

was necessary to bring the principal Act into conformity with the Commonwealth legislation, and that operating in the other States. He did not mention the other States, but I assume that is so. I certainly cannot approve of the proposed amendment. The Act at present provides that when damage is caused by a ship that is under the charge of a compulsory pilot, the owner shall be responsible for any damage done "unless it is proved by the owner or by the master that the damage was caused by the negligence of the pilot." Thus if, through the negligence of a pilot, damage is done by a ship, the responsibility rests with those who employ the pilot. The Bill seeks to set that provision aside and to make the ship owners responsible for damage caused through the negligence of an individual over whom they have no control.

The Chief Secretary: They are responsible now.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I presume the Minister means that the companies are responsible under the Federal Act. That, however, does not say that we should make our legislation conform to the Commonwealth Act if the principle embodied in the latter is wrong.

The Chief Secretary: The Commonwealth legislation overrides a State law.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: If we adopt such a course, members will appreciate where it will lead. I shall not agree to any such proposal because it runs counter to my principles. Such a proposal would be a precedent that might be applied in other directions. I shall oppose the second reading of the Bill.

On motion by the Chief Secretary, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 9.24 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 2nd October, 1940.

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

### QUESTION—PERTH HOSPITAL.

#### *In-patients Treated.*

Mr. NEEDHAM asked the Minister for Health: How many in-patients were treated at the Perth Hospital during the financial years ended the 30th June, 1936-37, 1937-38, 1938-39, and 1939-40?

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH replied:

Patients treated.				
1936-37. 1937-38. 1938-39 1939-40.				
Perth Hospital:				
Civil Wards	5,934	5,789	5,834	6,006
Repatiation Wards	650	680	670	741
Infections Diseases Branch	1,271	1,479	1,076	1,272
Total	7,855	7,948	7,580	8,019

### QUESTION—FIRE-FIGHTING SERVICES.

#### *As to Increasing Efficiency.*

Mr. NORTH asked the Minister for the North-West: 1, Are any steps being taken to increase the efficiency of our fire-fighting services, both regarding personnel and appliances? 2, How long does it take to train a fireman? 3, Is fire-fighting equipment manufactured in Australia? 4, Is the question of augmenting the service dependent upon civil defence legislation?

The MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST replied: 1, Peace-time activities: Financial considerations are so far precluding any augmentation of the permanent staff. The Fire Brigades Board is hopeful that the Loan Council will, at its meeting next December, approve the board's application to raise a new loan of £17,000 to be expended on new appliances and buildings. War-time activities: The present position is that the board has requested that funds be made available, at no cost to the board, to enable the acquisition of special plant and equipment, and the enrolment of auxiliary personnel, to cope with war-time emergencies. 2, Professional firemen are qualified to attend fires (under supervision) after two months' training, but are not classified as first-class firemen until after two years. The time taken to train a war-time auxiliary fireman to assist (under supervision) at fires is dependent upon whether his training period would be continuous or by night drills, and in the latter case the frequency of such drills. 3, Fire engine chassis and hose are imported, but pumps, fire extinguishers and general equipment are manufactured in Australia. 4, Partly. It also depends upon finance and availability of supplies.

#### QUESTION—YOUTH EMPLOYMENT.

##### *New South Wales Decision.*

Mr. SAMPSON asked the Minister for Employment: 1, Has his attention been drawn to the decision of the New South Wales State Government to form a Department of Youth whereby an endeavour will be made to ensure employment for every boy and girl as he or she leaves school, those concerned to receive special aptitude tests, the object being to reduce unemployment and to prevent youths from entering dead-end jobs? 2, Bearing in mind the grave difficulties that face the youth of this State, will he give consideration along similar lines, and if so, make a statement to the House?

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT replied: 1, Yes. 2, The Government is aware of the difficulties associated with the employment of youth and early this year appointed a committee of expert departmental officers, with a full-time research officer, to conduct investigations into the various aspects of the employment and un-

employment of young persons, in order that measures to cope with these difficulties would be based on a precise knowledge of their extent and characteristics. One of the investigations being conducted by this committee is a survey of boys and girls leaving school to enter or search for employment. When the results of this and other investigations are known, further consideration will then be given to this vital problem.

#### QUESTION—RELIEF WORKERS.

##### *Rates of Pay.*

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Works: 1, How many relief workers are employed in the average gang working on main road work? 2, Into how many categories as regards pay are those men divided? 3, What rate of pay applies to each category?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, Round about 20. 2, 5. 3, Basic wage, plus margins where applicable.

#### QUESTION—AGRICULTURE.

##### *Hay, Government Guarantee, etc.*

Mr. BERRY asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Is he aware that his public statement guaranteeing a price of £3 per ton for hay in the stack has induced chaff merchants to consider that to be the maximum price for hay in the stack and is keeping them out of the market at higher prices? 2, Will he raise the price guaranteed for Government requirements to £4 5s. per ton for f.a.q. hay in the stack, and announce this decision over all Western Australian air stations at frequent intervals? 3, Have the wholesale chaff merchants a monopolistic control over steam cutters? 4, Did these merchants hold off cutting last year to influence hay prices in their favour? 5, Is he aware that a similar threat is being used to depress stack hay prices this year in spite of the Government guarantee? 6, Is the Government prepared to arrange advances through the Rural Credits Department of the Commonwealth Bank against purchases as is done by the wholesale chaff merchants?

Mr. BERRY: Before the Minister answers my question, may I point out that there has been a mistake. The price is shown as £3 per ton whereas it should be £3 10s.

The Premier: Did the Government guarantee any price of £3 10s.?

Mr. BERRY: I will let the Minister answer that, but I should like the amount to be read as £3 10s.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been assured by the Clerks that £3 appears on the original notice handed in.

Mr. BERRY: Yes, I have a copy of it, and I realise that the error was made in typing.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: In consideration of the explanation that the amount was intended to be £3 10s. 1, No, but there may be a desire on the part of some interests deliberately to misunderstand the position. This whole question is based on wrong premises. 2, As the hon. member is aware, there are many factors which influence quality and value and therefore influence price. The Government is buying, irrespective of freight basis, at prices likely to be more remunerative to the farmer than a wheat equivalent. 3, They own and control most cutters but there are others available. 4, No information is available in this respect. 5, We have had unconfirmed statements made in this connection but no proof that threats are being used. 6, Inquiries made to-day from the Commonwealth Bank were replied to. There are no moneys available to the Government from this source.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

#### *Mrs. Cardell-Oliver and Betting Suppression Motion.*

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I wish to make a personal explanation. During the debate on the motion regarding betting suppression standing in my name, the Minister for Mines interjected to the effect that an organisation to which I belong had received £50 from a starting-price bookmaker. At the time I said that I had not received any personal consideration from any starting-price bookmaker, either £1 or £50, but the statement aroused my curiosity and I have had a search made of the books. I found that on the 11th August, 1938, a sum of £25 was paid in by a butcher who has since become a starting-price bookmaker. On the same date there was also a total of £25 paid in in small amounts and the receipt was given to the same butcher. The total was £51 10s., and some of the amounts making up that total,

I believe, were contributed by starting-price bookmakers. I therefore apologise for my previous statement. I had no desire to mislead the House, but I was absolutely unaware that even £1 had been received from that source.

The Minister for Mines: I accept the apology of the hon. member.

### BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

1, Income Tax Assessment Act Amendment.

2, Metropolitan Market Trust (Land Revestment).

Transmitted to the Council.

### BILL—INCOME TAX.

Reports of Committee adopted.

#### *Standing Orders Suspension.*

On motion by the Premier resolved:

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to permit of the Bill passing through its remaining stage at the one sitting.

#### *Third Reading.*

On motion by the Premier, Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

### MOTION—RAILWAYS.

#### *Free Transport for War Service Personnel.*

MR. WATTS (Katanning) [4.43]: I move—

That in the opinion of this House, the Government should give immediate favourable consideration to the issue to members of the forces, enlisted for active service overseas, of free passes over Government railways to enable them to visit their homes when on leave.

It affords me pleasure to move the motion that stands in my name on the notice paper. However, before I say anything about its subject matter, I should like to mention, Mr. Speaker, how very glad I am to see you again occupying the Chair after your recent illness, and how sincerely I trust that you will be rapidly restored to complete health.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. WATTS: In the early part of this session the member for Subiaco (Mrs. Cardell-Oliver) asked a question relating to

the subject matter of my motion, and was advised that it was receiving consideration. About a couple of weeks ago I observed that a question was asked in the Legislative Council in this connection; and besides an observation that the probabilities were that if the request were acceded to it would cost the Government £150,000, there was a statement to the effect that the request would receive grave consideration.

Mr. Sampson: £150,000?

Mr. WATTS: The total estimated cost of granting the request was stated at £150,000, but not £150,000 per year. Much time has passed since consideration was to be given to the matter, but there has been no definite announcement as to whether action is to be taken along the lines suggested. At Katanning on Monday night last I was present at a gathering held for the purpose of saying farewell to some 14 members of the A.I.F. on what is understood to be pre-embarkation leave. At that gathering were present many representative citizens, including representatives of the sub-branch of the R.S.L. of that district, and a resolution was carried requesting me to bring this matter before Parliament. In consequence I now present the motion.

As a result of inquiries I find that concessions are given to members of the forces when going on leave in regard to fares on the Government railways. I have learnt that a single fare of only 3s. 6d. is charged from Northam to the metropolis, whereas the ordinary fare is 6s. 4d., and that a return fare of 5s. may be paid for the journey from Northam to Perth, whereas the ordinary fare is 12s. 4d. As regards members of the forces desirous of travelling to country districts, there is an allowance by which a single fare is charged for the return journey. In the case of a person wishing to travel from Northam to Kalgoorlie the amount would be 32s. 8d., and from Northam to Katanning 16s. 6d., from Northam to Mt. Barker 24s. 7d., and from Northam to Albany 28s. 6d., these being second-class fares. So far as I am aware, there is also an agreement in regard to pre-embarkation leave under which the Commonwealth arranges with the State Government for the provision for members of the forces of a ticket to travel on the railways free of charge, with the result, so far as I

know, that on pre-embarkation leave it does not cost anything for a member of the forces to travel to his home for the purpose of taking that leave.

Mr. Cross: Members of the forces in such circumstances have had to pay their own fares.

Mr. WATTS: My motion does not deal with the question of pre-embarkation leave, because, as I understand, though I may be corrected in this, there is a method by which members of the forces travel free. It is quite apparent, though, that the position of those members of the forces who come from country districts further away from the metropolitan area is progressively worse, depending on how far their homes are from the Northam camp or from the metropolis as the case may be. The position is aggravated in the case of a person who comes from Kalgoorlie as against one who comes from Katanning, and would be further aggravated if there were places farther afield. Now, many of those who have been recruited for service have come from country districts a long way back; and it is only natural in all the circumstances of the case, that such men want to go home whenever the military authorities are prepared to grant them leave for the purpose. We all know that their service in the forces may result in their being unable, after the war is over, to see their homes and relatives again. It is natural for us to desire to see our relatives whenever we can, and it is much more natural in their case. When we come to consider that many of these men pay 32s. 8d. to go to Kalgoorlie, we must realise that in the case of a married man it becomes rather a problem how he is going to finance the trip conveniently. I understand that 3s. per day has to be allotted by a married soldier to his wife, and that in many cases the soldier of his own volition allots 4s. In either case he is left with a very small sum weekly wherewith to pay general expenses and such things as fares for journeys. The further away his home is from the camp, the worse is his position in that regard also. Again, many of these men were in far better financial positions before enlisting than they are at the present time, and their situation, with the very small amounts available to them, is extremely difficult when it comes to keeping up payments on the homes which they have provided for their families. Fre-

quently those homes have been bought on the hire-purchase plan, or are workers' homes, on which payments have to be met. So we find, at any rate as regards my district, that forcible representations are made and that a strong body of public opinion considers that the Government should give more favourable consideration to the request expressed in the motion than has been given it in the past. It is not as though a special train had to be run to accommodate the soldiers. I travel to Katanning frequently on the Friday afternoon train from Perth; and when we arrived at Spencer's Brook very often a considerable number of soldiers from Northam board the train. Sometimes there is very little room for them; certainly no special accommodation is provided for them. The train must run in any event, and from the point of view of the man in the street and of myself, there is little need, in all the circumstances, to collect fares from the soldiers. We must not lose sight of the fact that the defence of Australia at the present time, as has been pointed out to us on many occasions, is being conducted in countries overseas. The members of the forces referred to in my motion have enlisted for service overseas in the interests of Australia, including of course Western Australia. Notwithstanding that the Government may suffer some financial loss if this proposed concession is granted, in my opinion, bearing in mind the purpose for which these men have offered their services, the conditions under which they have to serve, the pay they receive and their obligations—particularly those of the married men—the attitude of the Government should be that we cannot do too much for them. In that belief, and for the reasons I have stated, I have much pleasure in moving the motion.

**MR. MANN** (Beverley) [4.53]: Whilst I agree with the principle of the motion moved by the member for Katanning, may I express my regret that he has brought it forward at this juncture? For some time past, the member for Collie (Mr. Wilson) has been collecting evidence to present to the Premier a case on behalf of our soldiers. A petition has been signed by all the returned soldier members of this Chamber. I say very definitely that the returned soldiers can look after the young soldiers quite easily, and it is a job that they have taken upon themselves to do. I feel that the action we

are taking in presenting a petition to the Premier will prove to be effective.

Member: But that is a request from the soldiers.

**Mr. MANN**: Perhaps some people think the returned soldiers ought to give publicity to their work; but it is characteristic of returned soldiers to endeavour to avoid publicity. They are of opinion that better results will be achieved by approaching the Premier in the way I have indicated. Much work has been done by the member for Collie. He has already presented one petition to the Premier.

Member: Why should such action be confined to returned soldiers?

**Mr. MANN**: The returned soldiers, as a body, have the privilege of looking after our young soldiers and can do it better than anyone else. Make no mistake about that. It is a slight on returned soldiers to say that they have not considered the young generation of soldiers who are now proceeding overseas. We have never desired publicity, and never will.

**Mr. Sampson**: It is an obligation of all.

**Mr. MANN**: We have been obtaining evidence for some time past. The member for Collie was the first to move in the matter.

**Mr. Sampson**: A month ago.

**Mr. MANN**: When the evidence is complete, it will be handed to the Premier by a deputation. Other soldier members and I could easily have raised the question in this Chamber, but we decided it would be better to approach the Premier and discuss the matter with him. I hope the member for Katanning will withdraw the motion, because the matter is in hand and petitions have been signed. I trust the member for Collie will inform the House of the action he has taken in this matter.

**MR. WILSON** (Collie) [4.55]: I was somewhat surprised last night when I learnt that the member for Katanning (Mr. Watts) proposed to move this motion to-day. The hon. member when moving his motion, said that it was the result of some action decided upon at a function held at Katanning on the 28th September. Let me inform the hon. member that before the 28th August some members of this House were already moving in the matter. That was a month before the Katanning function. I shall in a few moments read to the House telegrams that

were sent to the Eastern States, together with replies thereto, all dated before the 30th August last and dealing with this matter. I think it but fair that the members of this Chamber, as well as the members of another place, should know what action has been taken, and I therefore propose to deal with the matter from the commencement. Some time before the 28th August last a body of soldiers from the various military camps—the Melville, Claremont, and Northam camps—called upon certain members of this Chamber. I think Mr. Latham was present.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. WILSON: I beg pardon. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Thorn, Mr. Mann, Mr. Withers, Mr. Ross McLarty, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Holman, and others were present at one or more of the deputations and it was suggested that the soldiers should prepare a petition for presentation to the Premier. There were four separate deputations from the soldiers. The document was prepared and sent to the Claremont and Northam camps. The Claremont petition was returned in time for the Premier to receive it on the 12th September. I spoke to the Premier on the matter and said that the soldier members of this Chamber desired to present a petition to him. I asked him, "Will you be prepared to receive the gentlemen?" The Premier replied, "I think you had better hand me the petition and the Government will go into the matter." I accordingly handed the petition to the Premier. I think it was signed by over 100 soldiers. It is dated the 10th September and the following is a copy of it:—

To the Hon. J. C. Willcock, Premier and Treasurer, Perth: Dear Sir,—We the undersigned members of the second A.I.F. at present resident in the various military training camps in W.A., i.e., Northam, Perth, Claremont, Melville, etc., do hereby apply on behalf of all members of the various units of the military forces in training for the privilege of concessions being granted to us on railways and tramways when we are travelling within this State. As you are probably aware, concessions were granted during the Great War, especially in regard to the men in training visiting their families in their home towns, say, from Northam to Kalgoorlie, Bunbury, Bridgetown, Busselton, Geraldton, etc. All members of the forces are prepared to allow the sum of 1s. per fortnight per member—

Some soldiers were prepared to pay 1s. per week; they thought they should pay a little more than 1s. per fortnight.

—to be deducted from their military pay to be paid to the Commissioner of Railways as a small set off.

May we suggest that this should only apply to trains that are now scheduled to run, thus obviating any expense to the Railway Department.

In passing, we quite appreciate that this should be a Federal matter, but other States are granting some privileges, and as loyal residents of Western Australia we respectfully seek your aid for W.A. second A.I.F. soldiers.

Attached is a table of some of the privileges operating in another State.

The petition, as I have said, was signed by over 100 soldiers. The Premier said he would go into the matter. At that time, the 12th September, the House adjourned for practically a fortnight on account of the Federal elections, and no reply was received to the request. Subsequently I was surprised to observe that a question on this matter had been asked by a member of another place, a month after we had been on the job. Both the question and answer appeared in the minutes of the proceedings of the Legislative Council for Wednesday, the 25th September, being recorded as follows:—

Free passes over Government railways to members of A.I.F.—Hon. H. L. Roche, pursuant to notice, asked the Chief Secretary,—As free passes over Government railways are being granted in other States to members of the A.I.F. when on leave, will the State Government grant the same privilege to West Australian members of the A.I.F. in this State? If not, why not?

The Chief Secretary replied,—This matter is the subject of an understanding reached by the Premiers' Conference, and while one or two States have modified their attitude because of circumstances, this has not been done generally. It is estimated that the cost of granting the concession in Western Australia would be more than £150,000, and in these circumstances the matter requires grave consideration.

We thought that as a result of that answer something might be done. Admittedly, slight concessions have already been given to soldiers in this State. For instance, return fares are granted at single rates, and I believe—though I speak subject to correction—the return fare, Northam-Perth, is 5s., and the single fare, Northam-Harvey, 8s. 6d. Returned soldier members of the House met and decided to ascertain what concessions were granted in the Eastern States. The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr. F. G. Steere) communicated with Clerks of the other State Parliaments, and various replies

were received. From South Australia came the following telegram:—

Members of the A.I.F. enlisted for overseas, including nurses and airmen, are granted free travelling on all trams at any time. One pass per month is granted on railways to enable them to visit their homes when on leave.

From New South Wales the following telegram was received:—

Members of the A.I.F., R.A.A.F., and R.A.N. are granted a free rail leave pass once a month for use within New South Wales from camp to home town and return. Also concession rail tickets at 3s. each per fortnight to all men in uniform, including militia from certain camps to any place in the metropolitan and Newcastle areas. In addition substantial concessions on trams and buses are granted to all members of the armed forces.

The following letter from Brisbane, dated the 2nd September, was addressed to Mr. Steere:—

In reply to your telegram I supply the following information in regard to concessions to recruit soldiers on trains and trams:—On trams—maximum fare of 2d. from any terminus to the city for members of the R.A.N., A.I.F., and R.A.A.F. On railways—to members of the R.A.N., A.I.F. and R.A.A.F., single fare and one-third for return journeys. From camp to larger centres, special arbitrary fares. Visit home once each month, free.

So that three of the States give a free pass each month. From Victoria the following letter was received:—

In reply to your telegram received this day desiring information with regard to concessions allowed to recruit soldiers on the railways and tramways, I have obtained from the departments concerned the following information:—

**Railways:** The present general concessions are approximately 58 per cent below ordinary return fares, but for the principal travel, namely, country towns to Melbourne, the concession is equivalent to about two-thirds ordinary fares. An adjustment of these fares and further reductions for some of the longer distance travel is now under consideration by the Government.

**Tramways:** The maximum charge made to soldiers travelling on the trams is 3d. for each journey, but no concession is allowed where the fare is less than 3d.

We received a copy of a very long statement made by Mr. Mair, the Premier of New South Wales. This was dated the 18th July, 1940, and contains the following:—

The Premier, Mr. Mair, explained today that Cabinet's decision to grant a free pass once a month applied to those members of the fighting forces who had volunteered for service abroad, namely, the A.I.F., the R.A.A.F., and the R.A.N. This additional concession would not apply to men enlisting for home service or to the militia. The special concession of a free

pass once a month to these men will cost the State Budget at least £100,000 per annum. Allied to concessions already given by the Railway Commissioners and which are to be continued, the total cost to the State and to the railways will be approximately £350,000. This is based upon present figures and totally disregards any further increase in the personnel in these branches of the armed forces.

Here is a noteworthy paragraph:—

The free passes and the concessions apply within New South Wales, and this State is the first to give free monthly passes. Cabinet believes that the granting of a free return rail pass once each calendar month from the place where the soldier is serving to his home town is a reasonable contribution by the State in view of the fact that the men are under the direction and control of the Federal Government.

The statement contains further information regarding the issue of fortnightly tickets at concession fares; and towards the end of the statement appears the following, having relation to the issue of a free rail pass once each month to members of the defence forces who have enlisted for service abroad, to enable them to travel to their homes:—

It has been decided that this concession will be extended to residents of New South Wales in camp in other States as well as to residents of other States in camp in New South Wales. In these cases the free rail travel once a month granted by the State will, of course, cover travel only on the New South Wales portion of the journey. The pass will cover only return travel between the camp or defence establishment where the man is serving and his home town. "Home town" means, in the case of a married man, the residence of his wife and in the case of a single man the residence of his family.

I gave copies of the telegrams and letters I had received to the Minister for Railways. The Government has had the statement in its possession for a long time. After having seen the reply given to Mr. Roche by the Chief Secretary, the returned soldier members of the House again met and decided to approach the Premier with a view to seeing what was being done. The Premier had no chance to do anything in the matter until this morning, when I handed him a letter signed by the returned soldier members. Before the member for Katanning (Mr. Watts) had announced his motion, I had obtained the signatures of those hon. members to a request for the Premier to arrange a conference between them and himself, the Minister for Railways and the Commissioner of Railways with a view to evolving a satisfactory scheme. The Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the National

Party and I were the conveners of the meeting at which it was decided to forward the letter, which reads as follows:—

We the undersigned, members of the first A.I.F., and now members of Parliament in the Houses of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of this State of Western Australia, whose several constituencies are representative of all parts of this State, hereby respectfully request that you, in company with the Minister and Commissioner of Railways, will be pleased to meet us in conference to exchange views on the granting of justifiable concessions in fares on railways and tramways transport to the members of the second A.I.F., who are at present in training in W.A. for the war arenas of the British Empire.

For your information we believe and know that during the Great War, 1914-18, the forces of W.A. at that time were allowed privileges of the nature we now request—that is, free passes once every month to and from the soldiers' camps to their home towns, etc. Many of these concessions are at present operating in other States of Australia.

We shall await your decision re agreement, and suggest that you name the place, date and hour of the conference.

The names of your petitioners are:—Messrs. C. G. Latham, Ross McLarty, Arthur Wilson (conveners), J. I. Mann, Chas. North, H. S. Seward, Len Thorn, Ross McDonald, Chas. Cross, A. V. Abbott, W. H. Willmott, Fred Warner, H. T. Berry, V. Doney, Norbert Keenan, James Cornell, Leslie Craig, H. L. Roche, and T. Moore.

Each returned soldier member of the House signed that letter and other members, including the member for Nedlands (Hon. N. Keenan), the member for Forrest (Mr. Holman), the member for Nelson (Mr. J. H. Smith) and the member for Bunbury (Mr. Withers) have expressed a desire to help us. In fact I am sure that every member of the House would like to see something done for the soldiers.

The Premier: Every member of the Government would like to see something done, too, if it is possible.

Mr. WILSON: It is not a question of anybody getting any kudos. I do not care a damn what is said so long as free passes are granted to the soldiers once a month. If anybody should receive a concession of this kind it is the soldier. I am content to leave the matter for the Premier to deal with, and I hope the member for Kataning will withdraw his motion and give the Premier a chance to see what he can do.

MR. McLARTY (Murray-Wellington) [5.14]: I support the motion. I know that sympathy for the soldiers is not confined

to any section of the House, and that the Government will do all it can to give these men concessions to visit their homes during week-ends. Most of the soldiers receive only 1s. or 2s. a day, and if they have to pay fares amounting to 12s. or more each week to return to their homes, they have very little left. During the Great War the men who were in camp were, in the main, situated close to the metropolitan area. The big camp in this war, however, is at Northam. To the great body of our soldiers this means that they have to find extra money for travelling purposes. Many men in my district have approached me on this matter. They are in camp at Northam, and they have explained to me that a hardship has been entailed by reason of the rail transport they have to pay. That is particularly hard in the case of the married men. I should like to see the Government agree to giving the soldiers the required concession. I do not suggest they should be given free passes. Soldiers on embarkation leave have free passes to their home town, wherever it is. Some further concessions could be granted to men who are given leave, say, once a fortnight. I understand that under the new system the men are given one and a half days' leave per week, and that they can allow the leave to accumulate for a period of three days. During those three days the men naturally like to return to their homes, and in order that they may do so a further concession is necessary. The member for Collie (Mr. Wilson) has done a great deal towards getting these concessions, which the Premier said would cost the Government about £120,000 per annum. I take it he was referring to free passes. I do not know how that amount would be made up. Perhaps the Premier would agree to fall into line with the other States of the Commonwealth, where the soldiers are given a free pass at least once a month.

MR. BOYLE (Avon) [5.17]: I was considerably astonished to hear the member for Beverley (Mr. Mann) remark that the welfare of the men of the A.I.F. was the prerogative of returned soldier members of this House.

Mr. Cross: They are the more interested.

Mr. BOYLE: They are not. I rather resent such a suggestion. Every member of the House regards it as a duty to enquire for

these men and place himself behind those who have enlisted in the forces. The member for Collie (Mr. Wilson) referred to certain electoral districts being represented at the conference that was held. Many of us were ignorant that such a conference was being held. I have repeatedly raised in this House the question of the differences in pay for militia men, etc. From my own electoral district scores of men have enlisted, and have come to me from time to time to safeguard their interests. No member of the House would give way to any other member in his care for the wellbeing of those who have enlisted, either for service overseas or for service at home. I commend the member for Katanning (Mr. Watts) for bringing down the motion. Possibly he knew as little as I did about the movement that was afoot on the part of the returned soldier members of the House. Even so, I do not think the hon. member would deliberately have moved the motion had he been aware that a movement was afoot along the lines stated by the member for Collie. Men in my district who have enlisted are suffering great hardships through the lack of facilities for reaching their homes. I am speaking particularly of what might be called the fringe districts that are a long way from the main training camp. I have travelled with men who have reached Merredin and they then have had to proceed 80 miles to Kondinin before reaching their homes. Many of those soldiers have been in bad circumstances for a number of years. Their military pay is small, and for them to be called upon to pay up to £2 in order to reach their homes is putting a great strain on their financial resources. I am sure the Premier must have been aware, before this debate took place, of all the circumstances. There is no occasion for the member for Katanning to withdraw his motion. The Government is fully seized of the position; and if it can possibly agree to a concession of this kind, I feel sure it will do so. There is no need to raise any sort of disagreement amongst members as to who should get the kudos for this motion. No doubt if many members were occupants of the Treasury bench they would not be quite so eager to seek this or that concession.

The Premier: Those on the Treasury bench have more sense of responsibility, perhaps.

Mr. BOYLE: They are in the position to bear the responsibility. We know they have to exercise a great deal of restraint, for

they would soon empty the Treasury if they embarked on a wholesale distribution of the funds at their command. This is a case, however, where those concerned are not called upon to make an equality of sacrifice. Thousands of soldiers, as pointed out by the member for Katanning, have their homes in the metropolitan area and can reach either Perth or Fremantle at a cost of 3s. 4d. They can travel weekly for that sum.

Mr. Fox: That is not correct.

The Minister for Railways: The rail fare is 5s. return.

Mr. BOYLE: I stand corrected. Those particular men are able to leave camp on Friday evening and return to Northam on Sunday night, thus having the privilege of spending two nights at home. Men living in the fringe and outer districts are precluded from doing that. They have not the money, nor are they able to fit in the time allotted to them. I do not think the motion asks for too much, if it will enable soldiers to travel free of charge to their homes when they are in a position to do so. For these reasons I support the motion.

MR. BERRY (Irwin-Moore) [5.22]: The motion is far too important for any petty squabbles as to who shall father it.

The Minister for Mines: Are you opposing it?

Mr. BERRY: Certainly not. I hope it will be passed. When it is passed I trust that it will be implemented, and will not become one of those pious refuse motions so frequently passed by this House. In my view, credit for the whole of the work that has been done in this regard should be given to the member for Collie (Mr. Wilson). If the member for Katanning (Mr. Watts) can assure me that he did not know the movement was afoot, I will believe him. When the matter came forward last night, as a notice of motion, it was a shock to me, just as it was to the member for Beverley (Mr. Mann). At the time, it seemed to me like a slap in face. I, too, have been asked to bring forward a motion of this character, but have refrained from doing so because long ago I was approached by the member for Collie, and was content to leave the matter in his hands. Had the whole question been left to him, I believe he would have got away with it. The motion asks that our soldiers shall be given something; it does not matter who gives it so long as they get it.

Mr. Wilson: Hear, hear!

Mr. BERRY: In spite of the controversy that has arisen concerning whether the movers in this matter are returned soldier members or not, I hope the House will pass the motion and see that it is implemented. The point is, whether it shall be passed, allowed to go on the scrap heap, and remain there forever, or put into force. If it is not going to be implemented, we are wasting our time and our quarrels. Irrespective of what this may cost, I hope the Government will give the concession asked for. If it is not prepared to do that, will members do a bit of soldiering themselves, accept 5s. a day, leaving 3s. a day to their wives, and be willing to pay 14s. or 15s. for rail fare if they want to go to Bunbury? I do not think they would be prepared to do that. Whatever happens to-night, I hope the motion will be carried.

MR. SAMPSON (Swan) [5.25]: Members will appreciate the remarks of the member for Collie (Mr. Wilson), and the work done by his fellow returned soldier members; but no one will assert that the bringing forward of this motion by the member for Katanning (Mr. Watts) was other than a good thing. I was unaware there had been a conference of returned soldier members, but evidently meetings have been held. I feel sure, too, the member for Katanning was as ignorant as I was on the subject. That does not indicate there is any lack of desire on the part of members to see the motion carried. The member for Collie has the reputation of achieving whatever he sets out to get, and I hope he will be successful in regard to this motion. I say without reservation that we are under a debt of gratitude to the member for Katanning. He was asked by several of his constituents to bring down such a motion. As a member of Parliament, the least he could do was to carry out the request, and use his utmost efforts to secure the passage of the motion.

Mr. Berry: If this motion goes through, it will be due to the efforts of the member for Collie.

Mr. SAMPSON: Let us give the credit to all, and there will then be general satisfaction. With regard to the member for Katanning, there should be no implication that since these meetings were not made public to those who were not returned soldier members harm has been done.

The Minister for Mines: Who said they had not been made public?

Mr. SAMPSON: Any action in bringing forward a motion, the effect of which will be to assist the men who have enlisted, is justified.

MR. CROSS (Canning) [5.27]: The motion does not go far enough.

The Premier: Does it not?

Mr. CROSS: It will not affect either the soldiers or members of the air force who have had to do their training in the other States. Many men have gone from Western Australia to other parts of the Commonwealth. Most of the complaints I have received are from air force men, who are engaged in lengthy training, and have been given two weeks' leave, plus another week for travelling, and have to pay their own fares to their homes. They are in an infinitely worse plight than are those who have to train here. At least seven men have gone from South Perth to air force centres in the Eastern States, and have been given their embarkation leave.

Mr. Thorn: Do you think they should have their fares paid to this State?

Mr. CROSS: The scope of the motion should be broadened. I agree that passes should be given to the men who are in training in this State, but I point out that the Western Australians who have to travel from Sydney to reach their homes in this State will have to pay infinitely higher fares than the others, and are also entitled to consideration.

Mr. Abbott: They get pre-embarkation leave.

Mr. Thorn: Have they got to come here?

Mr. CROSS: They are not compelled to do so.

The Premier: We have received wires from men who are doing their training in Sydney.

Mr. Thorn: There is a war on!

Mr. CROSS: These men have an opportunity to go on leave, but they have not the money with which to pay their fares from Sydney to Perth, nor are their people in a position to make available the necessary funds. I believe the motion should be broadened to include a reference to representations to the Federal Government to make the necessary arrangements.

Mr. Doney: That should be the subject of a special motion.

Mr. Mann: Yes, why not move it as such?

Mr. CROSS: I think some such reference should be included in the motion under discussion.

MR. SEWARD (Pingelly) [5.31]: In briefly supporting the motion, I must confess that I would have preferred its terms to be somewhat extended. The Government should be urged to make the necessary provision of some means by which the men can travel when they present themselves at a railway station. Frequently when the Albany train arrives at Spencer's Brook on Friday nights, 20 or 30 soldiers are waiting and it is often impossible to provide accommodation for more than a dozen. The train has to be held up while another carriage is put on. Surely another coach could be sent along from Northam and attached to the train. As it is, people are inconvenienced and the conductor has to race up and down the train in an endeavour to find accommodation for the soldiers. Naturally the passengers are only too ready to make room for the men and when they have inconvenienced themselves to that extent, another carriage is put on. The present difficulty could easily be obviated. Furthermore, carriages that have been added to the train for the accommodation of the soldiers have contained no lavatory conveniences. That is not fair. I feel sure when this matter is brought under his notice, the Minister will rectify it.

MR. WARNER (Mt. Marshall) [5.33]: I support the motion. In presenting it to the House, I know the member for Kataning (Mr. Watts) was not in possession of the facts regarding steps that had already been taken by the member for Collie (Mr. Wilson). That hon. member has been working on this matter for a considerable time, and we have been waiting the results of his efforts. We had every reason to believe that he would secure his ends if he were able to place the details before the Premier. At one stage it was suggested that a deputation should wait upon the Premier, but I am quite sure that the member for Collie has been able to tell him all that a deputation could have placed before him and that he will be able to secure results quite equal to those that a deputation could have expected. If the member for Kataning received complaints from soldiers in his electorate, such as other members have received, we cannot

blame him for moving the motion. I trust the Premier will give effect to the objective in its entirety.

MR. MARSHALL (Murchison) [5.35]: May I preface my observations by stating how particularly pleased I am to see you, Mr. Speaker, back in the Chair.

Mr. J. H. Smith: You are not the only one.

Mr. MARSHALL: All members will support me when I say we hope that your recovery will be the forerunner of your enjoyment of permanent good health.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MARSHALL: I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, you have no conception of the delight I feel at seeing you back in the Chair, which enables me once more to participate in debates. The subject matter of the motion affords me a great deal of pain. I would go so far as to say it is a positive disgrace to the nation that it should be found necessary to move such a motion. Here we have men who are prepared to sacrifice their very lives in defence of the country, who have given their all and have forgone the delights and comforts of their home life and are prepared to go abroad to fight in defence of Australia—and we are asked to deal with a motion of this character! What concerns me is the readiness with which certain members are prepared to permit the Federal Government to relieve itself of its proper obligations. Many of the men who have enlisted have sacrificed good positions and now find themselves with incomes much less than they have been accustomed to, and they have made this sacrifice in order to serve their country. They are left in the invidious position of not being able to provide for themselves the necessary railway tickets to enable them to return to their homes when they receive their leave. What an utter tragedy it is that such circumstances should arise! The responsibility is really that of the Federal Government in whose service the men have enlisted. Why should not the Federal Government be called upon to pay the men a remuneration that will enable them to be free from obligations, and place them in a position to pay their fares without the necessity for concessions or the granting of free passes? If these men are to be called upon to sacri-

see their lives, as undoubtedly some will, is it not the responsibility of the Federal Government to see that while the men remain in Australia they shall enjoy the fullest opportunity to spend their last days here in the comfort and happiness of their own homes? I am not concerned about the State Government being prepared to accept the responsibility that rightly should attach to the Federal Government. The men are entitled to the consideration sought, irrespective of who accepts the responsibility. Members opposite, however, are all too ready to shoulder the responsibility that rightly rests with the Federal Government.

Hon. C. G. Latham: The question arises as to what are the responsibilities of the State and what are those of the Federal Government.

Mr. MARSHALL: There can be no doubt that all the cost involved in connection with the soldiers, their education, training, equipment and transportation is directly the responsibility of the Federal Government.

Hon. C. G. Latham: They accept it.

Mr. MARSHALL: The Federal Government does not. In a day or two members will have an opportunity to discuss that phase more fully. At the moment I am restricted by the limitations of the motion, and so shall not proceed much further along those lines. Members have been prepared to accept what should be the responsibility of the Federal Government, on the ground that such a course was patriotic. It is not patriotic. The situation should not be tolerated.

Mr. Doney: You have no right to lecture the House in this matter.

Mr. MARSHALL: The hon. member need not be a participant in the lecture. He can resign his position, in which event he will hear me no more. He will not then be persecuted in such a way. I am sure you, Mr. Speaker, will be only too willing to accept the hon. member's resignation. I shall support the motion, but I want it to be clearly understood that I am convinced that the responsibility attaches to the Federal Government and not to the State Government. I am also convinced that members are all too ready to accept what is really a Federal obligation and shoulder the cost on to the taxpayers of Western Australia.

Mr. Hughes: Yet you intend to support the motion.

Mr. MARSHALL: Yes, because I am endeavouring to do something to assist the men who find themselves in a most invidious position. Some members are willing to say that it is a responsibility of the State to do what is suggested.

The Premier: No one says it is a State responsibility.

Mr. MARSHALL: I am under the impression that most speakers so far have refrained from stating that the obligation rightly attaches to the Federal Government.

Mr. Mann: Your motion last year was a pious hope, and so is this.

Mr. MARSHALL: I am prepared to admit that, but members will have an opportunity to discuss that phase later on. I know hundreds of the soldiers who at the end of the week have only a few shillings at their disposal and most of the money has to be spent on transport to their homes. Does the Federal Government feel proud of that? Does it appreciate what it means? Railway passes should be arranged by the Federal Government and the State reimbursed for the cost of transport.

Mr. Mann: The cost of transport would be nil, because the trains have to run in any case.

The Premier: Of course it entails cost.

Mr. MARSHALL: We are all too ready to accept the responsibility for doing what the Federal Government fails to undertake. I take strong exception to that. All we can do in the interests of the soldiers should be done willingly. Yet the Federal Government shuffles out of its responsibilities. I believe the other States, too, have shown a similar tendency, and I certainly think a protest should be made. I have no alternative but to support the motion so as to afford the soldiers some help to enable them to get to their homes at week-ends.

HON. C. G. LATHAM (York) [5.54]: There is no need for any member to get excited when discussing the motion. The first thing we are agreed upon is that we ought to do all we possibly can to assist men who are prepared to defend the country. Every member of the House agrees with that. I know that steps have been taken with the object of securing concessional fares for the soldiers. The question of responsibility will still remain a game of bat-

tledore and shuttlecock. At times it is difficult to define exactly the respective State and Federal responsibilities.

Mr. Hughes: It is the Commonwealth's responsibility.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: If the hon. member will remain quiet, we shall get along more rapidly. We should do as much as we can to enable the men to get to their homes as frequently as possible. When I was in camp in 1916 I went on embarkation leave and I then had a pass. Prior to that I paid my own fares. I know that in many instances on the present occasion men cannot afford to pay their own fares. Therefore I consider we should be as generous as we can, even though it might necessitate putting on additional trains. There are not only soldiers who cannot afford to go to their homes at week-ends or on other occasions, but there are the men in employment camps who are in a similar position. The matter was put up to the present Government, but the Government could not give the week-end passes to people who wanted them. I realise that that would mean a great deal of additional expense.

Mr. McLarty: They had special trains.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: But they paid their own fares. There is no doubt that if all paid their fares the Minister for Railways would see to it that they got special trains. I have discussed this matter with many men in camp, and some of them say they are prepared to pay 2s. a fortnight or 1s. a week towards their week-end fares. Therefore, I consider some concession might be given to them in addition to that which they are receiving at the present time. I am sorry the Premier has not had the opportunity of considering the request made to him by soldier members of the House.

The Premier: I have had the opportunity of considering it, but not the opportunity of coming to a decision.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I do not like the business of pushing everything on to the Commonwealth. I admit at the same time that in this State the men who are in camp are at a greater disadvantage than are those in Victoria for example, because here in so many instances the homes are so much farther away from the camps. We should do what we can, because it is preferable for a man to spend his short leave with his wife and family rather than wander about the city. There are temptations enough when

he gets away, so let us do what we can to enable the soldiers to visit their homes while they are still with us. I would not have spoken but for the tone adopted by the member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall). He wants to unload everything on to the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. Tonkin: Can you blame him?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Yes. Immediately we get into difficulties—and I admit our financial difficulties are pretty big just now—we rush to the Commonwealth for assistance. Fortunately up to date we have been able to get some help from that direction. The Commonwealth has even gone to the extent of assisting the pearling industry.

The Minister for the North-West: The Commonwealth is not interested in pearling.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Yes, I think the Commonwealth is operating at Darwin.

The Minister for the North-West: The Commonwealth has not given any assistance in that direction.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I think some assistance has been given. I am not saying that the Commonwealth should not give it.

The Premier: The Commonwealth guaranteed an advance that was made.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Yes, I think it was £5,000. What I am worried about, however, is that this is made a political matter. I do not desire that it should be political in any way. After all, we should be more united. I believe that if the State Minister for Railways through the Premier put up to the Prime Minister a plea on behalf of the men in Western Australia, showing the disadvantages under which they laboured, we might get some compensation or something in the nature of an acceptance of responsibility. I believe the Commonwealth Government would appreciate a request that the men should be permitted to get to their homes as frequently as possible. I do not care what is done so long as the concession that is sought is obtained. How far is it possible for the Premier to go? I know that the other States have accepted the responsibility.

The Minister for Railways: Except Victoria.

The Premier: There is free transport for the men all over the place here in the metropolitan area.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: It would be a good plan if we gave the men the right to travel in trams at a cost of a shilling a day, as is

done in London. After all, that would be only what was done before. I know that when I returned I bought a ticket which cost me a shilling a day and it enabled me to avail myself of all means of transport in the metropolitan area. I am prepared to leave the matter in the hands of the Premier, and if he can get it to the Commonwealth Government, he can depend upon our assistance. Perhaps I can get the assistance of the member for Murchison if I say, let us share the cost. We want results. I believe the men to-day get more leave than we did during the last war, and their hours are better defined than were the hours of the men in the last war. I am prepared to support the motion and leave it to the Government to do the best it can. We should do everything possible to help those men who are prepared to go away and fight for this country. Do not let us wrangle over a few shillings. Let us remember that the men who are going from these shores are prepared to fight so that we may retain that liberty which we have always enjoyed. The same body of taxpayers will pay whether they pay through the State Treasurer or the Federal Treasurer.

The Premier: And the cost would be £120,000.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I suppose it was the Commissioner of Railways who said it meant that if the men paid their fares that might be the amount that would be received during the period of the war.

The Premier: New South Wales says that it will cost that State £400,000.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: But that State has a far greater number of men in camp than we have. I do not ask that the State should put on additional trains unless there is the necessity to do so. Let us however do our best to secure this concession for the men.

**MR. LAMBERT** (Yilgarn-Coolgardie) [5.56]: There is no doubt that the suggestion to give the soldiers facilities to get to their homes and their families has a great deal to commend it, but the motion the hon. member has seen fit to submit to the House has no merit in it at all. It savours too much of the person who has forgotten that there is a war in progress and who is trying to get some little publicity by moving a motion of this description. There are members here like the member for Collie (Mr. Wilson) and other members opposite who served in the

last war all of whom are desirous of doing the right thing by those at present in camp. Probably they are anxious to do more for the men in camp than is the member who moved the motion. I saw a good deal of this kind of thing during the last war. There were people who were making capital out of those who were either serving or seeking to serve their country. There is no need for that kind of thing in this House. Those members of this House who served in the last war, and some of them served conspicuously, are quite able to attend to the interests of the men on whose behalf this appeal is being made: much more so in fact than those who are standing aside and are content to move abstract motions of this kind. I hope, however, that the motion will be carried, even if it is only to be an indication to the Commonwealth Government that it should recognise its responsibility. The Leader of the Opposition spoke of a joint obligation. I regard that as paltry. Did the Queensland Government enter into a joint guarantee with the Commonwealth over the sugar industry, an industry that has cost the people of the Commonwealth £20,000,000 or £30,000,000? Does the Leader of the Opposition realise that to-day because of the Commonwealth Government's policy, Western Australia has to shell out between £10,000,000 and £12,000,000 by being compelled to purchase goods from the Eastern States? How can we, a small State confronted with so many difficulties, be expected to shoulder a responsibility of this kind? I do not think that a big man like Mr. Menzies would expect it of us.

The Premier: He asked us to do so.

Mr. LAMBERT: Then I can only say that the electors of Australia have apparently given him a very suitable answer. The idea of his edging from a small State like Western Australia, knowing as he does the disadvantages we suffer under Federation! It would be to his credit if he could suggest something better than the ill-balanced Commonwealth we have to-day. The fact that our financial position is so unsatisfactory is largely due to Commonwealth policy.

Some members see fit to exploit the men who have volunteered for service. If that attitude is to be adopted, there is not likely to be the co-operation or the cordial feeling that should prevail in the House, at any rate, during the currency of the war. The same thing was done during the 1914-18 war, but

this is the first evidence we have had of it in the House on this occasion. There is no need whatever to try to exploit the patriotism of our people. Every section of this Parliament is prepared to give of its best and give everything to the men who are making the greatest possible sacrifice in the interests of their country. Even at this stage I hope the member for Katanning will realise that his fellow members who served in the other war do not desire the intrusion of one who has the merest skirmishing knowledge of a subject that would be better left to somebody else to bring forward.

**MR. HOLMAN** (Forrest) [6.3]: I am very pleased that this question has been raised. Not long since I wrote to the "West Australian" newspaper on the subject, but I am sorry to say that my remarks were considered to be of insufficient importance to be published. I am grateful for the opportunity to let the people know that certain remarks do not always receive the publicity they merit. The Forrest electorate is unfortunate in being distant from the city, and because of that fact some of my constituents who have enlisted have not been able to visit their homes when on leave. I recently visited the Northam camp and learnt from the officer-in-charge that there were some soldiers who had not been able to go home because they lacked the money with which to pay their fares. As the member for Collie (Mr. Wilson) said, the farther away a man's home is when he enlists, the less chance he has of going home when on leave. It is high time that that state of affairs was altered. I do not think the question need be laboured. If a man is good enough to enlist in the service of his country, he deserves to be well treated. The trouble is that Mr. Menzies and his Government are trying to pass the buck on to Western Australia. That is probably the reason why the motion has been moved.

Hon. C. G. Latham: It would not have been supported so strongly otherwise.

Mr. HOLMAN: I think that had Mr. Curtin become Prime Minister three years ago, we would not have had this problem.

Hon. C. G. Latham: No, we would have been finished.

Mr. HOLMAN: I recently read something in the "West Australian" about Mr. Hughes shedding crocodile tears.

Mr. Mann: Do not try to make capital out of it.

Mr. HOLMAN: It would be a pity to make capital out of it.

Mr. Mann: Yes, political capital.

Mr. HOLMAN: But that is the reason the motion has been moved. Some members have been moving quietly to get the concession, and they have done it without publicity.

Mr. Doney: That is a rotten reflection on the member for Collie, who is a very decent man.

Mr. HOLMAN: He has worked very hard to that end. His district is distant from the Northam camp and many of his constituents are affected. There are two ways of approaching this question. One is to request the Minister to grant the concession, if that is at all possible. The Minister is handling the matter and has communicated with the Commonwealth Government. The other way is to attract publicity by moving a motion of this sort in Parliament. Everyone is in agreement that the soldiers should be well treated; nobody could entertain any other feeling, and because of that every member supports the request. I support the motion, but the member for Katanning might have realised that it would have been preferable to make his request in the right quarters instead of moving publicly.

**MRS. CARDELL-OLIVER** (Subiaco) [6.9]: As one who asked a question on this subject some weeks ago, I should like to say a few words, though, as a woman, I feel diffident about speaking on it. Many of the men who have enlisted find it very difficult to visit their homes because they have not sufficient money to pay their fares. I am not concerned whether this is a Commonwealth or a State matter. What I am concerned about is that the difficulty exists. Surely arrangements could be made by the State for soldiers to visit their homes once a week! The carriages on our trains, in many instances, are run almost empty, and therefore there would be little if any expense entailed by the Government if it allowed the men to travel by those coaches. When I asked my question of the Premier, he replied that the matter was receiving consideration. I hope the Government will appreciate that this is not a party matter; neither is it a Commonwealth or a State matter. The train accommodation is avail-

able, and I believe the Premier will make arrangements for the carriages to be used by the soldiers.

On motion by the Minister for Railways, debate adjourned.

### BILLS (2)—RETURNED.

- 1, Licensed Surveyors Act Amendment.  
With an amendment.
- 2, Electoral Act Amendment (No. 1).  
With amendments.

### MOTION—BETTING SUPPRESSION.

Debate resumed from the 11th September on the following motion by Mrs. Cardell-Oliver (Subiaco):—

That this House instructs the Government to give instructions to the Chief of Police to use immediately all statutory powers to close all betting shops, houses, dwellings, and places of whatsoever kind where illegal betting is conducted, so that the law of the land may be honoured and Government departments duly respected, the responsibility for the execution of this motion to rest with the Government.

**MR. F. C. L. SMITH** (Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [6.13]: Like the member for Murchison, I think I might be privileged to express the pleasure I feel, Mr. Speaker, at seeing you once more in the Chair and apparently restored to health.

**Mr. Doney:** And you may speak for every member present.

**Mr. F. C. L. SMITH:** Yes, all members entertain the same feeling. When I met you in Kalgoorlie I realised that you were in very indifferent health, but I felt that you would benefit from the change of air. With great sincerity I express the pleasure I feel at seeing you amongst us once more. In making a speech in this House, members realise how circumstances influence happenings. One might hazard a guess that an opportunity will be presented to address the Chamber, say at 4.35 p.m., only to find that a chain of events intervenes, reducing one's intentions to a gamble.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

**Mr. F. C. L. SMITH:** The motion is rather comprehensive in its character, and all-embracing in respect to illegal betting as

operating within this State. All reformers, I think, are agreed that if the betting evil is to be stamped out it must be stamped out entirely, that one must be a whole-hogger as regards the suppression of betting, that it is useless to advocate the suppression of a certain type of betting while leaving some other type remaining, because the evil, or whatever it is, existing in connection with betting, must necessarily exist in connection with all forms of betting. Some of the arguments advanced by the hon. member I consider to be grossly exaggerated. For instance, she said betting was leading to the degradation of the youth of the community. Personally, as the result of my own experience, I feel that gambling has within it certain safeguards which largely prevent it from becoming vicious. For instance, it is rather costly to become vicious as the result of gambling. One could become vicious as the result of drink and other so-called vices at much less cost than as the result of gambling. Safeguards inhere within the habit itself to prevent those who indulge in it from becoming particularly vicious. In my own experience as a boy going to school, I gambled for four or five years with cherry stones throughout the fruit season in Victoria. That was a common thing among Victorian schoolboys. Further, in my experience as a five-years resident of Flemington, from the age of 15 to 20 years, during which period I never missed a race meeting, I did not find that my habit of gambling was degrading or that it led to my becoming degraded. What I learnt from experience was that as a habit gambling is not particularly vicious, although it is certainly imprudent. I have always felt in connection with it that the earlier one becomes associated with it, the earlier does one realise that not much is to be gained by it; that is, in the monetary sense. But there is something to be gained by it in relieving the tedium of existence. After all, why is it that people indulge in gambling? They gamble mainly to relieve the ennui of life. The rich suffer from ennui because they are satiated with things. Therefore they gamble. The poor gamble because of the monotony of their existence, the monotony of their daily lives—

**Mrs. Cardell-Oliver:** We should be great gamblers in this Chamber!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: People want to add to their drab lives something that will lend a bit of colour. I have in my possession a book published by the Anti-Gambling Society of England. Its editor is a man named Seebohm Rowntree, a great reformer, as many members will be aware. In it there is a paper by John Hobson, Master of Arts; and he refers to what I myself am referring to when I speak of the fact that people gamble for the purpose of adding a little colour to their lives. John Hobson writes—

It is easily admitted that an absolutely ordered human life would be vacant of interest and intolerable. In other words, it is a prime condition of humanity that the unexpected, in the form of happening and achieving, should be adequately represented in every life.

The man who wrote that paper opposes gambling from the intellectual standpoint, in opposition to the superstition, for instance, that there is such a thing as luck.

The member for Subiaco said that the Government could stop gambling and wipe it right out if it wished to do so. All history is opposed to that contention. None of the legislation passed to bring about that result has been effective. Not only has it failed in this country, but it has failed in all other countries where it has been tried. Possibly it may be effective to talk against starting-price betting from the political point of view. The hon. member stated that she won her elections not by any personal effort on her part but because she opposed starting-price betting. I would not be base enough to suggest that that is the reason why she brings the matter forward in this Chamber from time to time, to use it as a vote-catching method, or as a political point for success in some election. If the hon. member really holds that view, she ought to subject it to a much deeper analysis. In speaking of Christian politics, the hon. member, I think, gave a clue to her intentions. I infer that she is guided by high moral motives, by a desire to reform the world, to place it upon an idealistic plane, a puritanical conception where vice is vanquished and virtue is victorious and all those things regarded by puritans as sinful are relegated to the limbo of the forgotten. Even if we could realise the Utopian state of affairs which the hon. member visualises, if the addresses of houses of assignation and of drinking and

gambling were known only to a few recalcitrant sinners, there would still be occasion for some poet to draw attention to those who

Compound for sins they are inclined to  
By damning those they have no mind to.

The hon. member would have us stamp out all illegal betting, which in the present condition of our antediluvian and unsatisfactory legislation means all betting other than that which is conducted through the totalisator or through some of the unsavoury channels of the stock exchange. There, apparently, the prerogatives of rich and poor alike are to remain unchallenged so far as the hon. member is concerned.

Now, young civilians, when they first come in touch with society, find it lying there in rigid repose, and believe it is rigid. But older statesmen know that society is fluid, and subject to many changes. Viewed from a purely Conservative and Victorian-age standpoint, how much is there that is to-day condoned and could be condemned! They were not all paragons of virtue in the Victorian age; probably vice was just as rampant then as it is now; but the professions towards a higher standard of virtue seem to have been more pronounced then. Very few other than the wealthy section could hope for long to escape the oppressive measures designed to keep people moral. In connection with those changes I may mention, in order to embellish this speech, that repressive measures alone could have condemned women for so long to parade their persons in frocks specially designed to conceal their charms lest the exposure of their legs and their arms might lead to a lower moral standard. Contrast that state of affairs with modern tendencies: women now wear frocks designed to reveal the contour of the figure, and confirming, by the concrete evidence of revelation, the female sex, on reaching maturity, still retains some semblance of the figure of which it gave promise in its short-skirted early years.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: But those changes have come about. Those changes led to mixed bathing and a better understanding between the sexes. They have been brought about not by any relaxation by the puritanical-minded in the community, but by revolt against them. Changes have also taken place in the attitude of people and authori-

ties towards gambling. Instead of seeking to confine gambling to the wealthy section of the community that can afford to join clubs—the business of which is to conduct gaming tables—it has been extended to other sections of the community. Whilst this extension of freedom was for many years to be found chiefly on the race-course, it is getting more play in other parts of the world with respect to other forms of gambling through which the Goddess of Chance can be wooed. Starting-price betting is probably an aspect of it, but not the only aspect. The last war led to much relaxation of measures that seemed to be designed, as much as anything else, as a gesture to certain narrow-minded, but influential people who saw evil in certain human predilections if the opportunity to indulge them were extended to the poor and the lowly, but who condoned them so long as they were confined to the wealthy favourites of Fortune. But the time came when the services of the poor and the lowly were required to defend the privileges of others: so it became expedient to relax in certain directions, even if the cloak of charity had to be used to cover up the alleged sinful procedure. I do not know whether it was the outcome of that relaxation, but the propensity of the human race to gamble certainly seemed to manifest itself more strongly during the last war, in the reconstruction period following it and in the revival since the financial depression. So we found everywhere throughout the world extensive facilities to meet this new demand; but notwithstanding pool betting, the dog race tracks, tin hares, roulette wheels and fan tan joints, nowhere did gambling so manifest itself as it did on Wall-street in 1929, where millionaires gambled at sky limit tables, and labourers, artisans and boot blacks pooled their dollars and dimes to buy odd lots in the hope of a rise. If ever there was a case in which banking policy extended cheap money for the purpose of producing unnecessary and uneconomic fixed capital, bringing ruin to thousands, that was the case. The Government of the United States of America has tried by legislation to prevent a repetition of that kind of gambling. Congress has since passed an Act requiring that the operator must put up half the purchase price of the stock upon which he operates. Of course, Governments try to restrain this gambling tendency, because

they realise that when too many people gamble too hard and all at the same time, it generally leads to disaster; but judges have been hard put to it to determine where gambling ends and skill begins.

In 1936, the Christian Social Union in England supported a Bill designed to stop pool betting. The Bill was defeated, and the Government was not sorry. Millions of people were taking part weekly in this new craze, and it may have extended since. Twenty million pounds a year was changing hands; 50,000 people were employed by the pools; 107,000,000 more postal notes were sold in 1936 than were sold the year before, and most of them were used as entry fees to this new form of gambling, conducted by the newspapers of England. So members will understand why the English Government was not sorry the Bill was defeated. One person—a charwoman—is reported to have won £13,500 to a penny in one of these investments. All she had to do was to forecast correctly the results of 15 football matches. It has been estimated that the odds against her were 3,500,000,000 to one, but she did it successfully, thus showing what woman's intuition is against man's reasoning.

France, always easy-going in regard to most things, consistently refused to allow the introduction of roulette wheels or the establishment of casinos at her tourist resorts. After the last war, owing to the demand, the Government gave away to the pressure for the introduction of the metal wheel, with its 37 numbers.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Unfortunately that was not the only thing France gave way to.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: So they were established at all France's tourist resorts.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Where has France landed?

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: At Baden Baden, which is in the Reich and is noted for its scenery and medicinal springs, casinos were established as an additional attraction to the tourist. For many years this kind of betting was the monopoly of the Grimaldis, at the foot of the Maritime Alps, where eight gaming tables were in operation from which it is reported that they made a profit of £500 a night each. But it was necessary to raise revenue to that amount, because the upkeep of the establishment cost £700,000 annually before they got a penny for themselves. They are now feeling the competition of the new casinos that

have spread throughout France and other parts of Europe, and consequently are introducing new games to try to create added interest, such as the double roulette wheel and another game called Trente et Quarante.

The Premier: Meaning thirty and forty.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: The British people prefer horse-racing and competitive events, and gamble on the result. West Europeans like casinos. Latins prefer lotteries, and the Government use them in order to raise loans by the issue of premium bonds. Asiatics have many devices for gambling. In the United States of America gambling takes place on a wide-spread scale through many ingenious mechanical contrivances, through investments in equities and business and bargaining counters on the stock exchange. Horse-racing is becoming more popular in the United States. There was a time when it was frowned upon by the so-called upper classes; but now it is regarded as being democratic, probably because the British follow it; or possibly because, as the United States becomes more democratic, the people realise more and more the truth of the old saying, "On the turf and under the turf all men are equal." I mention these things in order to show that the contention that the Australian is a great gambler, and that nowhere else in the world is gambling so pronounced as it is in Australia, is nothing more than a myth.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Marshall: Eyewash!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Gambling is pronounced in every part of the world. I said before that Wall-street was the world's greatest stock exchange. As a matter of fact, the world's greatest stock exchange is in London. If we class the kind of speculation that goes on there as gambling—and much of it has to be so classed—the probability is that London is the world's greatest gambling centre. That is the centre where Clarence Hatry drew out for £29,000,000. I am not too sure that it is not the centre where Kruger finished up with a bullet in his head when he was up for £56,000,000. In England there exists—and I think it has existed since 1853 though I would not be too sure on that point and do not wish to be dogmatic about it in case the member for East Perth takes me up—the paradox of the bookmaker being hauled off to gaol for breaking the law while his compatriots in the West End of London can conduct their business free from

any molestation or interference by the law because they deal with wealthy clients who are able to establish credit, for apparently the law in England allows credit betting but frowns on cash betting between a bookmaker and his client. Of course that is only a relic of the old Victorian outlook which held that gambling was all right so long as it was confined to the wealthy favourites of fate but was to be condemned as a vice if some of those with less means speculated a shilling or two on a horse race on a Saturday.

The curious feature of English legislation is that when organised horse-racing first began in England all betting was carried on away from the course altogether in Tattersall's subscription rooms and the Newmarket subscription rooms, and subsequently in smaller institutions probably numbering thousands, membership of which could be obtained for a very small fee. There was great opposition when a move was made to try to establish betting on racecourses. The member for East Perth (Mr. Hughes) and other legal members of the House will doubtless have heard of the cases *Hawke versus Dunn* and *Powell versus the Kempton Park Racing Club* as a result of which by some legal straining of a definition racing clubs were from that time onward permitted to allow betting with bookmakers to be conducted on their courses. But one does not have to go to England to find examples of the old Victorian outlook about which I spoke.

I remember that when I was a young man in Victoria the laws in connection with starting-price betting and betting with bookmakers outside of the four walls of a fashionable club or outside of the racecourse, were very rigorous. Rigorous though they were, however, we found ways and means of putting our sixpences and shillings on horse races on working days when we had no opportunity to go to the races. Strange to say there was no law in Victoria against betting on racecourses, even if the racecourse happened to form part of an "A" class reserve as the Flemington racecourse does. Admission to the flat was free for adults and children alike during my sojourn of some 20 years in Victoria. I think that a shilling admission charge is now made, but I do not believe there is any objection to children entering the course even now.

Admittedly there has been an increase in betting in Western Australia. If that increase has manifested itself through the

conduct and extension of starting-price betting shops, the probability is that it is due to the fact that we as a people like gambling on horse-racing. That is to say, those of us who like gambling at all are fond of that particular type of gambling, and that is the sort of gambling we are prone to indulge in. If that fact is admitted we have to look for reasons why much of the betting is done in starting-price betting shops instead of upon racecourses. One reason is that it is cheaper to bet in a starting-price shop than on a racecourse. Another reason is that the racing clubs in this State have done very little—indeed they have done practically nothing—to combat the tendency by competitive methods. Racing clubs in this State are living in a past age, an age when a big event in the Eastern States amongst high-class thoroughbreds was merely accorded an announcement in the paper that the race was to be run and a further announcement the next day as to the winner. To-day, as a result of scientific developments including the introduction of the radio, racing amongst high-class thoroughbreds in the Eastern States is brought to one's very door. One gets the atmosphere over the air. He has a descriptive review of the race and hears scratchings, the names of the starters and riders, details of the betting, and all the "hoo-ey" of the business. He gets an ear-full, a mind-full and, if he has backed a loser, he gets a heart-full. In short, he gets everything except an eye-full.

Nothing has been done by racing clubs to combat this tendency. The proprietor of the Helena Vale racecourse recently tried to popularise racing and betting on the course by allowing patrons into the leger free of cost and by catering for them so that they could procure a pot of beer for 6d. instead of a glass that goes six glasses to the bottle. He made arrangements for patrons to obtain a pot of ginger beer for 3d., but the W.A. Turf Club informed him that he would have to make an admission charge to the leger, otherwise it would not issue him a license to race. Consequently this enterprising individual who is trying to keep up with the times is now compelled to charge patrons an admission fee. On the other hand, I think that the trotting club is keeping abreast of the times. The course is easy of access and reasonable fees are charged for the amenities provided for patrons.

There is another aspect of this question

of starting-price betting, and it is this: It is just as illegal to bet on a racecourse as it is to bet in a shop. There is no reason why the law should not be as rigorously enforced in connection with betting on a racecourse as in connection with betting in a shop if the law is to be the only test of the subject. I hear hon. members speaking in this House from time to time about the respect we ought to have for the law. That is all right if it is properly understood. People should be encouraged to recognise that there is a universal reign of law, but as Emerson, the great American philosopher says:—

"The wise know that foolish legislation is a rope of sand which perishes in the twisting";

and further,

"We are superstitious and esteem the statute somewhat: so much life as it has in the character of living men is its force."

That should be clear to every hon. member of this House. The member for Subiaco (Mrs. Cardell-Oliver) referred to America. Can we find a more classical example of the effect of a Government trying to enforce upon the people a standard of morality by legislation than that afforded by the American prohibition law? It was that law which gave rise to gangsters in America and to men like Al Capone satisfying a demand for something that the Government by foolish legislation tried to prohibit. Is it not absurd that betting on a racecourse should be illegal? What more appropriate place could there be to bet than there? One can hardly understand anyone having agreed to such legislation. Apparently those responsible for it harked back to the days when betting on racecourses was illegal in England.

The member for Subiaco has insisted that we should have Christian politics. That is a very high-sounding phrase. Christianity is a subject to which one can always refer when endeavouring to pose as having a high moral standard. It is something to which one can refer to indicate that he is a devout kind of person. To be devout is the easiest thing in this world; to be moral is the hardest. The hon. member referred to Christian politics. Within the sphere of Christianity there are well known theological institutions the tenets of which are not condemnatory of gambling, but they are condemnatory of breaches of the law. Our antediluvian legislation must prevent the adherents of many of these faiths from

betting with a bookmaker, even in a starting price betting shop, or upon a racecourse, not because they have been taught not to gamble, but because they have been taught not to break the law. It may be that they have some means of reconciling their attitudes—when the law in their opinion is not a good law—and if they have I do not blame them for it. There was a time in this State when starting-price betting was conducted with much less ostentation than is the case to-day. The starting price bookmaker stood at the street corner and depended upon his reputation to get the business. If his reputation was good, he usually got the business. That was in the days before wireless. Since the introduction of wireless it is only natural to suppose that there should be revolutionary changes in connection with horse racing, and that interest would be revived in horse racing on account of the new facilities extended to the public through which they could enjoy the races. Whilst certain repressive measures kept it down for a period it was absolutely impossible to stultify it.

Where the laws were rigorous in connection with starting price betting off the racecourse, we found that underground operators, who had always supplied the demand and met it to a certain extent, even before the days of wireless, improved their organisation and enlisted the services of tradesmen and others for the purpose of collecting the wagers and sending out the winnings, where there were any winnings to be sent out. That practice was particularly marked in South Australia where the law in connection with betting, both upon the racecourse and in starting price betting shops off the racecourse, was practically the same as it was in Western Australia. There was, however, this difference that the law governing betting on a racecourse in South Australia was just as rigorously enforced as was the law in connection with betting in a shop. In Western Australia the law in connection with betting on a racecourse has never been enforced. It was so hopelessly out of touch with the realities of the situation, so out of keeping with public opinion that it was never enforced. Consequently the administration in this State has always found itself in difficulties. It was only natural that it would do so, with antediluvian legislation of that character that

prohibited betting on a racecourse; and, seeing that the law in connection with it had never been enforced, it fell into desuetude. It did more than that. It affected the administration in respect to other aspects of the law in connection with betting. We have to realise that our law in relation to betting off a racecourse is just as condemnatory of the betting that is done by a bookmaker as it is of the betting carried on by the clients. What Governments have ever enforced the law in respect of the clients? I know it is true that at one period there were some instances of that kind. There were cases in which the Government took upon itself the obligation to enforce the law against the clients. The reaction proved rather disconcerting to the Government. After one or two attempts it was never tried again. When we talk about the Administration neglecting to see that the laws were observed, we have to remember that this applies to all Governments. The administration in connection with illegal betting on racecourses has been the same with all Governments. And it has been the same with all Governments in connection with the illegal betting that takes place by clients in starting price betting shops. Efforts of suppression, therefore, have been confined to somewhat spasmodic attempts to keep this business within bounds. Certain arbitrary methods have been employed. In my opinion it is well that they were employed in such a way.

There is another aspect of the revived interest in racing that may have been overlooked, namely, that the introduction of the radio has placed practically every person in the State upon the same footing. The advantages are not confined to the city dweller. If the atmosphere of the racecourse is brought into the home of the city dweller through the radio, it is likewise brought into the home of his country-cousin. If it has revived his interest in the country, and there is a demand for facilities to meet that interest, there is greater justification for it in the country than there is in the city because the country dweller has not even a racecourse upon which to exercise his bent. The law in respect of starting price betting in shops has to be administered with as much discretion as the law in respect to betting with bookmakers on the racecourse. I do

not mean that starting price betting should be allowed to run riot. If it were allowed to run riot the very events upon which people are seeking to wager in Western Australia would become gradually less attractive, and probably go out of existence altogether. Then, if it was given extended freedom the spirit of competition amongst the starting price bookmakers would mean the provision of sumptuous rooms for clients, lounges and other amenities, and extended facilities that in all probability would lead to a monopoly with just as great rapidity as the system of licensing would do.

I am opposed to the motion, and am opposed to permitting starting price betting under license. I prefer the continuance of that discreet administration which has kept it within bounds and kept it on the surface, and which has permitted freer play in those parts of the country where freer play finds greater justification. It may be true, as no doubt members will suggest, that in connection with these methods of suppression and means of control, there have been certain instances of inequity or semi-inequity, but the law, its administration and imposition, has never been perfect. We have within the Commonwealth two States in which starting price betting is permitted under license. We have other States in which it is supposed to be rigorously suppressed by legislation. In Western Australia where, as it were, the balance between those opposing lines of action has been kept, we would do well to await events. Experience will show no doubt whether the legislation in New South Wales, which has comparatively only recently been enacted, and the legislation in Queensland, will be successful in suppressing starting price betting, or whether it will give rise to evils in connection with betting that are often worse than starting price betting shops as we know them in this State. Experience will show whether the Governments of those States have used the provisions of that legislation as a reserve power rather than in a punitive sense, in an effort to impose upon the public a standard of morality that is higher than people are willing to have imposed upon them. Experience will show, too, in connection with the licensing of starting-price betting in South Australia and Tasmania, just

what is the effect of giving free rein to starting-price betting there on a system of licensing. It will prove whether the national income goes into the pool to an extent that is detrimental to the interests of the community generally. If it does prove to be so, South Australia will have to indulge in some repressive measures. As I have said before, when too many gamble too hard and all at the same time, it leads to disaster, but I feel that gambling has within itself its own safeguards. Generally speaking it will be found that the extent of it bears a very fair resemblance in proportion to the general prosperity of the community. It is too early yet to say whether the rigorous legislation of New South Wales and Queensland will be successful in stamping out starting-price betting, to see whether the Governments of those States have used their legislative provisions in the direction I have indicated. I am opposed to the rigorous suppression of starting-price betting as we know it, or to the licensing of it. In my opinion it will be time enough to face those associated problems when the war is over. We know what was the experience of the last war; we know the necessity to relax when a war is on, and we are cognisant of the fact that Governments do relax during war periods. They do not go in for legislation that is designed to restrain people from indulging in the few little frivolities in which the majority see no harm, such as an occasional bet on the racecourse. Of course, if they do feel that way disposed, why do Governments not take gambling in the face? I venture to say that the member for Guildford-Midland (Hon. W. D. Johnson) could tell us about the gambling that takes place in this State in connection with wheat futures, and probably the member for Avon (Mr. Boyle) could tell us something about the way farmers in this State gamble with wheat prices. All businesses are associated with a form of gambling that is respectfully referred to as speculation. If there is any truth in the saying that competition is the soul of trade, it is just as true to say that speculation is the life of trade. And so I feel that Governments in the Eastern States, in view of the advent of the radio, have dealt with this problem in much too precipitate a fashion. They have not yet realised just how far-reaching the effects of radio will be. Apparently they do not realise, either, that there are thousands of people in the Commonwealth who would just as

soon listen to a race between high-class contestants descriptively reviewed over the air as they would witness it on a racecourse among the lesser equine lights of the turf.

I feel that there is one change that could be brought about now with great advantage, a change that would introduce some common sense into our legislation. I refer to the legalising of betting on a racecourse. So long as betting on a racecourse is illegal, so long will the whole problem be the more involved; and that should be our first step towards clarifying the position. Quite possibly such a course would add to the prestige of racing clubs, and might even stir their imagination to the extent of trying to curb the tendency of people to bet in starting-price shops to the extent that racing would be made more attractive, racecourses and prices more popular, conveniences better—and the refreshments to be obtained much cheaper.

Mr. Withers: And more liberal.

The Minister for Mines: Already they get too much for their money!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: When the changes I have indicated have been effected, and they have operated for some time, we shall be able to see the whole problem in its proper perspective. Unquestionably we cannot see it in the true perspective in view of the present condition of our antideluvian legislation. When we can view it in that perspective, we shall be able to deal with the problem in the light of our own experience and that of the Eastern States, and be able to undertake the task in a proper manner.

In conclusion—I hope I have not spoken at too great a length—I would like to read something that the late Mr. Ramsay MacDonald had to say about starting-price betting. A one-time Prime Minister of England, Mr. MacDonald was a man of great intelligence and, probably, of great experience. He had the following to say about the effect of laws directed to the suppression of so-called illegal betting:—

Consequently, when we consider the responsibilities of citizenship for the spread of the gambling disease with a view to devising some cure, we shall have to begin by assuming that prohibitive Acts will not carry us far. We can stop bookmakers or their agents receiving bets in public streets or in any place; we can turn them off racecourses and refuse to recognise any enclosure as sanctuary. We can even go further and prosecute anyone who receives from another betting payments on any event whatever. This last would be going very far

—too far perhaps to be practical, but at any rate we could prohibit the receipt of money from children. We could stop the publication of betting news, and our post office could refuse to transmit circulars encouraging the gambling appetite.—

He admits in a footnote that this would be a somewhat dangerous extension of powers of an intelligence-carrying agency, and one which should not be made if it can be avoided.

—We might even combat successfully the more difficult problem of how to prohibit gambling at church and chapel bazaars. But when we have done all that, we have not gone very far. We have simply restored life to its old, dull monotonous drab, and we have turned the natural instincts which the gambling habit satisfies from feeding at one trough to find husks in another. To the great mass of the people we shall appear as smug Pharisees, and a reaction will set in which in its aggressive strength will play much greater havoc than even the steady growth of the disease before it was challenged. Time after time the failure of the reform campaigns of outraged respectability in America has taught this simple lesson in moral politics. One cannot devastate and then say, "Behold the good." The gambling habit must be elbowed out, not stamped out.

On motion by Mr. North, debate adjourned.

## BILL—BILLS OF SALE ACT AMENDMENT.

### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 11th September.

**THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE** (Hon. E. Nulsen—Kanowna) [8.40]: I have read the Bill and find that it is similar to one submitted to this House last session. It was passed here but was defeated in another place. Seeing that it is a protective measure I commend the Bill to members, because it will be helpful. Members will agree that it is reasonable that bed and bedding, household furniture and implements of trade, including family portraits, should be protected from seizure under bills of sale. There is no need for further comment. The Government raises no objection to the Bill, which I commend to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

### *In Committee.*

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

**MOTION—BERNIE'S CARAVAN.***To Inquire by Select Committee.*

Debate resumed from the 11th September, on the following motion by Mr. McDonald (West Perth):—

That a select committee be appointed to inquire into and report on all matters relating to Lot 65, and part of Lot 64, of Class "A" Reserve A1720, and to the occupation and use thereof.

**MR. TONKIN** (North-East Fremantle) [8.45]: The member for West Perth (Mr. McDonald) has endeavoured to persuade the House to agree to the appointment of a select committee to make inquiries into the occupancy of land contained in Lots 64 and 65 of a Class A reserve by what is known as Bernie's Caravan. The hon. member has not established a case for the appointment of such a committee. He says that his real object is to inquire whether it is a fair thing to permit the carrying on of trade on this block. That is how he summarises the matter. I submit that though we are very inquisitive people, and inquire into many things which are at times quite obvious, we should not waste time inquiring into this matter. For instance, we hang a man and then hold an inquiry to find out how he died. But there is no need for us to continue to do stupid things like that unless some benefit is to be derived from such inquiries. If there were certain information it was desirable we should obtain, I would agree to the appointment of a select committee, but I think hon. members know all there is to know about this matter. We know, for instance, that many years ago that land was subdivided and that two blocks were purchased for the establishment of a nursery. That was in the year 1900, but the blocks were not used for that purpose. In 1905 they were added to what is known as the King's Park Reserve, and since that time have been used for various purposes, including that of a rubbish-tip. In 1928 it was decided to excise them from the reserve and to hand them over to the State Gardens Board. Naturally enough, I suppose, the board endeavoured to find the best way of utilising the blocks. Hon. members will realise that if we stipulate that the State Gardens Board must not do anything to raise revenue, we will very soon make it

impossible for the board to effect improvements such as it has made on the various reserves entrusted to it. Obviously the board must obtain money from somewhere, and no doubt in this instance it said, "Here is an opportunity to raise funds," namely, by giving permission to a man to carry on a fish business, which undoubtedly is meeting a public demand; if it were not doing so, the man could not continue in business. The member for West Perth says he wants an inquiry whether trade should be carried on on this land, but that is not our business.

If the hon. member wants an inquiry into the use of Class A reserves, let the inquiry be a full-blooded one and one that is worth-while. Let us not tinker with one or two blocks which for the time being happen to be uppermost in the hon. member's mind. If there is to be an inquiry let us examine what is being done throughout the State in connection with Class A reserves. For instance, it will no doubt be interesting to know how it came about that the King's Park Tennis Club was able to obtain the exclusive rights it now possesses. To me that is of vastly greater importance than how it came about that Bernie's Caravan is established on Lots 64 and 65. We should not be asked to inquire into a small matter like this. There are enough subjects well worth the attention of this House; there are subjects of vital importance to occupy all our time without our being called upon to deal with this small matter which concerns at most the occupants of no more than three or four residences. Had there been no complaints from those residents, very little notice would have been taken of the existence of this caravan; but because some people have objected to its presence on the score that their peace of mind is being disturbed, the Leader of the National Party has felt obliged to bring the subject to the notice of the House. The City Council took the stand that as the area was growing in residential importance, it was undesirable that a business of this nature should be carried on there. The City Council is not so concerned about that aspect elsewhere. I recollect that a little while ago a great noise was made about a rubbish-tip in East Perth and the City Council was not then worried about the effect of the presence of that rubbish-

tip on residences in that area. The City Council should be consistent. However, that is not the real reason for the motion at all, and I shall oppose the appointment of a select committee for this purpose. If the motion is broadened to provide for a full inquiry into "A" class reserves, I will give it my support.

**MR. BOYLE (Avon)** [8.53]: I am in accord with the remarks of the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Tonkin), and accordingly move the following amendment:—

That all the words after the word "on" be struck out with a view to inserting in lieu the words "the occupation, use and control of class A reserves."

I wish to omit the remainder of the amendment appearing on the notice paper under my name.

**Mr. Raphael:** On a point of order, I think the amendment I intend to move and which appears on the notice paper should be considered before that of the member for Avon. If his amendment is agreed to, mine will automatically lapse. Accordingly, I claim the right to move my amendment first.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The House is not in Committee, and as the member for Avon happened to catch my eye first, he is quite entitled to speak.

**Mr. BOYLE:** My amendment will have the effect of widening the inquiry as the member for North-East Fremantle desires. There is need for a thorough investigation and the amendment will permit of a comprehensive inquiry. When the member for West Perth (Mr. McDonald) was outlining his proposal, I considered that the complaints made constituted a very small point upon which to hang the work of a select committee. But there has been considerable abuse of the use of Class A reserves in the metropolitan area in particular and perhaps in the State as a whole.

**The Premier:** We have had no complaints about the use of these reserves.

**Mr. BOYLE:** No complaints?

**The Premier:** Very little complaint.

**Mr. BOYLE:** I am making one now.

**The Premier:** You have only just awakened to the fact that you have a complaint to make, on account of the motion moved by the member for West Perth.

**Mr. BOYLE:** No.

**The Premier:** We have not previously heard from you on the matter.

**Mr. BOYLE:** It is never too late to start. Section 31 of the Land Act reads as follows:—

Whenever the Governor has reserved or may hereafter reserve to His Majesty any lands of the Crown for the purpose of parks, squares, or otherwise for the embellishment of towns, or for the recreation or amusement of the inhabitants, or for cemeteries, or for any other public purpose, the Governor may, by notice of reservation published in the "Gazette," or by any subsequent notice so published, and subject to such conditions as may be expressed therein, classify such lands as of Class A; and if so classified, such lands shall for ever remain dedicated to the purpose declared in such notice, until by an Act of Parliament in which such lands are specified it is otherwise enacted.

It is thus clearly laid down that only by Act of Parliament can such lands be diverted from their use as Class A reserves. I suppose that King's Park may be regarded as the most noble heritage possessed by any metropolitan area in Australia. But in spite of Section 31 of the Land Act we find that not by Act of Parliament, and not by any arrangement of which this House has any cognisance, the King's Park Tennis Club monopolises one of the best portions of the park. There is also a bowling club and a Hale School cricket ground in that Class A reserve which was dedicated for all time to the use of the citizens of Western Australia as a whole. The tennis courts are completely enclosed by hedges so high as to preclude ordinary citizens from viewing what takes place thereon. If an ordinary man wishes to join the club, the subscription is so high that he is unable to do so. What rentals are paid or what revenues are derived, I do not know, but it is said that £20,000 has been spent by the tennis club on those particular courts. There we have a main A class reserve crowning the heights overlooking the city and in process of being lost to the citizens by this insidious method of devoting portions of a reserve area to other uses. Perhaps the time will come when further portions of the reserve will be devoted to other forms of sport and the citizens as a whole may find themselves debarred by gates from entrance to those other portions of the park. I know that on one occasion an admission fee of 10s. 6d. was charged for some championship events. Coming into the city, we have the Esplanade. That is not a Class A re-

serve in the ordinary sense of the word. I understand that the Esplanade was granted to the City of Perth by the Imperial Government years ago for the use and recreation of the citizens. This reserve, however, is in process of being lost to the citizens. On it have been laid out tennis courts and bowling greens. At the tennis courts I have seen a notice prohibiting people from entering. For an ordinary citizen to go there to rest quietly or to read is highly risky. Much of the ground is used for sports and part of it is taken up by a roadway. At Stirling Square, the old Government Gardens, a site is now being occupied by a broadcasting station. I learnt recently that the station has a three-years' lease. By whom the lease was granted, I do not know. There seems to be a general slackness.

According to the Premier, I have only now raised this question. Certainly I have raised it in the House now, but it has often been raised in my hearing and discussed by many of our citizens. The opportunity to raise questions of the kind here does not occur often. I remember that a fuss was made a little while ago over the removal of a few trees from one of the reserves. That might or might not have been justified; I do not know, because there are occasions when trees are an obstruction. The removal of trees, however, was a small matter compared with the denial of the right of present and future generations to occupy those reserves, which have been set aside for the use of the people by men far wiser than we are. Those men agreed to these reservations and we are agreeing to their destruction.

The State Gardens Board, I understand, has some control over reserves in the metropolitan area. I do not know much about the board. I read that one gentleman connected with the board had remarked that he rarely attended meetings; I think he said he had not attended a meeting for two years. Therefore, whatever the board is, evidently it is a body that functions with a good deal of—

Mr. Sampson: Irregularity.

Mr. BOYLE:—avoidance of the publicity that most people seem to seek. I would not say that the board has not done good work. To my knowledge it has done some very good work, but if it is to function as a board, it should be re-constituted and controlled. The Land Act makes it incumbent upon Parliament to preserve the right of the people to these open spaces, and that is why

I want the inquiry widened to include all Class A reserves. My idea in omitting the few concluding words of the amendment on the notice paper is that the inquiry might not be left in the air, so to speak, but that the committee will be enabled to function fully.

MR. McDONALD (West Perth—on amendment) [9.5]: I hope to deal with this matter briefly because, although I think the House would be justified in approving of a select committee, especially in view of the enlargement of the field proposed by the amendment, I do appreciate that there are matters of still greater importance requiring consideration. We should not occupy an undue amount of time on the discussion if it can possibly be avoided. This, however, is a matter of some importance to the people, and we certainly cannot say we have not time to devote three or four days or even a week to an inquiry when the public knows that of the first nine months of this year, we have spent seven months in recess. Therefore any statement that we cannot find time to consider matters of some importance to the people would not carry much conviction.

When I moved the motion relating to the location in Mount's Bay-road, I had in view that an expression of opinion regarding the use of the land by a private trader would be a guide respecting all other Class A reserves, but in order to make that clear, I welcome the amendment moved by the member for Avon. My moving in the matter was mainly instigated by the attitude of the chief governing authority in this city. Certain complaints were made, but if the matter had rested on the complaints of residents in the vicinity, I would not have brought it before the House. It would have been dealt with in the ordinary Courts of law. But a question of principle, quite beyond the rights of the householders in the vicinity, was raised, and when the Perth City Council passed a motion that an emphatic protest be made against the leasing of the land for the purpose mentioned, and called upon me, as member for the district, to take action, I felt it my duty to do so. The objection of the Perth City Council, as mentioned in the resolution, was that the land was vested in the State Gardens Board in order that it might be used by the people as a park for recreation purposes, and that it

is unwarranted that the land should be used for commercial purposes. That is the basis of the objection.

When I spoke on the motion, I said I did not detract from the work of the State Gardens Board. I paid a tribute to some of the work done by the board, but I am not going to accept the position that a constituted authority of this kind is to have a free hand to do as it pleases, and I think that is the view of all members. We will review the work whenever it should be reviewed, and allow full praise for what has been adequately accomplished. The findings of the select committee, as I said in my opening remarks, would assist the State Gardens Board, and the boards controlling other parks and reserves, by giving some guidance through Parliament as to the policy to be adopted.

The Premier: A select committee does not make a law.

Mr. McDONALD: That is so.

The Premier: It gives an expression of opinion on which Parliament sometimes does not act.

Mr. McDONALD: It ascertains the facts and, if necessary, any member can embody the findings of the committee in a measure with a view to securing legislative effect.

Mr. Rodoreda: How does a select committee ascertain the facts?

Mr. McDONALD: How does any select committee do it? The hon. member is suggesting a great deal of folly by the creation of all the select committees appointed since responsible government. After having sat on quite a number of select committees, I am satisfied that they can perform a very useful function for the legislature and assist members in the discharge of their duties.

Mr. SPEAKER: I direct the attention of the hon. member to the fact that we are now discussing the amendment to strike out certain words.

Mr. McDONALD: That is so; perhaps I was transgressing. The adoption of the amendment would give the select committee a wide field of inquiry. I would be quite agreeable to its dealing with all the matters mentioned by the member for North-East Fremantle. I feel sure that the bodies referred to by the member for Avon, such as the King's Park Tennis Club, which have spent a great deal of money in providing buildings, would have no reason to fear the findings of a select committee.

The Premier: A select committee might find that they are illegally on a Class A reserve.

Mr. McDONALD: I am not satisfied that they are, but if such proves to be the case, let us face the facts. There are clubs in occupation of reserves all over the State, bodies that are performing a useful work, and do not exist for profit-making. In the district of North-East Fremantle are clubs promoting and conducting the most useful recreation, and the same applies to many other sporting and recreation bodies that occupy reserves. They are doing really valuable work in providing facilities for the recreation of the community in the areas in which they are located. Therefore I say I have no objection to the activities of those non-profit-earning bodies that are doing work for the benefit of the public.

The Premier: You have no objection.

Mr. McDONALD: That is so. I approve of the amendment, and hope the House will pass it and allow the whole question to be dealt with in order that we might know precisely what should be done in the public interests in regard to the various reserves.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. J. C. Willecock—Geraldton—on amendment) [9.14]: I hope the amendment will not be passed and thus lead to an inquiry into the position of the various bodies mentioned by the member for Avon. The hon. member cited King's Park and other reserves, but we do not need an inquiry by select committee to find out what is happening. A select committee would meet and call evidence and provide a lot of work for "Hansard" reporters and typists only to find out something that we already know. It is all very well for the member for West Perth to say that such an inquiry would enable members to inform their minds. Members' minds are already informed; they know all about these reserves. Members need to conserve the financial position, too. I do not want a number of select committees ascertaining something which is already known, or which can be ascertained without the solemnity, formality and expense of a select committee.

Hon. N. Keenan: What is the expense?

The PREMIER: Does the hon. member tell me that a select committee can be constituted and make all sorts of inquiries and

get legal men to come here and waste their time telling us something that everybody knows, without a good deal of expense being incurred? Besides, there is the printing, and all the paraphernalia of a select committee. Not much imagination is needed to infer that there must be some expense. It may be said that the sitting of Parliament does not cost much. However, it has been asserted that every hour we spend here in debating, although every member is paid whether we sit or not, costs the country £10.

Mr. McDonald: But still we go on sitting.

The PREMIER: We consider we are doing a public duty by that. An hon. member might ask what extra expense results from Parliament sitting another hour. But the cost is £10. Select committees cannot be conducted without incurring considerable expense. There is the staff of the printing office, compositors, proof-readers and so forth. Even the cost of the paper is an appreciable item.

Mr. Sampson: Would it be necessary to print the select committee's report?

The PREMIER: Whether it was necessary or not, the members of the select committee would move that the report be printed. Then Parliament, in its generosity, when there is no particular reason to object, agrees to having the report printed. If the Treasurer, with a hard and heavy hand, rules that the Printing Vote must not be exceeded, then the onus falls on the Treasury.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are merely discussing the striking-out of certain words.

The PREMIER: The carrying of the amendment will mean a huge addition to the work of the proposed committee. I do not want the committee, if appointed, to have its investigation widened at all. In any case, the investigation would take four or five or six weeks. I am surprised to learn from the member for Avon (Mr. Boyle) that there is a tremendous amount of public indignation about the misuse of some Class A reserves. The hon. member, I should say, is sufficiently loquacious to make a speech giving his ideas regarding the use and misuse of Class A reserves if he feels strongly enough on the subject. However, he has been here a long time, and we have not heard anything from him about it. Moreover, people can learn

that something has gone on for a long time, and can let it go on longer, and that is the end of it. Even if the proposed select committee cost only £100 or £150, it is a waste of public funds to make the inquiries suggested, since they will result in no definite conclusions of any use to the House or to the country. I hope the select committee will not be appointed. If an hon. member considers that any reserve is the subject of misuse, the Lands Department will furnish information regarding the occupancy, and its illegality or otherwise. Then if the department requests the Government to take action, the question will be decided on its merits. Even £100 is important in these times. Many a mickle makes a muckle—£100 here and £100 there and so on! There is on the notice paper more than one motion, which, if carried, is liable to lead to considerable expenditure. For instance, I myself am strongly in favour of the motion to give soldiers free passes on the railways. Still, I do not wish unnecessarily to burden the people of this State.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are not discussing soldiers' passes.

The PREMIER: No, Sir; I do not think we are. Let me conclude by saying that I am opposed to any widening of the select committee's investigation, because, in my opinion, all that the committee could find out is already known.

MR. RAPHAEL (Victoria Park—on amendment) [9.16]: I have on the notice paper an amendment to the motion. If there is to be any move made regarding the alleged nuisance of Bernie's business, we must recognise the menace to public health which has been created on a Chinese garden or Chinese rubbish tip.

Mr. Cross: Do you call it a menace?

Mr. RAPHAEL: A few people living in not too close proximity to this alleged nuisance assert that they are suffering ill-health by reason of it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I see nothing here referring to rubbish tips or anything of that nature. We are discussing now the striking-out of certain words.

Mr. RAPHAEL: I may be wrong, Mr. Speaker; but the amendment suggests the striking-out of certain words, thus enlarging the select committee's scope. That will mean the bringing-in of other matters. If I am not allowed to discuss what will be the outcome

of the proposed enlargement. I might as well not continue to speak. Without disagreeing with your ruling, Mr. Speaker, I consider that I am right in discussing what will be brought within the scope of the select committee by the amendment. A mountain has been created out of a mole hill by some disgruntled people who expected to make money from a certain coffee stall, or crab stall, or whatever it is considered to be. When the owner of the garage on Mounts Bay-road was approached, he was in full accord with selling or leasing his property, provided he could get his price.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I cannot allow the hon. member to continue in that strain. He will have to keep somewhere near discussing the deletion of those words.

Mr. RAPHAEL: If the scope of the committee is enlarged, all these facts must be taken into consideration. Again, there is the uproar created in the Perth City Council by Councillor Orgill. He was one of the deputation that waited on the Minister concerned. In this instance I consider that the Councillor has adopted the wrong attitude. Mr. Orgill, in his statement to the Minister, contended that this caravan was conducted in a businesslike way. I have been there on a number of occasions; thank goodness, I have always had my wife with me. I was treated courteously by the employees and saw nothing objectionable in the conduct of the people who were taking supper there. I have seen members of Parliament, doctors and all classes of people taking supper at the caravan, in the same way as one can see people in Sydney, Adelaide or Melbourne taking supper at a kerbside stall. If the scope of the proposed committee is enlarged, as has been suggested by the member for Avon, then King's Park will certainly come under consideration. The activities of the State Gardens Board will be inquired into and the board will be asked to explain why portion of the reserve was let for the purpose of deriving income. I wish to deal particularly with Hale School. Some members have asserted that the bowling green, the croquet lawn and the tennis court at King's Park are not money-making propositions. The member for Avon said that he paid half-a-guinea to one of the clubs, or that he had known such a fee to be paid. My son attends college and I must pay for his education. The amount that the Hale School charges its scholars for the use

of portion of King's Park is surely proof that the school is deriving a benefit from the use of the land.

Mr. Hughes: Is not a State school good enough for your children?

Mr. RAPHAEL: My son did not have enough brains to get a free education. He went to the State school until he was 13 years of age, but was not lucky enough to gain an entrance to the Modern School, as did the son of the hon. member interjecting.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Hughes: I have a son at a State school.

Mr. RAPHAEL: The City Council knew that the State Gardens Board had let this land on Mounts Bay-road for a fish stall. The State Gardens Board also installed a buffet, near the Ozone Hotel, in a working class district. No member of the Perth City Council raised a cry against that. But immediately a stall is placed near "tony" people, it is a different matter altogether. A suggestion was made that the buffet could be moved nearer the brewery. It would then be in a working class area.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is getting a long way from the amendment.

Mr. RAPHAEL: I have got only as far as the brewery, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member must keep to the amendment.

Mr. RAPHAEL: The member for Avon quoted a number of similar cases. In my opinion, if the scope of the inquiry is widened the whole matter will be investigated. My desire is to bring forward evidence in support of the amendment, as against the motion moved by the Leader of the National Party, who desires only the matter of Bernie's caravan to be investigated.

Mr. Hughes: The buffet near the Ozone Hotel is not open till five o'clock in the morning.

Mr. RAPHAEL: I do not know, but will take the hon. member's word for it. I am generally home by about 4 a.m. As I said, no objection was raised to the stall near the Ozone Hotel; but when a stall is erected on the Mounts Bay-road, then the Leader of the National Party, with all his charm and wit, comes along and wants it removed. If the select committee were appointed and its scope were widened, then many men might be called upon to give evidence, including

members of Parliament one of whom is a governor of Hale School. I refer to the Hon. L. Craig, M.L.C. We should also have to call Mr. John Forrest, Mr. J. F. McMillan, Mr. Walker, Solicitor-General, Mr. Loton, Mr. Gordon James and others. All these gentlemen were parties to the alienation of about eight acres of King's Park for the purpose of providing Hale School with a source of income. We cannot look at it in any other light.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Hale School does not run the tennis courts.

Mr. RAPHAEL: But Hale School has eight acres of a Class A reserve.

Hon. C. G. Latham: For sports purposes.

Mr. RAPHAEL: For the use of the scholars of Hale School.

Mr. McLarty: Hale School has been using that land for the last 60 or 70 years.

Mr. RAPHAEL: Why did not members bring under the notice of the House the fact that a college was deriving revenue from a Class A reserve?

The Premier: The school has been paying rent for the sports green.

Mr. RAPHAEL: If the money had been expended upon surfacing the waste sand opposite Parliament House, that would have been better than providing Hale School with a playing area in King's Park. The Premier has stated that in view of the cost involved in the appointment of select committees in the past he is opposed to the motion. I am of the opinion that if we begin to inquire into the management of Class A reserves, there will be enough work to occupy the attention of a select committee for the next five years. If the activities of the Perth City Council in this connection were closely examined they would probably not appear in a very favourable light. For instance, the City Council has a sanitary site within a few hundred yards of a school on a Class A reserve. At any rate, if any inquiry is held, we should not merely investigate Bernie's caravan and allow so-called higher-toned people to escape scot free. I hope that both the amendment and the motion will be negatived, but if one is agreed to I hope it will be the motion as amended.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	17
Noes	..	..	..	24
Majority against	..	..	7	

## AYES.

Mr. Boyle	Mr. Seward
Mr. Hughes	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Keenan	Mr. Thorn
Mr. Latham	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Mann	Mr. Warner
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Watts
Mr. McLarty	Mr. Willmott
Mr. Patrick	Mr. Doney
Mr. Sampson	

(Teller.)

## NOES

Mr. Berry	Mr. North
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Fox	Mr. Pantou
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. Raphael
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. Rodoreda
Mr. Holman	Mr. Shearn
Mr. Johnson	Mr. F. C. L. Smith
Mr. Lambert	Mr. Triat
Mr. Leahy	Mr. Willcock
Mr. Marshall	Mr. Wise
Mr. Millington	Mr. Withers
Mr. Needham	Mr. Wilson

(Teller.)

Amendment thus negatived.

**MR. McDONALD** (West Perth—in reply) [9.40]: I do not propose to occupy the time of the House for very long, though I intend to ask for a decision on the motion. I still submit that it is reasonable that the inquiry should be conducted, with a view to ensuring that in future Class A reserves are not leased to private traders. I thank the Minister for the reasonable view he took of the motion, in spite of the fact that he opposed it, and I appreciate also the remarks of the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Tonkin) and the member for Avon (Mr. Boyle). I wish to refer to the statement made by the Minister concerning the alleged approach of Mr. Phillips to Mr. Hardwick, proprietor of Bernie's caravan, with an offer to lease his block to Mr. Hardwick. The Minister faithfully repeated what had been stated to him, but I have been informed by Mr. Phillips that he denies the version given by Mr. Hardwick and would not be a party to this business being conducted until all hours of the night.

The only other remark I have to make is to admit that I was wrong, as the Minister pointed out, in suggesting that a more favourable location for the caravan would have been on land further around the road towards the Swan Brewery. Though I am very familiar with that locality, I was under the impression that it was a considerable distance from any dwelling house. Since the Minister spoke, however, I have refreshed my memory of the locality and I find that he was quite right and it would be unfair to transfer this business, which is carried on sometimes until the early

hours of the morning, to that area near the Swan Brewery, where it would be close to a number of dwelling houses.

Finally, I consider that although the House has rejected the amendment, it might reasonably agree to the motion for an inquiry into this matter, not only for the sake of the people in the area concerned, but because a very important principle is involved, namely, as to how far those controlling our parks and reserves are to be at liberty to part with the possession of material portions by leasing them to be used for purposes of private trade and gain. For that reason I ask that the motion be agreed to.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	15
Noes	..	..	..	25
Majority against	..	..	10	—

## AYES.

Mr. Boyle	Mr. Sampson
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. Seward
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Shearn
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Thorp
Mr. Keenan	Mr. Warner
Mr. Mann	Mr. Willmott
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Doney
Mr. McLarty	(Teller.)

## NOES.

Mr. Berry	Mr. Patrick
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Rodoreda
Mr. Fox	Mr. F. C. L. Smith
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Holman	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Lambert	Mr. Triat
Mr. Leaby	Mr. Watts
Mr. Marshall	Mr. Willcock
Mr. Millington	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Needham	Mr. Wise
Mr. North	Mr. Withers
Mr. Nulsen	Mr. Raphael
Mr. Panton	(Teller.)

Question thus negatived.

*House adjourned at 9.48 p.m.*

## Legislative Council,

*Thursday, 3rd October, 1940.*

Bills:	State Transport Co-ordination Act Amend-	PAGE
ment, 3R.	....	1087
Petroleum Act Amendment, 3R.	....	1087
Reserves (Government Domain), 3R.	....	1087
Electoral Act Amendment (No. 2), report	....	1087
Bills of Sale Act Amendment, 1R.	....	1087
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Income Tax Assessment Act Amendment, 2R.	....	1081
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Income Tax (Rates for Deduction) Act Amend-	....	1092
ment, Com. report	....	1092
Metropolitan Market Trust (Land Revestment),	....	1093
2R., Com. report	....	1093

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

### BILLS (3)—THIRD READING.

- 1, State Transport Co-ordination Act Amendment.
  - 2, Petroleum Act Amendment.
- Passed.*

- 3, Reserves (Government Domain).

Returned to the Assembly with amendments.

### BILL—ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Report of Committee adopted.

### BILL—BILLS OF SALE ACT AMENDMENT.

Received from the Assembly and, on motion by Hon. G. Fraser, read a first time.

### BILL—INCOME TAX.

*Second Reading.*

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [4.40] in moving the second reading said: By this Bill it is proposed to raise the necessary taxation on income from the community in this State by the application of more scientific principles than have operated hitherto.

Hon. A. Thomson: They are scientific all right.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I believe they are. By the provisions of the Bill, relief will be given to those on lower salary ranges with heavy responsibilities, and a