean necessarily that these officers were wrong, but rather that the Lands Department and the Forests Department are working in harmony in an endeavour to adjust the position to meet any change of outlook or economic conditions. In some cases, areas are being excised for which to-day there is a demand, but which a few years ago would not have been worth the cost of survey. In other cases, the Forests Department is influenced in its recommendations by the needs of an established settler on an adjoining holding, and a continuation of this process must be expected until the South-West emerges from the pioneering stage and the whole of the agricultural and forest land can be regarded as carrying cultivated crops producing the maximum increment of fodder, cereal or timber as the case may be, from each acre.

6. *Encouragement of the Timber Trade:*

The Forests Department has taken a very active part in fostering the timber industry during the recent difficult times. Our position is not altogether analogous to that of Victoria and Queensland. Before the depression we were exporting timber in large quantities, whereas the other States were not. Our two main export timbers, jarrah and karri, are well known on the world's markets, and our leading sawmills have either branches or well-established firms acting as agents for them in all the important hardwood-importing countries. Admittedly advertising is beneficial, but our timbers are receiving constant advertisement in a way not enjoyed by States which have only endeavoured to promote overseas business for comparatively unknown timbers during the depression.

As far as royalties and other departmental charges are concerned, very considerable concessions have been made to the industry. As pointed out in the last annual report of the department, the word "royalties" is rather a misleading term, as it conveys the idea of an arbitrary Government tax instead of the sale value of an asset of the State, of which supplies immediately in view are limited.

Moreover, three-fifths of the revenue so collected is paid into a trust fund for the regeneration of the forest, in which lies the only hope for the continuance of the industry and of the future internal requirements of the State. It is evident that reductions serve no purpose unless they bring extra trade, and they may represent a definite loss to the country if, by competition between local firms, they are passed on to overseas buyers for orders which would in any case have come to Western Australia. These various aspects of the problem, which is a difficult and involved one, are being carefully watched.

4. *Pine Plantations:*

The policy of seeking suitable land for the production of softwood timbers in positions adjacent to existing railway facilities has been criticised. Western Australia sends some £200,000 per annum overseas for timber, the greater part of which might be produced locally. Timber is a bulky commodity, which cannot be driven to market or carried in a condensed form. Intermediate yields from thinnings are an important aspect of the financial side of pine planting operations, and the sale of these depends almost entirely on the accessibility of the forest.

There has been a generally accepted idea throughout Australia that only poor land unsuitable for any other crop should be devoted to the planting of pines. When the loan money expended in the past on pine planting in all States of the Commonwealth is considered in relation to unsatisfactory results on many areas through poor or unfavourable soil conditions, the wisdom of this viewpoint becomes open to question. Good pine-planting land is not necessarily first-class wheat or potato land, but it may be good-class pasture country. The withdrawal from cultivation, even of the pine planting country required to maintain a planting programme of 1,000 acres per annum, would not appreciably affect the gross production of other primary industries, and the return per acre from pines planted on better-class land will compare favourably, both from a point of view of financial return and labour employed, with any form of agriculture on similar country.

5. *Mallet and Wattle Bark:*

Although good returns received from areas of wattle bark may be quoted, and small plantations of wattle bark trees of the correct tan-bearing varieties may prove a sound investment for any farmer, a comparison with the South African wattle bark industry is likely to be misleading. Wattles in South Africa are planted in good rainfall districts on land of good quality previously used for maize culture. Black labour is available for cultivation and stripping, and, in many instances, a market for the timber exists with mines and other industries in a comparatively treeless country.

With mallet, however, the position is somewhat different. Mallet bark is a very valuable tan bark, which grows on exceedingly poor soils carrying scrub which consists

mostly of poison plants. The tree is easily propagated by direct sowing, and there are indications that, under plantation conditions, it may produce valuable timber as well as bark. Large-scale operations carried out by the department along the Great Southern line have shown what is possible in propagating this species, and there are already indications that many farmers along the Great Southern who have waste mallet hills on their farms are interesting themselves in the possibility of establishing a new crop of mallet on these areas which are lying idle to-day. Advice on either wattle culture or mallet sowing will be supplied by the Forests Department to any landholder who makes application.

BILL—LOTTERIES (CONTROL) ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2.)

Received from the Assembly and read a first time.

BILL—CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT.

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Council.

BILL—LAND.

Read a third time and returned to the Assembly with amendments.

BILL—MINE WORKERS' RELIEF ACT AMENDMENT.

Report of Committee adopted.

BILL—PERMANENT RESERVE (A 1162.)

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.55] in moving the second reading said: The purpose of the Bill is to authorise the excision of a strip of land on the eastern side of Parliament House grounds. This measure is the outcome of an agreement entered into by the Joint House Committee of Parliament and the Perth City Council by which a strip of land of approximately 50 links in width and a total area of 2 roods 26 perches will be excised from Parliament House grounds and will be utilised to widen Malcolm Street. The pine trees on

the strip will be removed and trees selected by the Conservator of Forests will be planted in their place. The City Council will erect a chain fence with concrete walls along the boundaries. The Joint House Committee are convinced that members will have no cause to complain of the work the City Council will carry out on the land. When the City of Perth was originally planned, the persons responsible had no idea that it would grow into such a large city, and streets and highways then provided have become inadequate to meet the needs of traffic consequent upon the development of the State. The Perth City Council, in late years, have been attempting to remedy the position, and whenever the opportunity occurs, they take advantage of it to continue the work. Considering the admirable position which has been selected as the site for our Houses of Parliament, it is only right that we should do all in our power to provide an adequate setting for it, and the chief requirement to ensure that is broad and imposing streets. The portion of Hay-street fronting the grounds has already been widened with admirable results and this present proposal will compete another section by widening Malcolm-street. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. C. F. BAXTER (East) [4.58]: While I do not intend to offer any objection to the Bill, I hope the Government will make sure that the Perth City Council will erect a substantial wall along the Malcolm-street frontage.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Did not the Minister say the City Council proposed to erect a chain fence?

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: More than a chain fence is required; a concrete wall is necessary.

Hon. J. Cornell: As along the Hay-street frontage.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Yes. The Minister, to some extent, eulogised the Perth City Council, but I do not think they are entitled to a great deal of eulogy.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Not when one looks at Hay-street.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Some 20 years ago the City Council were urged to widen Hay-street. The widening could easily have been undertaken at that time, because land could then have been purchased at about

£400 a foot as compared with £1,200 or £1,500 now. The Perth City Council, however, sat down on the job and, apart from the section along Parliament House grounds, the only portion of Hay-street that was widened was a small piece along the boundary of the old High School buildings, now known as Hale School. I admit that the widening of Malcolm-street will give a certain amount of relief, but the widened street will be a danger because the western end of the barracks will create a bottle neck.

Hon. C. B. Williams: They will shift the barracks.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: They will not. The position of that building will render the site the most dangerous in Perth. There is a great deal of traffic there.

Hon. Sir Charles Nathan: Make the street narrower and so render it safer.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: The hon. member is inclined to be humorous. The only way to remove the danger from the widening of the street would be to take a strip of land from the other side. I do not suppose that Parliament will ever agree to the removal of the historic barracks.

Hon. J. Cornell: It is a blot on the landscape.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I do not agree with the hon. member and I am certain that Parliament will never agree to its removal. I trust that the City Council will erect a presentable retaining wall just as it did when the strip of land was given on the Hay-street side of Parliament House. The trees that are at present bordering on Malcolm-street are a disgrace and should be removed. Indeed if the land were not to be given to the City Council the trees would have to be removed. My only objection to the widening of Malcolm-street is that the work will result in the formation of a bottle neck which will be most dangerous.

HON. C. B. WILLIAMS (South) [5.4]: It strikes me that the State is always being asked to give something away. Mr. Baxter referred to the work done by the City Council on the Hay-street side of Parliament House, but in my opinion the City Council only did what bumbles usually do—make a lot of fuss and do very little work. The State has already given away a good deal of Parliament House to enable Hay-street to be widened but the municipality

has done practically nothing. Now we are asked to give another strip of land on the other side of Parliament House to permit of Malcolm-street being widened. The next thing we shall hear will be that a little slice of the Observatory ground will be required to level up the top end of Malcolm-street, and later on perhaps we shall be asked to remove the barracks or that portion of it which Mr. Baxter said will be a menace to traffic after the street is widened. My opinion is that before the Bill is passed Parliament should call upon the municipality to resume the sharp corner—

Hon. J. Cornell: Which sharp corner?

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: Directly opposite the barracks—the corner of St. George's-terrace and Malcolm-street. If that corner were removed the barracks would remain. It seems to me that coming down Malcolm-street, when the road is widened, if drivers are inclined to fall asleep they will end up by hitting the barracks wall. To-day they have a chance of dodging it by reason of the narrowness of the street. Apart from this, however, it is high time the municipality did a little for itself by improving the appearance of some of the thoroughfares instead of asking the State to do the lot. I am not too keen on the present proposal. Why not sell this land to the City Council? Why give it to them? I intend to oppose the Bill because I consider the municipality should do its share and tax the ratepayers accordingly.

HON. SIR EDWARD WITTENOOM (North) [5.7]: As a member of the House Committee I am of the opinion that this work is quite unnecessary. I have occasion to drive along Malcom-street very frequently and I have seen three buses pass each other quite easily and without any risk. There is no doubt that the widening will make Malcolm-street a very fine thoroughfare, but really there is no necessity for it. I suppose the work is being put in hand principally for the unemployed, and the ratepayers will have to find the money for it.

HON. J. CORNELL (South) [5.8]: It is only fair to the City Council that the correct story should be told. Following upon the surrender of part of the Hay-street frontage, the City Council proceeded to work and made a good job of it. The condition which was imposed by the House Committee when

the Hay-street land was given, was that Hay-street should be widened in an easterly direction as far as the boundary of the old High School. The City Council carried out this work. Later on the City Council applied to the House Committee for permission to widen Malcolm-street, and to carry that out a strip of Parliament House ground was required. The House Committee refused to part with any of the land on the southern side of the grounds.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Was that at the time the City Council widened Hay-street?

Hon. J. CORNELL: Afterwards. The reason for the refusal given by the House Committee was that the pine trees which were growing along that boundary would have to be destroyed.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: They are now destroying themselves.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Subsequently complaints were received from the residents of Malcolm-street with regard to the dilapidated appearance of the pine trees. The Forests Department was requested to advise the House Committee and the report from that department was that the life of the trees was coming to an end. Then the House Committee made overtures to the City Council and asked whether the original offer to widen Malcolm-street still stood. The City Council replied in the affirmative. The City Council now propose to proceed with the work, and I am sure will make a good job of it. It must be admitted by everyone who can visualise the future that that work is really necessary. Malcolm-street is one of the main arteries between Perth and Fremantle, and as it exists at present it is a bottle neck.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: It is not necessary.

Hon. J. CORNELL: The hon. member dies hard. He cannot visualise the future.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: I pass along Malcolm-street oftener that you do.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Regarding the barracks, the House Committee has no control over the structure; neither has the City Council, but my opinion is that the day is not far distant when the barracks will have to go.

Hon. E. H. Gray: The sooner the better.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I believe in antiques, but I prefer to see them either surrounded by meadows or in a museum. The barracks everyone will admit, are too large for the

museum. Regarding the widening of streets let me remind members what was done by the Sydney Municipal Council in Oxford-street. What was done there has also been done in London and in other big cities of the world. There is only one course to follow when it is desired to widen a thoroughfare, and that is to resume the property that is required. I could understand Parliament passing a Bill to give the City Council power to resume the whole of the property from Parliament House grounds to the Swan River, and later letting it on building leases as was done in Sydney. I venture the belief that that will yet be done, and the sooner it is done, the better will it be for all, because the cost will be increased by delay. It is a reflection on ourselves when we realise that the City Council not only built a retaining wall on the Hay-street side of Parliament House grounds, but also carried the wall along Harvest-terrace to our gate, and that since that time the House Committee has not been able to find any money to permit of the work being completed. We can say that in Parliament House grounds the future has been wisely provided for, inasmuch as the streets surrounding these grounds should be adequate for all time. I will support the second reading.

On motion by Hon. J. T. Franklin, debate adjourned.

BILL—AUGUSTA ALLOTMENTS.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 15th November.

HON. W. J. MANN (South-West) [5.16]: The Bill has been designed to grant the fee simple for some small allotments at the old Augusta townsite. It serves to recall to me some of the earliest history of white people in this State. Briefly the Bill provides that certain persons may apply to the Crown in respect of property occupied by them at present. It also makes it possible for persons to establish their rights in fee simple to allotments at present occupied by others, and thirdly it provides that certain allotments shall be disposed of as unalienated Crown lands. I wish briefly to refer to the actions that prompted the original settlers to take up those blocks, and to the motives that are prompting some of their

descendants to get a title in fee simple to those blocks. The blocks, eight out of ten of which are only about $1\frac{1}{4}$ acres each in extent, are far removed from the city. Their intrinsic value is not great, but to those interested they have a sentimental value which cannot be measured in cash. I wish to go back and show that 100 years ago circumstances applying to migration to Australia were similar to those we have known since. Vivid propaganda was offered to prospective migrants, as has been complained of in later years. The first big effort at migration to Western Australia was in 1828. Nathaniel Ogle, in his delightful work written during the period 1834-6 and published in 1839, has some pertinent remarks regarding the propaganda distributed in the Mother Country, extolling the advantages for residents of the Old Land on coming to Western Australia.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Ogle was a surveyor, was he not?

Hon. W. J. MANN: I think he was. He was a fellow of the Royal Society and he resided in Western Australia from 1829 to 1833. Regarding Western Australia, he has this to say under the heading, "Reasons for Migrating":—

The United Kingdom presents these facts, that with many millions of acres yet uncultivated, with the greatest available wealth ever possessed by any nation, with the best known means of transit, with security for person and property, the blessings of a long peace, the probability that the last war closed the barbarian era in Western Europe—the misery among the agricultural labourers and the lower orders is great and widely extended; the perplexity, anxiety and sickness of heart among the middle orders and the junior branches of the higher orders is fully as deep and diffused. Such a condition must have arisen from the ignorance and wickedness of Governments and the people for a long series of years. The chief consequence is the manufacturing and mechanical era; an era stimulated to a feverish height by the demands for the expenses of the last era, the pseudo-political and the warlike.

He goes on, endeavouring to paint this new El Dorado in such a way as will persuade people in the Old Land to turn their faces to it—

During the last few years, the murmurs, depressions in value, fluctuations, complaints, restlessness, seeking for remedies, discussions, petitions, perplexity, suspensions of payment and mercantile disorganisation in other States, discontent and at last systematic violence coincident with proceedings of our

national bank of issue, must be looked on as an unhealthy state.

Those words might have been uttered 12 months ago. They have been repeated throughout Australia frequently during the last few years. Referring to some of the conditions in the Old Country, he turns to Ireland—

It is stated there are in Ireland 2,300,000 persons for whose labour there is no demand for 30 weeks in the year.

He goes on in a strain that we have heard in this House during the last few sessions—

But is it for the poor only, emigration or to speak more properly, colonisation, is needed? Is there full employment here for the more educated? Can every younger brother, even of the wealthiest families, find a field whereon to exercise his talents? Can every farmer's son stock a farm, and get one? Can every tradesman's son or apprentice set up for himself in business with a fair chance of success? We all know this is not the case; the competition is keen; the weaker go to the wall and are reduced to hopeless misery, or sink at once down into a lower grade of society. Look again at lawyers, physicians, apothecaries and all the numerous class, possessed, as a body, of great talent, of information and industry, and inquire whether they do not find the field for the employment of their talents fatally circumscribed.

Then he turns to the ladies, and declares it would be in their interests to come to Australia—

But there is another class still more hopeless, I mean females. What numbers are doomed in this country to pass their lives in celibacy and solitude—eminently qualified perhaps, to become useful members of society excellent wives, admirable mothers. To them the means of discharging their duties are forbidden; their affections are nipped in the bud, their hearts often broken by the chilling hand of poverty and the want of employment of those upon whom they would otherwise have leant, and in leaning formed in their turn the steadiest prop and surely consolation.

That is the propaganda of 100 years ago which was largely instrumental in inducing the earliest settlers to come to Australia. Now I want to quote his opinion of the climate of Western Australia, a follows:—

By the unanimous testimony of every writer and every traveller, the climate of Western Australia is equal, if not superior, to any on the habitable globe. The English language has been taxed to the utmost for epithets of admiration to convey the opinion of various writers.

That sort of thing would induce settlers to come to Western Australia. Then they go farther and, just as the go-getters of today paint vivid pictures of towns and railways and other things to come, so 100 years ago those people were subject to the same propaganda. For instance, we get this:—

The plan of every town should be prepared by the Government local surveyors, embracing the drainage, the supply of water and the future lighting; which should be carried through one well-ventilated archway, always accessible without disturbing the roads and footways. In every town, considerable (and, if most desirable, central) spaces should be reserved for public walks and gardens, open to the prevailing sun or winds, and kept in the highest order by a small graduated assessment. The elevations, in accordance with the climate, should be made by the Government, and all town lots sold with that contingency, within 20 years. The elevations to commence with first-rate buildings, for which £20 an acre should be the specified price; to allotments of the second, third, and fourth classes, in separate compartments, for which £15, £10 and £5 should be the respective prices. Planted walks should be reserved if practicable round the towns, similar to the boulevards of France; bordering on which should be the schools and other public buildings.

As the result of this propaganda the earliest settlers concerned in the Bill came to Western Australia, only to find on arrival here that, as Governor Stirling told them, all the land, good and bad, around Perth and Fremantle had been what he called pegged out. John Bussell in his diary records the reply given by Governor Stirling to a deputation. Governor Stirling had in mind the formation of a sub-colony, and he suggested to Colonel Molloy and to Bussell and other people concerned that they should go down to Augusta and form that sub-colony. He promised them all sorts of advantages and assistance which, unfortunately, did not materialise. With regard to Lot B referred to in the schedule, a little story is told in which the House might be interested. It provides one reason why the members of the Layman family are extremely anxious to get a title. In 1832, a young woman named Mary Bayliss was about to be married to George Layman. Governor Stirling, thinking to make a gift that would be worth while, presented the bride with Location C at Augusta. In the volume I have here dealing with the powers of the Governor of that day I find he was able to give land away as he chose. He therefore made this

gift to the bride. The young husband, with the idea of getting the next block applied for Lot B which was granted to him. Since that date the family have never been able to get a title to that block. They are very anxious to do so because the grandparents lived there and it has a great value in their eyes. That is one reason why they have been worrying the Government for a long time. Some of these people have been paying rates for 40 years on the blocks. Every now and again they have made efforts to obtain a grant in fee simple. The Titles Department have always had some objection and the objection that the blocks were abandoned is amongst those which have been put up. I have referred to the inducements that were given to people to come here. These inducements were largely exaggerated and the offers of assistance that were made were largely mythical. The result was that these people left the settlement one by one. I think I have shown that the descendants have a fair claim to consideration.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Lot C is not referred to in the schedule.

Hon. W. J. MANN: That was given to Mary Bayliss. Lot B was taken up by the husband.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Was the title granted for Lot C?

Hon. W. J. MANN: Yes, but not for Lot B. The conditions relating to land settlement generally, and also at Augusta, are given in this volume, which makes interesting reading. Mr. Holmes might like to look up the conditions appertaining to Fremantle and ascertain why the streets are so narrow and why the buildings were erected in the centre of the blocks. It was clear that the Governor in those days had a fair grip of the conditions of land settlement as well as of the people. When the first settlers went to Augusta they were just as full of enthusiasm as any new settlers could be. Writing to England, John Bussell, speaking of Augusta, says—

Augusta bids fair to be one of the cities of Australia. Would that our relations were here to participate in our not distant prosperity.

There was hope personified. The position did not last very long. The Governor, having put a handful of settlers down there with four soldiers to guard them, forgot all about them, and it was not long before they were

in a sad plight. The supply ship failed them, and we find this passage in "Cattle Chosen"—

Of the 1831-32 scarcity, John (Bussell) wrote, "This part of the Colony has recently been in an almost starving state, caused by some delay in the arrival of the 'Sulphur' which has now been many months absent on a voyage for provisions."

Bussell had sent Home to some of his people asking them to send him a fishing net. This fishing net was sent, and was the only means by which sustenance could be provided for the people. The situation began to dishearten the settlers. They commenced to drift away one by one until practically all had gone. Colonel Molloy and old Mr. Turner were finally the last to remain. We find that John Bussell describes how the people had to live on kangaroo meat, a few dried peas and practically no vegetables. The wheat crop, which they were told in England, would approximate 60 bushels, was stricken with smut and was rendered useless. They had to exist therefore on the most meagre food. On Christmas Day of 1836 Bussell wrote—

I think this is the eve of dissolution. Augusta will be deserted by everyone except Mr. Turner, who feels himself bound to the spot by the costly nature of his improvements, consisting of fences, buildings, etc. For him, as he went there encouraged by the Government, a small number of soldiers will be stationed there.

I think the soldiers were stationed there only for a few weeks, and were then taken to the Vasse.

Captain Molloy is dark and mysterious in his actions. He upholds the prospects of a devoted settlement in the presence of one or two labourers who cling with hopeless perseverance to the small improvements they have effected with great labour; but like a skilful general, he has provided for his own retreat. Leschenault has been added to our district in order that the Government Resident may move to his grant on the Vasse, without incurring the odium of absenteeism.

The position became hopeless. Mr. Turner was the last of this rugged band. On one occasion he walked from Augusta to Perth, quite 200 miles through native-infested country, about the time when the Pinjarra battle was being waged. His object was to secure succour for the people in that far-distant part of the State.

Hon. G. W. Miles: It is more than 200 miles.

Hon. W. J. MANN: It would be quite that. These are the facts which have led up to the applications for the land. I am sure members will realise the honesty of the early settlers. What they did, they did with the best of intentions. They certainly broke the conditions by abandoning the locations, for it was laid down that they had to build houses and effect certain improvements, such as would be required by a settler to-day. They were the victims of circumstances over which they had no control. The colony did not treat them well. The least that can be done for the descendants of the pioneers is that they shall be given these small mementos of a very worthy people.

HON. J. NICHOLSON (Metropolitan) [5.40]: I congratulate Mr. Mann upon his research work into the history associated with the Augusta lands in the early days, and with the foundation of the Colony. He has surrounded this apparently insignificant Bill with an atmosphere of which it was previously devoid. Clause 3 will give the right to any person who has for a period of not less than five years before the commencement of the Act occupied, and still is occupying, an allotment of land described in the schedule as if he were the owner, to apply for a title to the land. In connection with possessory titles, we have been used to regard a man as only entitled to the possession of land by showing 12 years adverse possession, and satisfying the authorities that he has exercised those rights of ownership which are associated with the ownership of land in general. This may have been in regard to the payment of rates, etc. Mr. Mann has said that in certain cases the descendants of these people have paid rates on the land for 40 years or so. The position is somewhat outside the scope of the ordinary methods that were in vogue in the early years. People were apparently dumped there. It is probably only fair and right that those who are now entitled to the land should get titles to it. I would, however, as stated call attention to the limitation of five years, which stands out in such marked contrast to what we usually regard as the fitting period in which to acquire a possessory title. In Committee I hope members will consider whether that period should not be increased. The Chief Secretary may be able to explain the limitation of five years,

instead of the greater period of 12 years. If so, I shall be glad to hear the explanation. Another point I desire to mention is with regard to the right of a predecessor in title. Perhaps the Minister would be good enough to confer with the Crown Law authorities as to Clause 3, under which the right to apply is given only to the person who is in occupation, or has been in occupation, for five years preceding the passing of this measure. Assuming that a person has been in occupation for three years, and that his predecessor in title, whoever he may be—he may have died in the meantime—has signed some sort of document purporting to be a conveyance of his right in the block, then the right should be given not only to the person actually in possession for five years, or whatever period may be fixed, but also to a person who can make up the period with the occupancy of the person who preceded him in the ownership of the block. It should not be merely the actual occupation of one person, who may die before the term is completed. One does not want to see difficulties created afterwards; and if the matter can be provided for by a simple amendment now, it is well to do so. I support the Bill, but reserve the right to offer suggestions in Committee.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BILL—RESERVES.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [5.49] in moving the second reading said: It is usual to introduce a Bill each Session with the object of obtaining Parliamentary sanction to deal with the questions of change of control, alteration of purposes, and other matters in connection with reserves. In this case there are five items to be dealt with. The first proposal is in relation to the recreation and show ground at Dongara. The Irwin Road Board desire to obtain control of this reserve, portion of which was originally purchased from a private estate with Government money, and subsequently was transferred to certain trustees. This portion comprises the larger part of the ground, and the Trustees were Messrs. W. B. Mitchell, Thomas Hughes, and Francis Kelly. With the exception of Mr.

Kelly, these gentlemen are now deceased. The other portion of the ground was added at a later date, and is held in the names of Messrs. Waldeck, Clarkson, and Thurtle, as trustees of the Irwin District Agricultural Society. These trustees have signified their willingness to transfer their portion with a view to its being vested in the Irwin Road Board. Owing to the death of two of the trustees of the original portion, there is no means whereby a surrender of their trust can be obtained, and it is now proposed to revert the whole of the land in the Crown in order that a Crown grant may be issued to the Irwin Road Board in trust for the purposes of a recreation and show ground.

The second proposal deals with class "A" reserve 7802 at Peppermint Grove. This reserve is under the control of the Peppermint Grove Road Board subject to the provisions of the Parks and Reserves Act, 1895. The road board have received a petition from a number of residents asking that portion of this area, marked red on a lithograph which I have laid upon the Table of the House, be set apart for tennis courts. In view of the fact that the board have no money to spend on this portion of the reserve, as all the money they have available is required for the upkeep of the eastern portion, which is used largely as a picnic ground during holidays, and that the western portion has no value as a picnic or camping ground, they are willing to accede to the request. The tennis club are prepared to carry out the necessary improvements by building a club house and constructing and maintaining courts, and desire to obtain a lease of the land for a period of 21 years. The board are willing to grant this lease, but have not the power to do so; and it is proposed to vest that portion of the reserve in the Peppermint Grove Road Board with power to lease, with the consent of the Governor, for 21 years. There is no departmental objection to the granting of this power to the board.

The third proposal is in relation to a small class "A" reserve at Denmark. This reserve has an area of 3 roods 38.5 perches only, and is in the centre of an area which the Education Department have requested to be set apart as a school reserve, the accommodation on the present site being unsuitable. It is therefore proposed to cancel this class "A" reserve so that the whole area, as shown on

the litho, may be set apart as desired by the Education Department.

The fourth proposal concerns townsite lot No. 655 in Boulder, which was held under a 999-years lease by the trustees of the Boulder City Caledonian Society, who intended to use it for a hall site. The society never put any improvements on it, and finally abandoned it in 1908 as unsuitable. An application has been made for this block to be thrown open for sale, but as the 999-years lease was not surrendered, and as it is the subject of a certificate of title, and two of the trustees are deceased whilst the third trustee has left the district, it is necessary to revest the land in the Crown by legislative action, before it can be thrown open for sale.

The fifth proposal is in connection with certain lands at Dongara. The Crown grants of these lands are held by the Church of England and the Roman Catholic and the Methodist Churches, respectively, and are used as cemeteries. The Irwin Road Board desire to obtain control of these cemeteries under the provisions of the Cemeteries Act, 1897, and the respective denominations mentioned have agreed to surrender the land provided that the lots are set apart for denominational burials in connection with the church that held the land. The Bill proposes to revest these lands in the Crown, subject to this condition; and it is then intended that they, together with another block coloured red on the lithograph, shall be declared a cemetery under the provisions of the Cemeteries Act, 1897, and shall be controlled by the Irwin Road Board subject to the provisions of that Act. I move —

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BILL—FIRE BRIGADES ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 9th November.

HON. R. G. MOORE (North-East) [5.59]: I have compared the Bill with the principal Act, and listened carefully to the Honorary Minister's introductory remarks. Two of the amendments proposed seem to me altogether unnecessary. The first is that

which provides that one member of the board shall be elected by the Fire Brigades Employees' Industrial Union of Workers in the Coastal Districts. The board as constituted are doing excellent work, and there has been no occasion for complaint. I fail to see that any good purpose would be served by increasing the number of members of the board. Why a member of the union should have a seat on the board I do not know. Such an appointment would not make the board more efficient, and it would add to the expense. The Vote has been cut down by a couple of thousand pounds this year, although there is no desire to impair the efficiency of the board. The carrying of the amendment would mean another member at an additional cost of £25 per annum. Moreover, the proposed appointment might interfere with the present harmonious working of the board. A Bill was introduced in 1927 for this particular purpose in another place, but after the second reading had been moved and before any debate had followed on it, the measure was withdrawn. That was while a Labour Government were in office. I do not know why it was withdrawn. Seeing that such good service has been rendered by the board as at present constituted, it should be regarded as good policy to leave well alone. Clause 3 contains a provision that no person elected by local authorities to a seat on the board shall continue in that capacity if he ceases to be a member of the local authority, or authorities, that originally elected him. At present it is not compulsory that a member of the board representing local authorities shall be a member of the latter. Although it is customary for a representative of local authorities to be elected in the manner indicated in the Bill, it has not been compulsory. I do not agree with the amendment. A member of the fire brigade board on the Eastern Goldfields has been a member of a road board for a great many years. He is an excellent member, and is held in the highest esteem by all who know him. It would not be the desire of the people there that that gentleman should vacate his seat on the Board, should he cease to be a member of a local governing body. I do not see why a man should cease to be a member of a fire brigades board merely because he ceased to be a member of a road board. When he introduced the Bill, the Minister said that excellent results had been obtained from the Fire Brigades Board,

and I cannot see that any good will be accomplished if we agree to the amendments embodied in the Bill. In fact, I think that harm may be done. It has been suggested that it would be advantageous if a practical fire fighter were a member of the board. I understand that the present officer in charge attends all board meetings and therefore his advice can be obtained whenever necessary. I am informed that he has just been appointed for six months to the position of chief officer and that if his services are satisfactory, he will receive the appointment permanently. His advice will be available to the members of the board and he is essentially a practical man. I shall oppose the second reading of the Bill.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West—in reply) [6.4]: The criticism of the Bill has been confined mainly to Clause 3, under which it is proposed to increase the number of members from nine to ten by including a representative of the permanent firemen. The other amendments included in the Bill have not been criticised to any great extent, and Mr. Baxter, my predecessor as Minister controlling fire brigades, was good enough to say that he could see no harm in the amendments that were really machinery, although I admit the clause referred to by Mr. R. G. Moore, does affect the membership of the board from the standpoint of local authorities. As to the main criticisms lodged against the Bill, I propose to refer to some of the remarks made by various members. Mr. Baxter, referring to Clause 3, said it was in a different category and added—

An experiment is being attempted to place on the Fire Brigades Board a representative of the Fire Brigades Union. To my mind that would be a very dangerous experiment.

Hon. E. H. Harris: That is so. The unionist would be over the superintendent.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Mr. Baxter did not attempt to show in what way it would be a dangerous experiment. I have not heard any member who has opposed the clause express any view that would lead me to assume there could be any danger whatever in the proposal.

Hon. J. Cornell: That assertion will not save the clause.

The HONORARY MINISTER: May be not, but that will not prevent me from ex-

pressing my views. Mr. Baxter also said that he could not see that the efficiency of the board would be increased by the addition of a representative of the union. Mr. Fraser interjected that the efficiency of the board would not be decreased, but Mr. Miles said that it would be. Mr. Baxter agreed with Mr. Miles and added: "To appoint a representative of the union to the board would create a ridiculous position." Mr. Baxter did not say in what way it would create a ridiculous position.

Hon. E. H. Harris: It should be obvious.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Mr. Baxter merely made the statement and let it go at that.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: You are quite wrong.

The HONORARY MINISTER: If it is so obvious, I fail to see it.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: A fireman will be over the chief officer.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Did not I say that a fireman would be superior to the chief officer while the former was a member of the board, and under him when he was not sitting as a member of the board?

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Of course.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Mr. Baxter also said—

Another important point is that confidential matters pertaining to the board are discussed at board meetings and it would not be wise to have a representative of the union present because those matters would no longer be confidential.

Hon. G. W. Miles: That is so.

The HONORARY MINISTER: That is a fine statement to make! The suggestion is that members of the permanent fire brigades cannot be trusted to the extent that other members of the board can be trusted regarding matters that are confidential. That is quite contrary to the experience of Mr. Baxter regarding the permanent firemen of this State, and he had no justification for making a statement of that kind. Mr. Baxter emphasised his point because he also said—

If the Honorary Minister wants it stated in plain English, there it is. The principle is bad.

Mr. Baxter concluded by saying that this was one of the most dangerous precedents that could be brought before Parliament. He did not make it clear in what direction it would be dangerous.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: There might be an argument between the firemen and the superintendent while a fire was going ahead.

The HONORARY MINISTER: That is perhaps the most ridiculous statement I have heard in this House.

Hon. E. H. Harris interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I must ask hon. members to allow the Honorary Minister to proceed. They will have an ample opportunity to deal with these points in Committee.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: That may not be so, Mr. President. The Honorary Minister's attitude does not suggest it.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I do not know whether my attitude points in that direction or not, but I cannot allow members of this Chamber to cast a reflection upon a fine body of men without having something to say about it. This is my opportunity, and I propose to take advantage of it. Mr. Harris commenced his criticism by quoting from the platform of the Labour Party, and also a paragraph that appeared in "The Westralian Worker."

Hon. E. H. Harris: In support.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Yes, of the Labour platform. He went on to say—

We have had an instance of the Government appointing representatives on various boards when we look at, say, the licensing bench, which comprises three ardent labourites and also when we consider the appointments to the Rottneest board.

Hon. J. Cornell: They would not have got their seats but for their views.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I admit that the amendments are in conformity with the platform of the Labour Party.

Hon. E. H. Harris: That is what I argued.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The hon. member desired an inference to be drawn from his remarks, and I will deal with that phase later. I cannot see anything wrong in the political party in power here or anywhere else endeavouring to give effect to the policy on which they were elected.

Hon. J. Cornell: And the next party can come in and sack them.

The HONORARY MINISTER: That may be.

Hon. G. W. Miles: At any rate, you have the courage to carry out your platform.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Of course, and there is nothing wrong with that. The remarks that have fallen from members do not do them credit. Then Mr. Holmes dealt with the matter and said—

I am informed there is no need for the proposed alterations. True, they have served a useful purpose, that of covering up the nigger in the wood pile, which in this case, when you look for the nigger, you find him in the union representative on the board.

At the time I suggested that the union representative could not be regarded as the "nigger in the wood pile," and Mr. Holmes retorted that the nigger could be seen at every turn. For my part I cannot see any necessity to look for the nigger in the wood pile, seeing that the object of the clause is clearly set out.

Hon. J. Cornell: This nigger is an albino.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The clause clearly sets out the intention of the Government to appoint a representative of the permanent firemen. Mr. Holmes continued—

We can see the nigger in the wood pile at every turn. There are three on the licensing board and several on the Rottneest Board. The worst feature of the Bill is in connection with the undermining of authority.

What undermining of authority can there be?

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Put your man on and you will soon see.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Why describe the appointment of members of the licensing bench as an instance of "a nigger in the wood pile." Can Mr. Holmes point to anything in connection with one of those three men that is not to his credit? What right has Mr. Holmes to describe men of their standing in such terms?

Hon. J. J. Holmes: They would not have been in their positions if it were not for their party brand.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I will deal with that phase later on. Mr. Mann also dealt with the matter and said that in his opinion the principle was dangerous and he could not support it. Then there was Mr. Thomson who said—

I can foresee that great difficulties will arise in the general administration of the board if a representative of the union is appointed to it. Let us assume that a claim was received for better conditions for the men. It would be very embarrassing for other members of the board to have present

a man who would consider it his duty to report to his union the full text of the debate that had occurred at the meeting of the board. If I were a member of the board, I would not feel comfortable. . . .

Why would Mr. Thomson not feel comfortable?

Hon. J. J. Holmes: He has a conscience.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The inference to be drawn from Mr. Thomson's remarks cannot be justified. He continued—

It would not be in the interests of discipline to allow that sort of thing. I am not opposed to unions having representation where they are entitled to it, but I think it is a dangerous principle to embody in the Bill.

I am afraid it would be dangerous from his standpoint if it were included in the Bill.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I was reviewing the remarks of some members in opposition to Clause 3. I was taking exception to the way in which some of them referred to certain Labour appointees. Mr. Holmes interjected, "If it had not been for their brand, they would not have been there" or words to that effect. From that and other remarks made during the second reading, it appears to me that in the view of some members there is something derogatory in a man's being known as a supporter of the Labour Party and in his being appointed or elected to represent his colleagues on a board of management.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: You said they must have the right brand or they would not be appointed. You said it this afternoon.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I did not say anything of the sort. The hon. member cannot point to any statement to that effect made by me this afternoon. In any event, I strongly resent the imputation against the integrity, fairness or capacity of members who have been appointed to the Licensing Board or to any other board. The remark was absolutely uncalled for. The chairman of the Licensing Board has been associated with the board for many years, and I have yet to hear of anything to his detriment. The two recent appointees to the board are men of standing in the community and no member can cast any reflection on either of them. Their reputation, I think, would stand against that of any member of this House.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Was any objection taken to those whom they replaced?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have no objection to them.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Did not Mr. Barker retire from his other position on the ground of ill-health?

Hon. J. J. Holmes interjected.

The HONORARY MINISTER: There again the hon. member refers to the right brand.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: I did not.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I am referring to the hon. member who made the sneering reference to three niggers in the wood pile. Remarks of that kind can emanate only from a mind steeped in political prejudice and bias, and steeped to such an extent—

The PRESIDENT: Order! I think the Honorary Minister is going rather far. The Standing Orders distinctly provide that no hon. member shall use offensive words against any member of either House. I hope the Honorary Minister will refrain from so doing.

The HONORARY MINISTER: If the words are offensive to you, Mr. President, I will certainly withdraw them.

The PRESIDENT: I would like the hon. member to withdraw them.

The HONORARY MINISTER: In deference to you, Mr. President, I withdraw them.

Hon. C. B. Williams: It is too near to Christmas to get bad tempered.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I do not desire to be bad tempered. I merely wish to express my views on remarks made by members of this House. I may substitute the word "disparaging" remarks. That is a Parliamentary term to which no exception can be taken. When remarks of the kind are made, it is an indication of political prejudice and bias which prevents fair criticism, either of the appointments or of the capacity of the men concerned.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: You know very well I did not say a word against any of them.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The hon. member referred to those three men as being niggers in the woodpile.

Hon. J. Cornell: The nigger in the woodpile is a bit of an obsession with Mr. Holmes.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I take exception to it and have a right to do so. I am reminded that recent political history discloses that the despised of yesterday might easily be the hero of to-day—

Hon. J. Cornell: I have been hearing that story for 20 years.

The HONORARY MINISTER: —and probably the scapegoat of to-morrow. Because those members are supporters of a particular political party, apparently they are to be subjected to criticism of the kind I have mentioned. In my opinion, sentiments of that kind, expressed in a representative Chamber like this, tend to widen the breach between sections of the community.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: You are not doing much to heal the breach and what you are saying does not touch the Bill, either.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I am assuming the right to reply to statements made on the second reading—statements not justified by the fact, statements that I do not think members would be guilty of making at other times. Anyhow, those statements have been made on this Bill. Members have accused certain men of not being all they should be simply because they are supporters of a certain political party.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: The chairman of the Licensing Board is a personal friend of mine.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Then the hon. member should be a little more careful.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: I think the statements made by Mr. Holmes were in opposition to the policy of spoils to the victors.

The HONORARY MINISTER: There is no question of spoils to the victors; it is a question of carrying out the policy of the party. I ask members to cast their minds back and recall the large number of boards appointed and the large number of men appointed to them, say over the last 20 years. Let them try to recall when anyone known to be a supporter of the Labour Party was appointed to a board, except when the Labour Party were in office. The instances are so few that I doubt whether any member could recall one.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: What about the appointment of the Lotteries Commission?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I am asking the hon. member to cast his mind back over the years and endeavour to recall any reasonable number of men known to

support Labour who have been appointed to boards by other than a Labour Government.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: It is any reasonable number now.

The HONORARY MINISTER: When members who were appointed to boards were representative of another particular party, no complaint was made in this House.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Did I not say one party was as bad as another? You know I said it.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The hon. member might have done so, but I take exception to his referring to those men as niggers in the wood pile, and I place on the statement the construction that any ordinary individual would apply to it. The suggestion that one addition to a board of nine would detrimentally affect the Fire Brigades Board is absurd. It is humbug.

Hon. J. Cornell: That is only a matter of opinion.

The HONORARY MINISTER: That may be so. To imply that the appointment of an additional member would materially affect the policy of the board is a very strong reason why the amendment should be agreed to. One can hardly imagine that the present board of nine members would be influenced to that extent unless the case put forward were unanswerable. What have members to be afraid of? They said it would be a dangerous precedent, but they made statements of that kind without offering any reasons to substantiate them. In other countries, more particularly in the Old Country, it is recognised that representation of the workers on boards of this kind is most desirable. During the war period when it became necessary to get the best possible results from the various industrial enterprises of the Old Country, when it was necessary to ensure that there would be no hitch in the manufacturing of war material, the authorities did not hesitate to give the workers representation.

Hon. J. Cornell: Surely you do not compare that with a proposed appointment to the Fire Brigades Board?

The HONORARY MINISTER: No, but since that time there has been very little departure from that position. In the older countries the desirability of giving the workers representation on various boards is being more widely recognised every year.

Experience has shown that such representation tends to promote the co-operation and goodwill of which I spoke in my second reading speech. What is more, it has proved helpful in the administration. As regards the fire-fighting service, the permanent man would be on the board to share the responsibility of the administration. If his presence had no other effect, it would at least obviate any need for making explanations as to why certain things could not be done and perhaps why certain other things should be done. The spreading of the responsibility would be to the benefit of all concerned. Of those engaged in the fire-fighting services the permanent men are the most practical, experienced and efficient, and it seems to me they should have an opportunity to contribute their quota of ideas in the management of the service. From the tenor of member's remarks, I realise that they do not propose to favour this particular amendment, but I point out that the Bill proposes other amendments. Two of them are desired to facilitate the working of the board.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Bring in another Bill containing those two amendments.

The HONORARY MINISTER: There is another amendment to which Mr. Moore referred dealing with the representation of local authorities. Under the Act it is not compulsory for representatives on the board to be members of local authorities.

Hon. J. Cornell: Why should it be compulsory?

The HONORARY MINISTER: Still, it is very desirable that they should be. They are representing local authorities. I do not know of any case where anyone has represented a local authority on the Fire Brigades Board who has not been a member of a local authority, except in the one case I referred to in my second reading speech. In that case the gentleman in question happened to be a member at the time nominations were called, but in the meantime he lost his seat on the local authority and he carried on as a member of the Fire Brigades Board for a period of two years. This matter has received the attention of the various local authorities; they have taken a vote on the subject, and by 20 votes to 15 decided it was desirable that the Act should be amended in the way proposed by the Bill. It seems to me that where we have repre-

sentation by local authorities, it should be essential that whoever might be appointed should be a member of one or other of the local bodies.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Your Bill provides that anybody can represent the union.

The HONORARY MINISTER: It provides that the union shall have representation. The other amendments in the Bill are desirable from the point of view of the Fire Brigades Board. They will assist in the administration of the board's affairs. In reply to Mr. Mann, who inquired whether a fire district would be declared without reference to a local authority, I assure him that there is no such intention. Representation would be made to the Fire Brigades Board and the board would then deal with it. The usual practice is to refer such a question to the local authorities concerned and there never has been dissatisfaction on the part of any of the bodies concerned.

Hon. W. J. Mann: Would a local authority then have power to veto the desire of the Fire Brigades Board?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I cannot answer that question off-hand. If the local authorities had the power referred to, I do not suppose they would exercise it unless they had good reason for so doing. That is all I wish to say. I hope the Bill will reach the Committee stage and that members will realise the necessity for the amendments contained in it.

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

Ayes	12
Noes	10

Majority for	2
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AYES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. E. H. H. Hall
Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. A. M. Clydesdale	Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. H. V. Piesse
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. C. H. Wittenoom
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. C. B. Williams
	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. J. Cornell	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. R. G. Moore
Hon. E. H. Harris	Hon. J. Nicholson
Hon. J. J. Holmes	Hon. H. Seddon
Hon. J. M. Macfarlane	Hon. E. Rose
	(Teller.)

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. E. H. Gray in the Chair; the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1, 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Consequential amendment Section 6:

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Paragraph (a) proposes deleting the word "nine" and inserting the word "ten" in its stead. The Minister has not advanced any valid reasons why there should be another member. I have submitted that the Bill provides for the Coastal Districts Union of Fire Brigades to elect a representative, whereas in the original Act there was provision that there could be elected a member of the permanent fire brigades. In my second reading speech I asked the Minister to state why the Government should select the coastal districts union, but he has not answered my query, and I presume it is for one reason and that is that it is a union affiliated with the Trades Hall. We shall be acting wisely by adhering to the original number.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I hope the Committee will not agree to any part of Clause 3. The Minister in his reply made a great deal more of what was said or what it was intended to say by members in this House. He said that I gave as a reason why an employee of the Fire Brigades Union should not be on the board that he could not be a member of the board without interfering with confidential matters. In my second reading speech I said—

The representative of the men would be present in the interests of the men, and if anything affected them he would be present to carry it back to the men.

Later on I said that the volunteer firemen were entitled to a representative on the board. The Minister interjected, "Could you tell their representative anything in confidence?" I replied, "He is the representative of a large body of firemen who give their services free and there is no need to discuss their services." There is the whole position in a nutshell. Is there anything derogatory in that? I hope the Committee will reject the whole of the clause.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Whatever the views of members, I hope they will not reject the clause in its entirety, for one or two of the paragraphs are necessary if we are to agree to Clause 4. For

instance, there is paragraph (f), providing that no person elected to the board by the City Council, or any group of local authorities, shall continue to be a member of the board after he ceases to be a member of the body he represents. Also paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) should be retained. Mr. Harris asked why the name of the Fire Brigade Employees' Industrial Union should be given in the Bill. It is because that is the only organisation of permanent firemen in the State.

Hon. E. H. Harris: The existing Act makes provision for electing a representative of the permanent firemen. Why has that not been done?

The HONORARY MINISTER: There is no specific reason why. Paragraph (e) provides that a member of the Fire Brigade Employees' Industrial Union shall be elected to the board. The other paragraphs of the clause are consequential, and so I hope that if members do not agree with paragraph (e), providing for a representative of the employees being elected to the board, they will deal with that paragraph and not reject the whole of the clause. As to Mr. Baxter's remarks, any statement I made this afternoon was made after perusing what had been said by Mr. Baxter and other members. I did not distort in any way the statements they made. I have been fair, and have taken the statements made by members at their face value, putting my own construction on them.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: That is the trouble.

The HONORARY MINISTER: No one, not even Mr. Baxter, could have put any other construction on them.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I hope the Committee will delete the whole of the clause. I am informed on the best authority that there is no necessity for the Bill, and that the case put up by the Minister in support of Clause 4, dealing with the adjustment of boundaries, is all camouflage. The whole point of our objection to Clause 3 is to be found in paragraph (e) of that clause.

Hon. V. Hamersley: What about paragraph (a)?

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I want the whole of the clause deleted.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I will oppose the deletion of the whole of Clause 3, for I am keen on retaining paragraph (f). I do

not consider that any representative of the local authorities should continue to represent them after he ceases to be a member of one of the local authorities.

Hon. J. CORNELL: If members wish to remove from the Bill all reference to increasing the board from nine to ten and giving the union representation on the board, they need only delete paragraphs (a) and (e) of Clause 3, and subsequently delete Clause 6.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: The Minister has not made out a case for adding an extra member to the board. I do not want the whole clause struck out, and I agree with Mr. Cornell that we can achieve our purpose by striking out paragraphs (a) and (e). I move an amendment—

That paragraph (a) be struck out.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Mr. Cornell's explanation of the position is quite correct. Only paragraphs (a) and (e) deal with the proposed extra representation. The amendments contained in the Bill, with the exception of that adding a member to the board, have received the consideration of my predecessor. According to the file I have before me, he decided there was no time last session to bring down the Bill, and instructed that the question should be revived at the beginning of this session. Yet Mr. Holmes said he was advised on the best authority that there was no necessity for the Bill. On the 22nd April of last year Mr. Baxter said that, owing to the number of Bills before Parliament, it would be useless to bring this down, and that the matter was to be revived in the following year. That is why the Bill has been brought down this session. We have included in the Bill all the points that would have been included by my predecessor, and in addition the proposal for an extra representative on the board.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I called the first meeting of the Coastal Fire Brigade Employees' Industrial Union of Workers and formed the union. Not long after that I handed over to Mr. Green, M.H.R. The union have recourse to the Arbitration Court, which does for them exactly what it would do for a mining employees' union. If the Fire Brigades Union were given the right to be represented on the board, the employees of the Hospital for the Insane, and the gaolers

and warders and other organisations would also want the right to be represented on the administrative side of their particular industries. I cannot see what the union hope to gain by representation of this sort, seeing that the court deals with everything appertaining to their wages and conditions. Trade unions can best serve their interests by looking after the actual business for which they were formed.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The Arbitration Court has already determined the wages and conditions of the permanent firemen of the State. The representative of the union on the board would have many other things to deal with beside these questions. If one member of a board of ten can sway his colleagues to his way of thinking he must have justice on his side. Representation on the board would give the union added responsibility with advantage to all concerned.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: It would create an anomalous position to have the union representative on the board. The superintendent attends the meetings to advise on technical matters, and it might easily arise that one of his employees would be in the position to express views diametrically opposed to those of his chief.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: My main objection to the proposal is that it would weaken discipline as it now appertains in the force. It would not be right that the chief fire officer should find himself in the position of having his technical advice vetoed by a member of the union.

Hon. J. CORNELL: The job of the board is to levy sufficient taxation with which to equip and maintain a permanent fire brigade. The job of the firemen is to work with the board in the highest possible state of efficiency. I would advise the union to adhere to the purposes for which it was originally established.

Amendment put, and a division called for.

The CHAIRMAN: Before appointing tellers, I give my vote with the Noes.

Division resulted as follows:—

Ayes	..	..	..	..	15
Noes	.	.	..	..	5
<hr/>					
Majority for	..	..	..	..	10
<hr/>					

AYES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter
Hon. L. B. Bolton
Hon. J. Cornell
Hon. E. H. H. Hall
Hon. V. Hamersley
Hon. J. J. Holmes
Hon. J. M. Macfarlane
Hon. W. J. Mann

Hon. R. G. Moore
Hon. J. Nicholson
Hon. H. V. Piessé
Hon. E. Rose
Hon. H. Seddon
Hon. C. H. Wittenoom
Hon. E. H. Harris
(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. A. M. Clydesdale
Hon. J. M. Drew
Hon. E. H. Gray

Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. G. Fraser
(Teller.)

PAIR.

AYE.
Hon. G. W. Miles

NO.
Hon. C. D. Williams

Amendment thus passed.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: I move an amendment—

That paragraph (c) be struck out

After the debate which has already taken place, no further discussion is needed.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I do not see much chance of opposing this amendment, which may be regarded as purely formal.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I move an amendment—

That paragraph (f) be struck out.

The matter can well be left in the hands of the people who elected the member. He may be a first-class man on the board, although he might lose his seat on, or retire from, the body electing him to the board.

Hon. G. FRASER: Suppose a member of the board were defeated as regards the local governing body electing him, what would be the position in the absence of this provision if the local governing body did not wish him to remain a member of the board? If the local governing body are to be allowed to retain him as a member of the board, there should be no provision for retiring him if the local governing body desire that course.

Hon. R. G. MOORE: Under the paragraph there is no option; the member of the board must retire. On the goldfields we have as member of the board a man whose services we particularly wish to retain. If he lost his seat on the local governing body, why should he necessarily retire from the board? There is no reason why he should not remain on the board until the end of his term, at all events. I see no good reason for paragraph (f).

Hon. J. CORNELL: In point of law it is not obligatory that the nominee of the metropolitan local authorities shall be a member of any local governing body. Down all the years the provision seems to have worked remarkably well. I prefer to leave things as they are. The paragraph limits choice.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: My experience of local government has been that when such an election as that now under consideration took place, I was circularised by well-known men from all over the State. The election is not by one local governing body, but by all the local governing bodies. The man elected will be one who for years has taken an interest in the work of local authorities.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: My municipal experience leads me to believe that unless a man takes sufficient interest in local government matters to become a member of a municipality or road board, he should not have the right to be elected to the Fire Brigades Board. The Act will be improved if we disqualify from election to the board any man who is not a member of a municipality or road board. I strongly support paragraph (f).

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: I also support paragraph (f) for the reason stated by Mr. Bolton. No man should be a member of the Fire Brigades Board unless he is a member of a municipality or road board.

The HONORARY MINISTER: To-day, under the Act, the person elected to a seat on the Fire Brigades Board to represent the Perth City Council or local governing authorities need not necessarily be a member of a local governing authority. As a result of a road board taking exception to a member of the Fire Brigades Board retaining his seat after he had lost his membership of a municipal council, a referendum was held on the question, and by 25 votes to 15 the local governing authorities expressed a desire for the amendment now under consideration. Therefore the clause is not one put forward by the Government, but has been included at the expressed wish of the local authorities themselves.

Hon. J. Cornell: We may save them from themselves.

The HONORARY MINISTER: We have heard it suggested that men can change their opinions when they change their seats. The mover of the amendment, according to a file I have, did not display any animosity to-

wards the proposal, and his Government had intended a Bill to be presented to give effect to the desires of the local authorities.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: You know that a Bill has to be considered by Cabinet after it is printed.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have the file here; it indicates very clearly what happened. To my mind, if a man forfeits the confidence of the ratepayers, he should forfeit his seat on the Fire Brigades Board as the representative of the local governing authorities.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The paragraph is too emphatic and it should be left to the discretion of the local authorities to pass a resolution saying that the individual representing them on the Fire Brigades Board should no longer continue in that office, and steps should be taken to replace him.

Hon. G. Fraser: By the time all the municipal councils and road boards had dealt with the matter, the member's term would be up.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I do not think so. I think the Minister should postpone consideration of the paragraph and review it in that light. As the Act stands, the local authorities can appoint the best man available; the paragraph in the Bill means that his qualification must be membership of a local governing body.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Under present-day conditions, ten municipalities and eight road boards elect a representative to sit on the Fire Brigades Board. Should that representative be defeated by the votes of a section of his particular road board district, he must retire although he has been elected by 17 other local governing authorities. Those 17 may be quite satisfied with his services. The paragraph should not be agreed to.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: We have heard about shifting seats, but it seems to me that someone is shifting his ground. According to Mr. Fraser, under the part of the Bill dealing with the appointment of a union representative, anyone can represent that organisation.

Hon. G. Fraser: You can see a union appointing someone other than a member!

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: When the representation of local authorities is dealt with, he desires to circumscribe the selection so that the best man may not be available.

Hon. G. FRASER: I am perfectly consistent in my attitude. In supporting the provision for a union representative on the board, I am doing what the union desires and in supporting the paragraph dealing with the representation of local authorities, I am carrying out the wishes of the local authorities concerned. As to Mr. Baxter's suggestion that the local governing authorities' representative on the board is elected by 17 bodies, the fact is that the successful candidate is usually elected by a bare majority.

Hon. J. CORNELL: The Minister should consider the position regarding the Act itself. In the second schedule, four of the municipalities mentioned have ceased to exist, and in the third schedule, five of the road districts have also gone out of existence. In those circumstances, how has the election of the representative on the board been carried out?

Hon. E. H. Harris: Perhaps representatives have been illegally elected.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Most decidedly, the schedule should be dealt with and brought up to date. I cannot see how an election could take place unless a municipality that had become a road district voted as such.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: If a municipality ceased to exist, it should not have a vote.

Hon. J. CORNELL: The Bruce Rock road district is an important one, but has no say in the election. While dealing with the Bill, the schedule of the Act should be brought up to date.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Strike out the paragraph.

Hon. J. CORNELL: To do that would not improve the position.

The HONORARY MINISTER: There is probably something in Mr. Cornell's contention. The Act has not been amended since 1917, and it may be desirable to bring the schedule up to date. Section 11 provides that the election of members shall be conducted as prescribed by regulation and shall be held at such time and under the direction of such returning officers as the Governor may appoint.

Hon. J. Nicholson: That is only a machinery provision.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Under that section I think it would be possible to conduct the elections. Otherwise the elections held may not have been valid. Because

some municipalities or road boards mentioned in the schedule have gone out of existence, surely the hon. member does not question the validity of the elections that have been held.

Hon. J. Cornell: No.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Then it is simply a question of bringing the schedule up to date.

Hon. J. Cornell: That is necessary if you are going to circumscribe the nominations.

The HONORARY MINISTER: If members will proceed to consider the remaining clauses, we can deal to-morrow with the point raised by Mr. Cornell.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: If we have to amend the schedule every time a municipality or road board is declared or ceases to exist, we shall never know where we are. We can only bring it up to date to-day, but to-morrow a fresh road district may be declared. Surely the Act should contain some provision to overcome any difficulty of that kind.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: So far as I know, it contains no such provision.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: If we delete paragraph (f), there will be no need to bring the schedule up to date.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Section 15 of the Act also indicates the need for bringing the schedule up to date. It provides that if from any cause bodies whose duty it is to appoint a member fail or neglect to do so, the Governor may fill the vacancy.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Sections 11 and 15 do not meet the situation, but Mr. Holmes' suggestion to strike out the paragraph is a good one. Provision should be made to deal with such a contingency; otherwise some of the appointments may be found to be invalid.

Hon. J. Nicholson: No, Section 18 is a validating provision.

Amendment put and a division called for.

The CHAIRMAN: Before appointing tellers, I record my vote with the noes.

The division resulted as follows:—

Ayes	..	..	..	..	10
Noes	..	..	..	..	9
					—
Majority for	..	..	..	..	1
					—

AYES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter
Hon. E. H. H. Hall
Hon. V. Hamersley
Hon. E. H. Harris
Hon. J. J. Holmes

Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. R. G. Moore
Hon. E. Rose
Hon. H. Seddon
Hon. J. Nicholson
(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. L. B. Bolton
Hon. A. M. Clydesdale
Hon. J. Cornell
Hon. J. M. Drew
Hon. G. Fraser

Hon. E. H. Gray
Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. C. H. Wittenoom
Hon. H. V. Piessens
(Teller.)

PAIR.

AYE.
Hon. G. W. Miles

NO.
Hon. C. B. Williams

Amendment thus passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 4, 5—agreed to.

Clause 6—Consequential amendment, Section 12:

The HONORARY MINISTER: As the proposed proviso in Clause 3 has been struck out, this clause is unnecessary.

Clause put and negatived.

Clauses 7, 8—agreed to.

Title consequentially amended by striking out the word "twelve."

Bill reported with amendments and an amendment to the Title.

BILL—FREMANTLE CITY COUNCIL LANDS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [9.17] in moving the second reading said: In 1929 an Act was passed entitled "The Fremantle City Council Lands Act," which authorised the Fremantle City Council to sell to the Fremantle Municipal Tramways and Electric Lighting Board all its estate and interest in the southern portion of Fremantle town lot 1508. When that Bill was passed it was discovered that the northern portion of this block was more suitable for the purpose that the Fremantle Tramways Board had in view, and the building of a sub-station was proceeded with. The building is now completed on that portion of the land. The northern portion, instead of the southern portion which they were authorised to utilise by the Act of 1929, was the block that was used. The Fremantle City Council now desire authority to change from the southern portion to the northern portion in regard to the selling of it to the

Fremantle Tramway Board. I understand there is no objection on the part of the department to this procedure. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

House adjourned at 9.25 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 28th November, 1933.

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

ASSENT TO BILLS.

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

1. Yuna-Dartmoor Railway.
2. Southern Cross Southwards Railway.

QUESTION—PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS.

Mr. SLEEMAN (without notice) asked the Premier: 1, Is it the intention of the Government to close the session at about the second week in December? 2, If so, when is he likely to bring up private members' business on the Notice Paper?

The PREMIER replied: There is no set time for closing down the session. The session will continue until the business on the Notice Paper is disposed of. In accordance with the promise I previously made, private members' business will be duly considered.

QUESTION—LAND AND HOMES LTD.

Imprisonment of a Purchaser.

Mr. WILSON (without notice) asked the Minister for Justice: 1, Is he aware that Mr. S. M. Richards, of Collie, was arrested and lodged in gaol this morning under a commitment order at the instigation of Land and Homes Ltd.? 2, Was it not understood that the solicitor for Land and Homes Ltd. gave a definite promise some time ago that during the progress of the Commission and Committees re land purchasers, the company would not take any direct action or distraint against the purchasers of land for the time being? 3, Is he further aware that Richards has a wife and three children under 12 years of age totally unprovided for? 4, Will the Minister take steps to see that the wife and children of Richards are supplied with rations during his incarceration of 30 days? 5, Further, will he take steps immediately to have the said Richards released and returned to the bosom of his family?

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE replied: I have only just received a copy of the question, and although I knew that a commitment order had issued, I was not aware that Richards was imprisoned. At this stage, when replying to a question, I do not wish to expound the law, but this is an action between two private parties, and it is a matter of contempt of court. As to taking steps to see that Richards' wife and children are supplied with rations, I can refer that to the Child Welfare Department, and no doubt provision will be made for the wife and family.